

Only One Way to Respond!



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There is only one way to *react* and *respond* to wrongs or offenses—scripturally or un-scripturally! The *way* we meet such injustices and offenses—whether scripturally or un-scripturally—depends entirely on the *power* with which we meet them. If *God's* power is in control, we meet things scripturally; but if *self* is in control, we respond in an unscriptural manner.

God provided the *power* from the beginning, which would *empower us* to meet things scripturally. He does *not* ask us to respond to such things in our *own* strength but instructs us to respond only in *His* strength and ability. Everything is to be met by *His* power—and since He is by our side, we *can* meet any trouble or trial in a scriptural way.

The importance of meeting all these things according to the will of God cannot be emphasized *too much* or stated *too often*. If we are meeting situations in the *world's* way, we would not be ready to meet Jesus—and if He should return quickly and suddenly, we would spend eternity in the lake of fire—that is too horrible to even *think* about—but far worse to actually go there.

James 1:12 "*Blessed [happy; most fortunate] is the man that [patiently] endureth temptation [goes through his trials successfully]: for when he is tried*" [or when he has met the various things

of life in a scriptural way], "*he shall receive the crown of life [Heaven], which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*"

Meeting things right by the power that *God* gives us, and *not* by the control of *self* within us, is what Jesus meant when He said John 12:24 "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*"

The next verse speaks directly to *us*—that if the *old way* dies in us, then the *new way* controls us. At *that* point, we willingly give up the old way as the world responds. It means *dead* to that old way—as free from them as someone who has passed on. This new and scriptural way of responding is our preparation for Heaven—that is how *important* it is to meet things right. It is being blessed *here* and receiving Heaven *later*.

John 12:25 "*He that loveth his life shall lose it*"—or those who hold on to the world's way of responding, who love their life on earth and keep the old way alive, will not only lose their life *here*, but will lose eternal life *later*. John 12:25a "*And he that hateth his life in this world*"—or gets rid of the old disobedient and rebellious spirit of the world—"shall keep it unto life eternal"—Heaven is the result!

That is how *important* it is for us to respond to things in a *scriptural way* by the power of God. Meeting things right has been lost sight of in the Christian world today. Most professed believers think that if they had one *moment* of faith, by a verbal *statement* of faith, like: *Have you been born again; Have you received Jesus into your heart?*—implying that if you had either one, you are ready for Heaven and could never lose your salvation.

Many ministers focus on one aspect of the Christian faith. It may be healing that is empha-

sized—which is an important doctrine of Scripture—if taught correctly. Others may teach primarily on prophecy and the Second Coming of Christ—or on grace and forgiveness—all of which are important.

But the true Gospel is that our entire *hope* of Heaven, and every blessing that we enjoy on earth while waiting for the return of Christ, depends on how we *meet* and *respond* to things in life now, today and every day! *How* we respond to things in life, is a clear indication of *who* we *trust in* and who we *depend on* for our salvation.

We are to meet every attack of the enemy—spiritual, physical, financial, home situations, work related issues, matters with friends; and every insult or spiteful thing that is said or done to us—everything must be met in accordance with the teaching of the New Testament.

Jesus referred to this faith and trust in Him when we are going through trials—Revelation 3:21 "*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*" To "*overcome*" the problems we meet, means we have responded to them in a scriptural way.

1 John 2:6 "*He that saith he abideth in him [is continuing in Him] ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*" We are to respond to wrongs done to *us* as, Jesus responded to wrongs done to *Him*.

It is seeing things from a *scriptural* viewpoint, and it is responding to them as God *says* to respond. Philippians 2:5-8 "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.*"

To have the mindset of Jesus, is to be humble, obedient, and to never look for attention or

praise, because all attention and praise belongs to God alone. Jesus always obeyed the Father, even if it meant suffering and death. *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

Jesus was God made visible in Person, but He was willing to set the example of how to meet things right by the power He will give. *Philippians 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

The *cause* of troubles and difficulties we encounter, is not making a definite commitment to *meet* things scripturally—concerning every situation that arises. If there is a possibility of going back to the *old way* hidden deep in our heart, we must be *aware* of this and to make the decision to respond *this time* in the scriptural way with God’s help.

Any uncertainty allows the devil to *oppress* our spiritual life, our body, our finances, the home, at work, or anywhere. If rebellion is *still* in our heart; if there is an unwillingness to respond in a *scriptural* way, God will allow something to be *said* or *done* to reveal that rebellion or unwillingness in us.

People can say or do things that really offend—but such things do not *just* happen—there is a spiritual reason. God has *permitted* it as a *test* of our love for Him. It is *how* we meet such insults that count. If we meet it in *God’s* way, it will result in a blessing; if we meet it in the *world’s* way, it will result in the opposite—it will be spiritually harmful if not repented of and made right. Our *peace* depends on how we meet things in this life.

We are not asked to meet *anything* in our *own* strength or ability. If we had to, it would just prove we could *not* do it. Under *Old Testament* Law they proved it could *not* be done in human strength, but under the *New Covenant* it *can* be done by *divine* strength that God gives us. *Romans 6:1-2 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”* And *that* is the point—the *grace* of God gives power *from* God to meet things in a right and scriptural way.

Romans 6:3-4 “Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

The same *divine power* that raised Jesus from death, is the same *divine power* that enables us to meet things correctly in *our* life. It is the *same* power that enabled *Jesus* to respond to all things when He was on earth. It is *possible* to overcome in the faith, by responding to things in life by this *divine power* from God.

If we try to overcome temptations from Satan in our *own* strength, we will be defeated—we will just prove it *cannot* be done. The apostle prayed that God would open their spiritual eyes to see the *Ephesians 1:19 “Exceeding greatness of His power”*—to those who *believe*; that their minds might be *enlightened* to see that the entire *power* of God was at their service—*helping* them to respond to situations scripturally and to overcome the enemy by faith in God.

That *divine power* is outside the door of our heart and knocking to be allowed in. *Revelation 3:20 “If any man hear my voice, and open the door,*

I will come in to him.” We all need a spiritual *revival* and a *re-commitment* to meet things in a scriptural way. They *Revelation 3* were lukewarm and in danger of being cast out. God *knew* they had *not* made a definite decision to go through with Him—and *Revelation 3:16 “Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”*

Their faith needed to be *tested* and they needed to meet things correctly. *Revelation 3:18 “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed.”* This “*gold tried in the fire*” is the power to believe God in faith. The “*white raiment*” is God’s righteousness by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

To “*Anoint thine eyes with eyesalve*” is to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit “*that thou mayest see*” the spiritual *truths* of the Bible. Under the Gospel, God does *two* things. Under the Law He just blessed people if they were obedient; but in the New Testament He both gives us the *power* to be obedient and then gives the *blessings* from meeting them scripturally.

We must never lose sight of this truth—the truth of God’s *power* doing the work under the Gospel plan of grace. The apostle prayed that they would be *Colossians 1:11 “Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power,”* so that they would be able to *endure* all things; get *through* every trial; and to *overcome* temptations in faith by the power of His Spirit.

God provides the ability so that the *Only One Way to Respond* will be *our Response!*



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