

"MUST CONNECT TO GOD'S POWER"

(THE ONLY PATH TO ETERNAL LIFE)

The First-Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

(S96R) S211R

WEDNESDAY, JUNE, 16, 2021

(Ref. #40RC/Orig)

Getting our help through the divine power of God means to connect up to God's power, which is a great object in the true Christian life. It is in fact the whole object of one's Christian life! To connect up with God and His power for everything we need and every Scriptural desire in our life, should be the greatest concern that we have in our life on this earth, because it would bring an eternal reward in Heaven.

To be protected and delivered out of our troubles in this life, have perfect happiness restored in our lives here, and to have everything we need and desire within God's will to be provided by God, Himself, ...is all part of God's plan for us to enjoy through an uncompromising trust on Him to fulfill His Word for us. That is our great privilege as believers, but to have that accomplished in our life there must be a complete revolution (a transformation) of our character and nature (a complete turn-over of our will to God's will), because His will is just opposite to what we were in our former state of mind (before we accepted God's Salvation plan and became believers in Jesus Christ). That is a great spiritual work to be done in our heart by God, Himself, to make us an entirely different person. God is the only One who can do that work in our heart, through our meeting trials and tests in His way (according to His Word and plan), which delivers us from our 'sinful nature', and prepares us in heart to be ready to meet Jesus on His return to take His faithful followers with Him.

Instead of us being under the power and control of Satan, we are to be under the power of God. That means having Jesus control us, instead of having Satan controlling us. Instead of living under Satan's control, we are to live according to God's will and plan (trusting in the 'living God'), instead of trusting on ourselves or somebody else (as Satan always wants us to do). Of course, that means a tremendous work has to be done in our life, to make us opposite to the way we were in our natural human mind and heart.

We all need to learn how to turn to God, and to look to receive what He already promised for us in His Word. In Jesus' Name, we reject all suggestions and lies from the devil (who never stops trying to talk us out of receiving the blessings of God's Promises, but which are confirmed by the Blood of His Son).

God's Promises, however, are harmonious with the instructions that He gave in His Word for us to follow. We have to obey all of it to make a success of the Christian life (or to ever get to Heaven). We cannot go half-way in living God's Truth and still get to Heaven. Outward morality, honest living, sincerity, and Church

membership are what the vast majority of people and professing Christians are depending on to get them to Heaven (the late Pastor said). However, there is not anything but divine condemnation in such a religious doctrine as that. There really is not anything but the Lake of Fire for those people who are depending on an outward religion, but never come to a place of uncompromising trust (in faith) on God's Word and His Promises. However, in stark contrast to their disregard for the sayings of Jesus and the Promises of God, Jesus assured everyone (Matt. 7:24) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them (puts them into practice, every day), I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:".

A person can be outwardly honest, sincere, attend church, and make a profession of religion, but without having any inward change of heart. That outward morality can be seen all around us in denominational religions from Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutheran, and on down the list to Tongues Groups and every other category of breakaway groups from sincere and true faith on God's written Word. You will find people who show no real faith in God, ...and really do not know the first thing about trusting God for things or obeying His Word. To say the least, they have never learned what it means to be a real Christian who trusts in God for things in their life. Most churches do not teach anything about a believing 'faith and trust' on the living God for things in this life, so we can thank God always for revealing to us the great number of delusions in the world (because (MP) most religious messages contain no 'teaching' that would prepare a person for Heaven). The devil will see to it that they do not allow God to change their inward life, and that they do not get delivered from self, nor be saved from the Lake of Fire.

Something we all need to do, is to get entirely away from the false idea in denominational churches, that morality, sincerity, and church membership will take a person to Heaven. We all may have heard people preached into Heaven, ...who never obeyed one command of God's Word, nor trusted Him for anything in their life.

We should consider the change that had to take place in the lives of many Bible characters, and the severe trials that God used to bring about an entire revolution of their inward nature from what they were, to then be able to see things from entirely different point of view (one which will always prompt us to turn our trust toward God, instead of toward other people and plans). We all must have God do that same great work (bring about the same revolution in our heart), to prepare us for Eternal Life (which would also mean getting our victories here in this life). It is worth every part of our attention, interest, and concern, because (MP) 'when it comes to eternal Life, our spiritual interests should always be put first'.

Eternal Life is so vitaly important, that we all must know of the conditions (and the preparation necessary) for entering God's Kingdom. If this life is the only place to be prepared for the next, (because it is the only place where 'spiritual growth' can

take place), ... then we had better allow God to teach us what we need to know about changing our heart to trust on Him alone. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted by self-indulgence and "the cares and anxieties of this life" (as Jesus said, Luke 21:34). Also, we must be sure to (avoid) "abstain from every 'form of evil'" (as Paul solemnly advised the Thessalonians), because it will lead a person into sin. So, Jesus warned us (vs.36) "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy, to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

It may be hard for us to put into words how important it is to put God's Word first in our life, but Jesus emphasized how important it is to obey His teaching which leads to Eternal Life, and that it always be put first in our decisions and actions (if we truly seek to enter the Kingdom of God). He also added Promise of many rewards (Matt.6:33-34) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. There-fore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things."

Jesus was speaking about food, clothing, and raiment, but everything else is added to that. Everything we want spiritually and physically, and every other way, will become ours when we 'seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first'. That means everything will be added for victory in our home, the control of loved ones (wife, husband, children, and everyone else). We all need to learn from the Holy Spirit, that it is God's will and our Blood-bought right to have things as we would like them to be, and they will be if we allow God to bring about that change. Also allow God to teach us what we ought to know (and to make us what we ought to be). Only God, Himself can do that for us. It is a wonderful privilege to have such a one as God is, to do that (so that we can get all things from Him).

Apostle Paul was speaking of people who want to connect up to God's power, and who want to be ready for Eternal Life, when he told all of us (Rom. 12:1-2) "I beseech you therefore, 'brethren', by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world,"

This admonition of the apostle emphasizes to us, that everything, ...Our development as a Christian, our spiritual growth into what we ought to know and what we ought to be, depends (first of all) on us making a right start in the Christian life. So, the apostle laid the groundwork for us to know how to 'give our life back to God' (which is something that we can do at any time, no matter how anyone has been in their past life). When we are willing to repent, confess to God, and re-surrender (reconsecrate) our life to God (for His teaching, training, and development of our Christian character), the very moment that we do, it will become a valuable asset, for it allows God the opportunity to begin working to change our heart. Only God can change our heart to be of the nature of

Jesus Christ and be controlled by His Spirit, (instead of us continuing to be controlled by the evil nature).

To not give our life back to God, jeopardizes our eternal life, and of course hinders us from getting what we would like here, and being victorious, or to becoming perfectly happy within God's will.

A 'living sacrifice' (as the apostle Paul referred to), means for us to give definite and careful attention to returning our life to God, a full surrender to God without any reservation. When God's Word tells us 'No' about some circumstance or thing, or reveals to us a false 'place of trust' in our life, that we may not (humanly speaking) be willing to surrender, ... we cannot skirt that issue by trying to hold onto any thing or situation that is not within God's will for us, because our spiritual interests now, and future eternal interests are what is at stake.

Jesus told us that placing ourselves in His hands, should be with death as the limit, for if we would not forsake our own life to follow Him, we could never be a disciple of His (which means of course, that we could never make a success of the Christian life). (Luke 14:33) "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has, cannot be My disciple."

Therefore, for us to connect up to God's power (to get things from God in His way), means that the surrender of our life to God, must be definite and final (without any reservation on our part). We need to go to God in private prayer and tell Him in all sincerity, 'I want to take a stand of faith on Your Scriptures', 'I believe that You have accepted me through my believing on the Atonement sacrifice of Jesus Christ', 'I want to be in Your hands', 'in Your workshop and Your training school' (for You to prepare me that I may be worthy of entering Your Kingdom).

That is what it means to present our life to God as a 'living sacrifice' (as apostle Paul said), and that it would be our act of "reasonable service" as he said. As we remain sincere in our commitment of surrender of our will to God without reservation (which means for God to have His way from the least to the greatest thing in our life), it puts us in the easiest place we have ever been in our life, because God would never order nor direct anything that would not be for our best interests (and He cannot fail with His Promises when our faith is genuine and without compromise).

A 'living sacrifice' would also mean that we should sit down and count the cost, like a person planning a large project and wanting to be sure they will want to go all the way through with their plan, and to make a safe start with it.

There are a great number of people (the Pastor said), even some in the denominational churches, who allowed God to begin working for them. They have developed somewhat, have some knowledge of the Bible, and maybe even got some answers to prayer. But they never developed properly nor progressed in the real Truth, because their surrender was sort of like a double standard (with limits as to how

far they would go with trusting on God's power to work for them). Our decision must be final to trust all the way on God alone.

In the full Truth we must make proper progress and have a right and proper goal, if we want to be happy in this life and expect to be prepared by God and be made ready for Eternal Life. It is not a small matter and certainly not one to consider lightly. We should give it serious and careful and definite consideration. However, we do not realize at first how important it is to make a right, sincere, and final surrender to give our life back to God.

In everyday circumstances, if we were going to make a change in the way we do something or make a change in our way of living from a worldly standpoint, we would first carefully consider the entire matter. In the Truth, God asks us to do the same, so that we might develop properly spiritually and be fully delivered from the devil's power (until our surrender is final and perfected by God, Himself).

Jesus referred to a man (Luke 14), who laid a foundation for his house but was unable to finish building it, and, then saying that other people would make fun of him. It is the same with us if we do not count the cost and make a sincere and final surrender of 'self', and then to go with God's Word and His plan for us to follow. We will not become perfected by God in our Christian life if we have not sincerely put human efforts and plans aside finally. We will not enter into all the plans that God gives us in His Word, nor will we be successful in our home life, (until we stop trying to meet circumstances in our own way, and we allow God to control the other person to act as we want them to act). We will not be successful in our financial trust on the riches that God has for us to receive by faith, ... we will not develop spiritually, ... and eventually it can have an effect on the health our body, because our surrender of our life to God was not a final one.

The whole object of us being definite and final is that the devil's power might be broken over our life, so that God may get full possession of us. It is the only possible way God can change the inward nature of our heart. There is no half-way place, and no ninety percent place of commitment in the Truth. We cannot mix the Truth with the way people of the world depend on the medical world, nor with other human plans for deliverance, and false plans of trust on laid-up resources. (Ananias and Sapphira tried to do that, and it cost them their life).

There are, however, different stages of our development in the Truth, but our commitment must always be one hundred percent of that stage of the process. If there is a blank or bare spot in the surrender of our life to God, it will sooner or later take us out of the Truth. If there is a place that we are not living up to the amount of spiritual light that we have been graciously given by God, it will eventually throw us completely out of the Truth.

To mingle in fellowship with those who have not accepted (or have turned their back on the Truth), will surely lead a person out of the Truth (unless the wrong fellowship is repented of). God has

already spoken on that, and He has given us all the spiritual light needed about not keeping fellowship with unbelievers. He (God) spoke very clearly to us (2 Cor. 6:14) "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness" Also (Vs.15) "Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" (We cannot mix our commitment to the Truth with the world and its ways, and God promises us His own personal reward for giving up friendship with those who turn their back on the Truth.

(Numbers 23:5) "The LORD put a message in Balaam's mouth and said, 'Go back to Balak and give him this message.' (Vs.9) "I see a people who live apart and do not consider themselves one of the nations". Then God's promise for obeying His Word about keeping Scriptural fellowship with other 'believers', (2 Cor.6:17) "Therefore, Come out from among them, And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." [That is God, Himself, inviting us to be part of His family (after we separate from the world). (Can we even begin to imagine the peace that God will give a member of His family?)]

To make a sincere decision to separate from the world, and a final commitment to surrender ourselves to do God's will alone in our life, is not something to be afraid of. Rather, it is the best and delightful and pleasant position we could possibly place ourselves in our life here on earth. It simply is making a choice on our part to place ourselves (without reservation) in the hands of our Heavenly Father, ... to be under His control, in His personal training school, without any reservation on our part (nor any compromise with His plan for us) God invites us to make a sincere commitment to surrender our will to Him, and He promised (Vs.18) "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."

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SOME MAIN POINTS:

- 1... The importance of connecting up to God's power to receive every need and Scriptural desire in our life, cannot be over-estimated, and it should be the greatest concern that we have in our life, because it would bring eternal 'Heavenly reward'.
- 2... Attending church services with an outwardly honest and sincere profession of religion, (but without any inward 'change of heart'), is not true religion, for that is not being truly surrendered to live by faith on God and the power of Jesus' Blood
- 3... Eternal Life is so vitally important, that our spiritual interests should always be put first. If this life is the only place to be prepared for the next,...then we had better allow God to teach us what we need to know about having our heart changed to trust on Him alone. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted by "the cares of this life" (as Jesus said, Luke 21:34).

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