

BAPTISM & MEETING THINGS AND PEOPLE RIGHT

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After one is inspired by God to turn their life over to Him, go back to Him and be baptized, with God's Promise to be given the 'gift of the Holy Spirit', we must believe that with the help of His Spirit within our heart, we will be enabled to 'meet things and people right'. Scripture tells us that 'old things have passed away' and 'all things are now new'. It is our Scriptural responsibility to believe we are as God's Word tells us that we are (via His Spirit working within our truly surrendered heart).

When it comes to meeting things and people as the Scriptures direct, we will at times be tempted by Satan to resent things and hold hard feelings toward those people, when things do not go as we had planned. We all need to come to the place where no matter what is said and done to us by anyone, we cannot hold hard feelings, nor can we resent that person for what they may have; said or done to us.

Satan knows how to have people to treat us, just opposite of the way they ought to. But how valuable that is! How important it is to be set at naught! To be ignored! To be belittled, and to take it in loving silence, and realizing it is a valuable lesson from God, to get the last speck of resentment out of our heart, and, to make us perfect and ready for Eternal life.

We cannot get upset when someone in the home says or does something opposite to our liking. So, when the members of our family cross our bow, or do something directly opposite to what we would like them to, we cannot resent in the slightest way, any mean thing done to us by anybody. Rather we are to "follow peace with all men." (And that growth and development into a holy character), "without which no man shall see the Lord."

We are continually coming to crossroads our life, where we must choose to follow God's plan of life which leads to eternal life with God on high, or Satan's plan of life which eventually

(if not repented of), leads to death and the lake of fire.

We all have a great work to be done in our lives, so as to be fully prepared for eternal life. And that would mean getting our victories and answers to prayer here. It will be worth every particle of attention and interest, every concern, no fleshly sincerity, it requires the first in everything, when it comes to eternal life.

Jesus said this about obeying the word, and that is to make it our first and foremost attention. The truth is it cannot be expressed in words how far-reaching it is and how important it is.

Jesus said, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Jesus was speaking of food, clothing, and raiment, but everything else is added, spiritually, physically, in the workshop, and everywhere else when we seek first the Kingdom of God.

As we mentioned, each one of us will be continually confronted by a crossroad, one leading to life and the glories in heaven, and one leading eventually to the Lake of Fire. One is God's way and plan, and the other is Satan's plan of life.

We must choose between those two pathways. At every turn and in every day, things are continually happening in our spiritual life, in our physical life, in the workshop, in our financial affairs, and in our home life. This is why we need the Holy Spirit to guide us in making the correct choice. We all will be faced with a time, sooner or later, when we must go through with God, when we are pliable in His hands, because it takes this pliability, this following Him and walking with Him to be ready to meet Jesus. Unless we have learned our lessons and are pliable in his hands, Jesus could not take us with him when he comes back. So, it is very important at all times, to be pliable in the hands of God; then very quickly, easily, and steadily, we will go from grace to grace, and glory to glory, and soon grow in Christ in all things. (Eph.2:10).

We must realize that it is not the people who do mean things to us, and that circumstances do not just happen. Rather, it is the devil himself behind it all, trying to reach and destroy us for time and eternity. For this reason, the apostle Paul said, "we wrestle not

against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Against the spiritual forces that control the evil world). We wrestle against the devil himself, so we must take on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Eph. 6:12,13).

This means to hold steadfast to the end and to remain victorious in the field. We are never to go down in defeat. We cannot meet any battle in our own strength, rather, we need God's grace and strength to be victors in the field.

If, after we have surrendered our life unconditionally to God, and if there is any speck of rebellion left in our heart, the Lord (who is merciful) will let something happen to expose it and bring it out.

And we cannot thank God enough for bringing out such things, because they are unknown to us, and if we were to leave this world with that rebellion in our heart, we would be lost forever.

So, instead of us feeling angry and being disagreeable toward people who say and do mean things to us, or, change our course of actions in any way toward them, we ought to praise God, (and, thank that person for revealing something in our hearts that could have destroyed us forever.)

Jeremiah tells us just what the human heart is like in its natural condition, "the heart is deceitful above all things; and desperately wicked: who can know it." (Jeremiah 17:9)

The real fact is, not many people (taking the world population as a whole) know that our eternal life depends on meeting things and people right. The apostle Paul referring to the Christian life, tells us that it is very important that we hold steadfast under all circumstances, and to meet things right, no matter what it is that comes across our pathway. God's plan of life always leads to greater blessings and greater happiness of every kind.

In the 12th chapter of Hebrews, it is written that no chastening, no difficulty, no unpleasant circumstances that arise in our life, are joyous, but grievous; "nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness

unto them which are exercised thereby." Which means we are to accept the training of that trial by 'meeting it right'.

If we ever expect to make eternal life, we will be faced with every kind of a spiritual test; (during our Christian life); every kind of a physical test; every kind of financial test; every kind of test in the home, the workshop (and everywhere else). The fact is we will be tested to the limit, that is, until we get rid of every plan of our own and completely rid of self and Satan (those two deadly enemies that send people to the lake of fire forever).

Of course we could not do this in our own strength, nor does God expect us to, rather, He alone supplies all the grace, strength, and guidance needed to live an overcoming Christian life. (and enter Heaven).

We have quite a few examples in the bible that show us the importance of meeting things and people right. The first one was the nation of Israel at Kadesh Barnea. There came a time when their meeting a trial right, meant much. When their present blessings depended upon it, and their eternal welfare.

They came to the border of the promised land, after leaving Egypt, and were ready to go into that land of plenty as far as God was concerned; 'but they went by sight' by looking at the giants and the walled cities and the difficulties in the way, and they refused to go into the land. Well, we all know the result of them not meeting that trial right, and that was, that all those Israelites over twenty years old perished in their sins and were lost for time and eternity.

The next example is King Saul. Time after time God gave him a chance to meet things right; but when the pressure was great, and when God seemed slow in answering prayer. Of course, the fault was with King Saul we know, as he would go on making a deliverance of his own, his own way of escape for himself; he would not meet the trial right.

He was a man who had been filled with the holy spirit, a man who had the gift of prophecy, a man who had been completely changed.

One would not think such could be the case; but it all hinged on meeting things right.' He had some very serious things to meet in his life, but he always seemed to fall in the crucial test. He

finally lost his life by suicide on Mount Gilboa (and lost eternal life besides).

Then there were others in the bible who had trouble, but they were willing to meet it right. King David is the example we want to refer to. He was tormented by King Saul and his life was in jeopardy, until he made a final decision to meet things in God's way, and he proved that God was true to his word. Many of us are familiar with the experiences of David, and the trouble he had in his home and with some of his children. However, as he met things right, he was soon restored to his original place and enjoyed God's fulness of blessing and never had any trouble along that line afterward.

Joseph is another example of how things work out when they are met right. He had plenty of trouble and had ten brethren who never spoke a peaceable word to him. Then he was sold into slavery; placed in the home of a bad woman, and very severely tempted. Then he was sent to prison on a lie. Well, he met all these things right; he never defended himself from the woman, never said a word about his brothers, never complained of the way they talked about him, and treated him in the home.

However, the prison sentence he did not meet right, and that was the cause of all his troubles. So, it was necessary for him to go down and down, until he came to the place and thing which he was not willing to meet right, and to learn how to meet it in God's way. As a result of Joseph finally getting rid of the last speck of human efforts, he was delivered.

If we find ourselves going through a series of temptations, we can rest assured that there is something we need to learn how to meet right, (all because we have another plan hidden away in our heart). All the trials, all the things which are said and done to us in the workshop and in the home (by people who ought to do just the opposite), are all for one purpose only, that is to reach the thing that 'we are unwilling to meet right'.

If there are any of our plans left in our heart, they will need to be brought out, that we may see them before we go into eternity with our own plans and ways. If we hold on to our own plans, we will spend eternity with Satan. So, it is

so very necessary for each one of us to get rid of our own ways, (the self-life), to die to ourselves, to die completely to our own plans and ways and get fully rid of them.

It will be for our best interest and happiness here, as well as for eternity. We all need (and we cannot emphasize it too much) need to become Christlike in all our ways. We are told in Paul's letter (Phil.2;5) "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." The fact is we are to take the attitude of a humble servant like Jesus was.

It is very important that we be kept in a continual state of endurance and steadfastness when faced with humbling circumstances, and then we will die daily to our own plans and will learn to meet things and people right.

We want to touch on another very valuable lesson, and that is the value of the meeting of insults and wrongs things that are said and done toward us. Very few people can meet wrongs right, and only with God's grace, strength, and wisdom can any of us meet this most important lesson as the Bible teaches.

The text given (Romans 12:19) applies to people wanting to rob us, people cheating us, people lying about us, people growling at us, people wronging us in any way whatever. We are to meet those injustices just opposite from the natural way. There is just one object in all these. They are permitted as steppingstones for us, and they will either prove to be steppingstones, or stumbling blocks. If met right, they will be steppingstones; if not met right, they will be stumbling blocks and rocks of offense which we will trip over, (as the Jews did over meeting with their Messiah. (Rom.12:19) "dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

This also means that we are not to resent an injury; we are never to return evil for evil. It is written in this great chapter on consecration, just how we are to meet injury done to us. We are not to try to right our wrongs via any efforts of our own: we are not to try to change things which are said or done to us. We are not to touch them with our finger; and neither are we permitted to worry about them.

We are, in fact, to follow what it tells us in that Bible passage given us in Philippians, and

so, "be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Getting back to meeting things and people right in the home, (because of its importance in our growth and development in the Truth), we need God's grace and strength to do that.

And we cannot stress the importance too much, of not resenting anything said or done to us in the home, for that is where we are tested the most, and it is the place where Satan likes to fight the most and hardest. Satan delights to find someone in the home to say some mean thing, something which is made very hard to bear, somebody who will do the meanest and hardest thing to us, someone who is very difficult to get along with and will test us to the bone. That is a great opportunity of a lifetime, to have the privilege of trying out God's grace and strength (which the Lord Jesus Christ came to give us. We are commanded to walk in his footsteps and follow his ways in every part of our life.

We are told this in (1st Peter 2:21-23) "for even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not, again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously: .. He left us this example that we should follow in His footsteps. For this, is thank-worthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.' (1st Peter 2:).

In bringing the message to a close, we might say that those mean and contemptible things said and done to us are of the greatest value when they are met right. Not only will meeting those things right, 'be a death blow to the self-life', but we will also take a big step forward in the Christian life, toward the goal of becoming Christlike in all our ways.

And as we have often heard, the Christlike attitude is most necessary, if we ever expect to inherit Eternal Life.

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S416R SOME MAIN POINTS:

After being inspired by God to surrender 'our way of life', turn our life back to Him and be baptized, with God's Promise for us to be given His 'gift of the Holy Spirit', ..we must believe that with the help of His Spirit within our heart, we will then be enabled to meet things and people right in accordance with God's Word.

And, Scriptures tell us that 'old things have passed away' and that 'all things are now new' (because of the Holy Spirit of God dwelling within our heart, to be our Guide to knowing how to meet people and circumstances as Jesus met them), as He was the example for us, and He told us via command to "come follow Me!" Also forewarned us, that 'the one who puts his hand to the plow, but then looks back, cannot be my disciple'!

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