

CRUCIAL COUNSEL FROM THE MASTER!



#2924 0221 21P

VIRTUAL

We may lack many things in life—which are usually not that important—maybe lacking a part to repair an appliance; or lacking some information to help with a problem, but lacking something *spiritually* can be *very* important since it is connected to eternal life.

When the young ruler asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life, Jesus reminded him of the Commandments—the man said that he *kept* or *observed* all of them since his youth—to which Jesus responded Mark 10:21, “*One thing thou lackest;*” and He also repeated the crucial counsel Luke 18:22 “*Yet lackest thou one thing.*”

God does not allow any lack of *faith* or *trust* in Him; and He will not share our *affection* with another. We are warned Exodus 34:14 “*For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*”

Deuteronomy 4:23 “*Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. 24 For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*”

Things are not always smooth in a Christian life of trust; we may have trials and situations to meet scripturally once we surrender our life to Christ—but God *does* promise to *forgive* our sins when we *repent* of them; and He promises to Philippians 4:19 “*Supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*”

The Christian life is not about *life-enrichment*, but about *life-advancement* in spiritual matters—learning lessons of faith and trust on God and being enlightened by His Spirit. We will *not lack* anything we need to live a life of faith, and we will be supplied with many other things that would make us contented and comfortable.

After the financial-trust lesson for the young ruler, Jesus said to His followers; Mark 10:29 “*Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses*”—and naming those things given up for His sake—adding, “*with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*”

Jesus is not speaking of material abundance, but that we can have all we need of material things and enough to share with others while we wait for His return. We will never *lose* anything by *giving up* anything for His sake. If the choice is keeping the Word of God or keeping the friendship of the world, the choice is to keep the Word of God in our heart and to obey its directions.

Jesus promises to *restore* and *more* of anything we lose to obey the Scriptures—and enough to give to others “*now in this time.*” When we choose the Lord over a friend or relative, the true family of God and all believers in Christ become our family—our sister, brother, mother, or father. The Bible gives many examples of Christians visiting and dining with other believers in the faith.

Life in Christ is a *life of spiritual abundance*—of spiritual truths; of a sure supply of all we need—it is not a life of money in the bank so we can boast of things we own. John 10:10 “*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*”

The problems we may face in our walk by faith, would be the persecutions we encounter along the way. Those who are on the broad road of destruction may oppose us and be against our way of life, but Jesus promises Mark 10:30 “*An hundredfold now in this time*”—He said “*with persecutions,*” and the ultimate reward no one can afford to miss “*In the world to come eternal life.*”

Persecution is often met in the Christian life. The apostle experienced much opposition after his *conversion* and *decision* to follow his Master. 2 Timothy 3:11 “*Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*” This would not mean from everyone all the time, but from time to time, it happens.

The more we live life as *unto the Lord* and as God instructs us to in Scripture, the more our life will be a testimony of God’s love, mercy, and grace. The more we *trust* God in faith, the more unbelievers will *oppose* and *persecute* us. Even though the world will *reject* us—we know that God accepts us and will *protect* us under the covering of the Cross.

Jesus reminded us Matthew 10:22 “*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son*

of man be come.” Jesus added ²⁶ “Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.”

This world is *not* in the business of glorifying God, and it is *not* in agreement with those who do. ¹ Corinthians 10:31 “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*” No matter how much opposition we face, we are to meet it scripturally and just concentrate on living the Truth God has given in His Word. ^{Matthew 10:28} “*Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*”

The devil will do anything to pull us away from faith in God—but trials and tests strengthen our faith. We do not receive the Lord Jesus into our heart to increase the *abundance* of our possessions, but to increase our *knowledge* of how God teaches us what we need to know so we will *not lack* any spiritual Truth. Life is not about getting *things*, but about being *right* with God—we all will stand before Him on Judgment Day.

Persecution we meet as a follower of Christ brings rewards. ^{Matthew 5:10} “*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* ¹¹ *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.* ¹² *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*”

Jesus *calls* us to *Come, follow Him*—and He was heading toward the Cross. ^{Mark 8:34} “*Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*” The true Christian life of faith involves sacrifice, duty, and commitment to the will and Word of God. ^{Matthew 5:16} “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may*

see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Persecution comes with the territory when we follow the Lord, but it will be worth it all. Any opposition or criticism we face because of our faith in Christ, is a small price to pay compared to the price *Jesus* paid to atone for and forgive our sins. Eternal life with the Son of God in Heaven is worth any sacrifice we make on earth for Him.

We may lack some things at this point, but we do *not* want to lack any *faith* and *trust* on God while waiting for the Rapture. Any critical remarks made to us, are to be met with forgiveness and prayer. Jesus said ^{Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:44} “*I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.*”

Some people who were once *close* to us, may *not be so close* anymore—if their life of *no faith in God* is in contrast with our life of *trust on God*. Rewards are promised if we meet such things in a scriptural way.

¹ Peter 3:14 “*But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.’* ¹⁵ *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,* ¹⁶ *keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*” Many say they are a follower of Jesus, but their behavior tells the truth of the matter.

If the *world* approves of us, we *should* be concerned. ^{Luke 6:26} “*Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.*” The Webster definition for “*woe*” is this: *a condition of deep suffering from misfortune, affliction, or grief.* If the world is in

agreement with our life, we are heading in the wrong direction—toward suffering and affliction. Approval by the world means we are not approved by God—we are out of sync with the Word.

If devil-controlled people are *hostile* toward us, it means we are doing something *right* spiritually. The world’s opinion of us does not matter, but *God’s* opinion *does* matter—*following* His *will* and *obeying* His *Word* is our only concern. The world loves ^{John 12:43} “*The praise of men more than the praise of God.*”

Our only concern *is* that we do not lack any *faith* in Christ or *trust* on God. We must be *scriptural* in every aspect of our life—and continually asking God to show us any spiritual *lack* or any false place of *trust* we are not aware of. No matter what other people say, think, or do—God’s way is the *only* way that leads us to Heaven.

Jesus gave many profound Gospel *truths*—^{Mark 8:34} “*When he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.* ³⁵ *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*”

Jesus always gave excellent counsel to any who would listen and learn and do. ^{Luke 6:31} “*As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*” Not lacking any spiritual *truth* of *trust* on God is our *focus* and our *concern!* We are then heading in the *right direction* to the *right destination!*



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org #2924 0221 21P