

Spiritual Change Needed

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God wants to work in our life and develop our spiritual character to be more like that of His Son Jesus Christ. We must place this fully into His hands for the work to begin as soon as possible, to make changes, and grow spiritually. Jesus told us in John 15:2 *"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."*

The two results that must come about are first to develop spiritually, and second to be prepared for entering God's kingdom. The difference between our old worldly way of thinking and the new divine way of thinking are totally opposite to each other.

Most Christians who say they are trusting God, think that if they attend church and live a good moral life, they will surely go to Heaven—however, a person who has developed spiritually realizes that it involves much more than just attending church and living a good moral life. They understand that God must be allowed to do the spiritual work that is needed within a person, without delay, because a big change is needed from the old evil nature to the new way of trusting God in faith.

Isaiah 55:7, *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*

We must allow God to develop us spiritually and make any changes that He wants in our life and start meeting things as His Word directs, because this is necessary for our preparation for Eternal Life.

If anyone will allow God to begin the spiritual work and remain steadfast and firm in the faith, we will become completely opposite to what we were before God began to work in us.

We must know the character and love of God and begin trusting Him for everything. That is quite a change from what we were, and it can take much time for these lessons to be learned, but the result is a development of our Christian character. God loves us and will go to the extreme to do the spiritual work needed within us. We have little time to learn what we need to *know*, and to be changed into what we must *be*.

If we find ourselves going through different trials, we can be sure that God is working, a change is needed. Anything that touches us is for a reason. It may even be another plan that may be hidden

away in our heart that God is trying to bring out in the open for us so we can make that change that is so greatly needed.

When met according to His will, it will bring great spiritual results. We have been given a lifetime here to learn what God's will is, and the sooner we learn it, the better we will be.

Revelation 3:19, *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."*

We need to ask God to show us just where the devil was able to get in, repent, and make changes where they are needed and start anew. God's love for us provides a way for our heart to be changed—through faith in His Son. There is no remaining neutral in the Christian life—we are either going forward or drifting backward—but we must progress forward.

If Satan tries to get in somewhere, we cannot accept his thoughts or oppressions, but go to God in a prayer of faith and ask Him to show us where we may have slipped up and allowed the devil to torment us. Repent and start over again. Now is the time to start over again and anyone can do it.

As Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 6:2, *"now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

If we need wisdom to understand where the devil got in, James tells us to ask it of God who gives to all men liberally.

The conditions for entering Heaven are clearly stated in the Bible—it is having a scriptural attitude about everything—to know, believe, and follow the directions of the Bible regarding everything in life.

Jesus said in the 14th chapter of John to 'keep My commandments', 'believe in Me', 'believe in God'.

Developing spiritually enables us to see that Eternal Life depends on placing our entire trust on God for everything that touches us in this life. Abraham became righteous when he believed God for healing. The quality of faith that Abraham had brings about true spiritual righteousness. Galatians 3:6, *"Abraham 'believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Therefore, know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham."*

No one could receive Eternal Life if they did not have the true righteousness from God. Anyone who does *not* trust God for such a small matter as healing of their body, would not be able to trust Him for the big issue of entering Heaven either.

True spiritually, or God's true righteousness, Jesus said, is being scriptural with finances. Luke 16:11, *"If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your*

trust the true riches?”—which is God’s true righteousness. No one would enter Heaven if they did not trust God on earth. Luke 16:10, *“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.”* If we are not scriptural in our finances, we are not listening to God on one more important life issue.

If we have not obeyed the Scriptures in such a minor thing as money matters, we would not be given God’s true spirituality. This may be very surprising to some people, and it could take a long time to learn it correctly, but God has promised to show anyone who is willing to listen, and who will keep trusting Him in faith for enlightenment on this development issue.

We must pray fervently for God to search our heart, and to reveal any wrong attitude that would hinder our spiritual growth and development and give us a repentant and believing heart. Psalm 139:23-24, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

God has promised to give us all the blessings included in His Atonement sacrifice; and He has also promised to teach us how to enjoy His presence. We can speed up matters by a willingness to listen, learn, and meet things as His Word says. If we ask God to search our heart and attitudes, things can take place that will do that. Hebrews 4:12, *“The word of God is living and active;”* and *“it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

God has said that there would be *very few* under His control during the closing days. The serious part is that Satan controls people through a hidden identity. They are simply *not aware* that he is controlling their thoughts and attitudes. If they *did* know, they would do anything possible to get away from it.

Satan works through the mind—putting thoughts and suggestions of every kind in there—without our even knowing they are from the devil. These thoughts going through our mind just seem like our own sensible reasoning—which we often think is intelligent, and wise thinking.

But we must be aware, Satan sneaks about seeking whom he may devour, and without realizing it, we will quite often accept the devil’s suggestions, and that quickly yields a harvest of trouble and evil—if no corrections are made.

It is a serious thing to have such a wicked and evil dictator controlling our thoughts—and he can do it without our even knowing it. That control of the devil can follow us far into the Christian life of faith.

The gift of the Spirit, from a loving God in Heaven, enables us to see the situation as it really is. No one can be one second without Him; and we need Him continually with us, because He is the One

who is to lead us and teach us in God's Truth. The Holy Spirit will make us what we must be—totally submissive to God, and completely conformed to the attitude of His Son.

The devil cannot attack us until he gets our consent—which he often does by making suggestions that seem like our own reasoning. If we are not aware of this tactic, we can be deceived to accept his thoughts and once we do, we are *giving* him our consent.

When we feel a chill, the devil suggests that we are coming down with something, if we believe that to be true, it gives Satan our consent to give us an oppression. We, effectively, have sent him an invitation to attack us.

Instead, we need to resist him, steadfast in our faith, and really mean business when rejecting his thoughts. We need to take a stand and rebuke the devil, In the Name of Jesus Christ, through His broken body, shed Blood, and His resurrection to life, and refuse to be oppressed—God has promised it and we need to accept our deliverance by faith in His divine power—in other words “be gone from me, Satan.”

When we have sincerely repented and have placed our life in God's hands; and made the choice to trust Him alone for everything and never turn back, He is then able to teach us how to recognize Satan and his deceitful ways the minute the devil tries to get our consent.

We cannot see this unless God opens our spiritual eyes to see it, we cannot see it of ourselves. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us, “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*” No one can know it, but God can reveal it, when our trust is in Him alone to develop us spiritually. 10 “*I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins.*” God will enable us to be victorious over the devil.

The devil influenced Abraham to love his son Isaac more than he loved God; and the devil is always trying to get us to love someone, or something, more than God. It could be anything, may be a game, a hobby, working all the time or it could be trusting in something besides God.

Abraham was told to take his own son, slay him with his own hand, and to offer him as a sacrifice. God knew that it was the only way the last speck of Satan's influence would be gone forever from Abraham's heart.

If Abraham would obey God, he would have every blessing of God—in this life and Eternal Life as the greatest of all rewards. Abraham had the power of choice. He could have refused to offer his son. The devil would be there to suggest a million excuses, God would not want you to do that. If there

was any of Satan's influence in Abraham's heart, this command to offer his son would have brought it out.

God deals with everyone in that way if they are developing spiritually. Circumstances will arise to expose a wrong attitude in us—or to prove that there *is* no wrong attitude there. It is all for the development of our Christian character, and for that all-important preparation for Eternal Life.

Abraham got ready to sacrifice his *son of promise*. It was one of the major things that took place in this world. It is an *example* of how God taught him and trained him so well, that Abraham could lift a knife over a son he cherished with all of his heart—but a son that he loved *more* than he loved God—and with the full intention of slaying him as God said.

The devil would have used every trick in the book to persuade Abraham to *not* do that, but Abraham had surrendered his life totally to God for the development of his character, so he would carry through with what God told him to do. That made Abraham an example for every human being who wants to *live by faith*. Abraham blazed the pathway here on earth, that leads to our eternal inheritance in Heaven.

God is no respecter of persons; if He would teach and develop Abraham spiritually, until the last speck of Satan's power was broken over his life, then God would do the same for anyone else—if we allow Him to *do* that for us. The fruits of being controlled by the Holy Spirit will always send us to God in faith for everything we want in life. Galatians 3:6 "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" By developing spiritually, Abraham is already in Heaven!

As we allow God to eliminate those things in our life that are not best for our spiritual life, we will be prepared for Eternal Life as well. There is a big difference between our old worldly way of thinking, and the new divine way of thinking—they are completely opposite and that is the change that is needed.

The task is large, but if anyone will allow God to begin the spiritual work, they will quickly see change, and eventually there will be a revolution of thinking and acting. And then we too will be prepared for Eternal Life.

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