

God Delivers & Perfects A Willing Heart

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When Adam listened to Satan and put God's Word aside, he then began to live a life under Satan's control, trying to get along without God in his life. He would try to get what he wanted to be happy in his life on earth, by his own personal efforts, instead of trusting on God's power to provide for him and his family. Those efforts are all of the life of self (and Satan), and must be reversed in our life, because they are the root cause and parent of all other sin in the world. It is the seat of 'self' and Satan's control over those who compromise, with God's plan of trust on His power to control things in their life. Such efforts are, in reality, the self-life exposed, but they are made plain and clear to a believer in Christ, who does not compromise, nor put a limit on the almighty power of God.

True 'believers' are very fortunate to have this made clear and plain to them, because the majority of people (professing Christians and others) are under the full control of self and Satan without even knowing it. True 'believers' who trust on the teaching of Jesus Christ, however, are afforded a privilege granted to them by God, (John 8:31-32), "Jesus therefore said to those of the Jews who had now believed in Him, 'As for you, if you hold fast to my teaching, then you are truly my disciples; and you shall know the Truth, and the Truth will make you free.'"

We can be very thankful that God has enabled us to realize the truth about this and come face to face with the cause of all trouble, which is depending on human trust (be it ourselves or anybody else) to get the things we need and desire in this present life. The Bible teaches us that Jesus came for the purpose of opening the way for us to reverse Adam's wrong step, to get back to God, and learn to trust on God alone for every-thing we need (or every Scriptural desire)

in this life. God alone is to teach us to depend on Him for progress in our spiritual life, depend on Him for the health of our bodies and everything that pertains to it, depend on Him for supply of financial needs, also depend on Him to handle and control our family, and every other human being we come in contact with. That would include trusting God to control our employer, as we believe that God can make the meanest kind of employer to be the kindest.

If you meet the situation right with the help of God, He will rebuke the devil and make a person treat you kindly and right. That means that we are not going to resent nor worry about it, nor do one thing of ourselves to change the situation with our boss

Spiritually speaking, those circumstances are a valuable place for a person to be in, if we would meet it right with God's help, and His promised guidance. To learn to trust God to handle people who treat us mean, is a wonderful way to die to self-life. Resentment is a major foundation of the 'self-life' because self-effort means to try to right our wrongs (instead of leaving them in the hands of God who always judges righteously).

We can realize how valuable a place it is to work under someone that treats us mean, and of how we can be rescued from the 'life of self' and perfected (in Christ) by God, through a life of trust on Him to avenge wrongs done to us. What a spiritually valuable place to be in because God uses every circumstance met right to prepare us for Eternity.

God's Word explains the position we should take toward employers (and others whom we need to deal with in our life). (1 Pet.2:18-21) "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear" (also means fear of God and to follow His Word) "not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh" (disagreeable). "For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called" (we notice the spiritual blessing promised, the most rewarding place a person could be in), "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:"

What a privilege that is for us to have Christ's example to follow in our life. God gives that to us like a road map to Eternal Life.

(Vs. 22-23) "He never sinned, and no deceitful language was ever heard from His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not answer with reviling; when He suffered, He uttered no threats but left His wrongs in the hands of the righteous Judge." Jesus trusted God to right His wrongs and make things go right for Him. These verses draw the veil aside and give us the exact path that we are to follow when we are wronged in our life. To walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ is the most honorable thing that a human being could do (a most exalted and valuable place to be).

When those adverse circumstances arise in our life, it is a priceless privilege and opportunity for us to 'die to self', get rid of resentment and get rid of worry (which hinders our faith). It is the privilege of 'trusting on God to rebuke the devil' to make that person act right toward us, and to treat us right. God will answer that prayer right away if we are sincere in getting 'self' out of the way so God can work for us. And we will have taken a definite step toward reversing Adam's wrong step.

Wherever God can find a fully surrendered person with a willing heart, He will take that person by the hand and lead them step-by-step out of every human thing they are depending on. He will lead us into everything that pertains to our spiritual life, and victory in everything pertaining to the health of our body, or pertaining to our home, family, and workshop, as well as concerning our financial support. God alone can do these things for us.

God will bring us to the place that we would rather die than to depend on anybody else or anything else but Him. That is what His Word teaches, and no one could obey the Bible and do as it say, without depending on God alone to enable them.

No place in the New Testament is there even a trace of the 'self-life' revealed because there is no place for it if we are truly trusting on the power of the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ. No one else but God is portrayed as being our helper. God is the only One we are to depend on. When we obey the New Testament,

we are just as much in a desert as the Israelites were. Their great privilege was, they had no one else but God to depend on in that wilderness (and the New Testament does not permit us to depend on anything or anybody but God.)

God is the only One who can teach and develop us through His Holy Spirit, but He will bring us to the place where we will be delighted to depend on Him and would rather die than not depend on Him. That is the place people in Bible times were brought to, and they received the rich spiritual results of reversing Adam's sin and getting back to the Garden of Eden, getting the very life of Christ to be their life. The Holy Spirit makes it delightfully easy to be brought to that place (of trust on our unseen God for things that we cannot see beforehand).

"Walking by faith" is the whole substance of the true Christian life, so we want to be brought to the place where we fully understand that principle and truth. The Holy Spirit will do the work of enlightening to that principle, anyone who believes on the Atonement work of the Son of God, and they are willing to fully surrender the 'will of self'. Only then can God bring them to perfection in a life of faithful obedience to His Word.

The places we are attacked is where we have not learned to trust fully on God alone. After we have learned to trust fully on God for a place or situation in our life, and get rid of human trust altogether, the devil can no longer attack or make trouble for us in that way, for we "are kept by the power of God". (1 Pet. 1:3-5) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the 'resurrection of Jesus Christ' from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, who are 'kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.'"

As God works in our life, we will be brought back to Garden of Eden-like circumstances, to perfect happiness, and He will bring us to where we are ready for Eternal Life. It is right at this point, (of reversing Adam's sin in our life), getting rid of the last human thing we are depending on, the last human plan to get the

things we need and want in our life, and getting back to depending fully and finally on God, that God can lead us into our full inheritance in Christ. God did these things for characters illustrated in the Bible whom He brought to perfection through a life of faithful obedience to His Word.

Chapter one of the apostle Peter's first letter is a sermon message in itself, to emphasize the importance of that faithful obedience (and how the Holy Spirit will do that necessary sanctifying work in our heart to bring us to perfection). He said (1 Pet.1:2) that "God's own people" are chosen "through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, with a view to their obedience, and to their being sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ."

(Vs. 6-7) We should "Rejoice triumphantly in the prospect of this (our being brought to perfection by the Holy Spirit), even if now, for a short time, you are compelled to sorrow amid various trials. The sorrow comes in order that the testing of your faith—being more precious than that of gold, which perishes and yet is proved by fire)—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the reappearing of Jesus Christ."

These verses assure us that our faith will be tested by God, just as faithful Abraham was tested (and the faith of many other Bible characters), to see if they really delighted in faithful obedience to God's Word. Worldly habits and lifestyles are to be confessed and forsaken in the lives of faithful believers, who are being sanctified "by the work of the Spirit with a view to their obedience and to their being sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ."

(Vs. 14-16 say), "And, since you delight in obedience, do not shape your lives by the cravings which used to dominate you in the time of your ignorance, but- in imitation of the holy One (Jesus Christ) who has called you- you also must be holy in all your habits of life. Because it stands written, 'You are to be holy, because I am holy.'" (Lev.11:44).

The apostle admonished further (Vs. 22) "Now that, through your obedience to the Truth, you have purified your 'souls' for cherishing sincere brotherly love, you must love one another heartily and fervently." He then concluded his

message, by saying (Vs. 25) "the word of the Lord remains for ever." And that means the Message which has been proclaimed among you in the Good News."

When Jesus' first called His disciples, they had not yet trusted God for things in this life. They belonged to a church that taught just like the churches do today, that we are to depend on the efforts of man for things in this life instead of trust on God. Those churches and synagogues believed that God had changed and would not do things for us today, that He had become hard-hearted and indifferent to our welfare, and does not care what we suffer. What a terrible and serious slander that is against God, Who gave His only Son that we might have help in everything that pertains to this life of ours. What a terrible slander to put on our loving, Heavenly Father, and it is all being done under a 'cloak of religion', that Satan uses to deceive people and lead them to the Lake of Fire. That is serious. No more desperately wicked teaching could ever be given out than that, (and is still being given in the churches of this day), and there could be no more worse results awaiting anyone who does not repent of the unbelief as is being fermented in those churches). When first called, Jesus' disciples, (like the rest of the members of those churches) had a 'through ticket' to the Lake of Fire.

Some of the disciples were fishermen before Jesus called them. On one occasion they had fished all night (in self-effort) and took no fish. With them still being under Adam's sin, God did not have a 'look in', as they had never been taught in the churches to pray for success as the Bible had already instructed them to do. (Prov.3:5-6) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."

That would include success with their fishing, but their church had become buried under the lies and false teaching of the devil (until they may as well have been miles under the ocean as far as the real Truth was concerned.)

However, Jesus came and borrowed Peter's boat from which to teach the people. After He got through speaking to the crowd, he said, to the fishermen, (Luke 5:4-6), "Push out into

deep water, and let down your nets for a haul.” (They were given a first opportunity to depend on God). (Humanly speaking they had already proved there were no fish there). “Rabbi,” replied Peter, “all night long we have worked hard and caught nothing;” (That was the sum of all the human experience, and it proves Scripture which tells us, “the flesh profits nothing” (John 6:63). *We need to ask in Jesus’ Name, for God to guide us to success in everything that we do.* However, Peter said, “at your command I will let down the nets.”

That was just the beginning of following God’s Word in a life of trust on Him, and, of reversing the sin of Adam. It proved to be the first step in getting back to God, and it was in a matter of temporal concerns. However, there is no greater spiritual choice (no ‘shorter way’) to get back to God and to be re-made into the image of Christ, than there is in a ‘financial trust decision’. Peter said, “at your command I will let down the nets.” (Vs. 6) “This they did and enclosed a vast number of fish; and their nets began to break.”

The Holy Spirit used that miracle to convict Peter of his wrong ‘spiritual condition and attitude. God will always lay the groundwork for us to realize our wrong spiritual condition (if we will only admit to it and confess it to Him). In Peter’s case he was astonished like the others, by a huge catch of fish which caused the boats to begin to sink, and he came and fell humbly at Jesus’ feet, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (To realize that he was a sinful man), that was the best thing that Peter had ever found out about a spiritual condition of his heart. It exposed the unbelief of ‘self’ in his heart. It was the beginning of a successful Christian life of obedient faith on God, and his preparation for Eternal Life.

(Vs.9-11) (“For he was astonished and terrified--he and all his companions--at the haul of fish which they had taken; and so were Simon’s partners James and John, the sons of Zabdi.) But Jesus replied to Simon, ‘Fear not:’ (Jesus meant, my Blood pardons and cleanses your confessed sins) “from this time you shall be a catcher of men.”

“Then, after bringing their boats to land, they left they forsook everything and followed

Him.” (Jesus). *They forsook their fishing work and their nets, to follow Christ, just as Elisha had done with his farm tools. No wonder they had a successful Christian life.*

When we are convicted and willing to forsake the things we are depending on instead of on God (reversing the sin of Adam), and we make that same type of surrender to begin a life of obedient faith on God’s Word, we can also have that same type of success in our life here, and most importantly, we will be “kept by the power of God through faith for salvation”, and Who will prepare us for Eternal Life, hereafter.

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