

FOCUS

I'd like to share a few thoughts and quite a few scriptures with you.

Have you ever heard anyone say, I tried that and it didn't work for me?

I've been a Christian a very long time, and over the years, I've heard people say, that I tried Christianity and it didn't work for me. Now I'm trying other things like meditation, yoga, and health foods.

One thing that few people seem to understand, is that the gospel is not a religion, a teaching, a methodology, or a self-help technique to accomplish our personal goals.

It's actually the supernatural work of God, to accomplish his purposes.

Let me share a few scriptures that show God's attitude toward the gospel.

Isaiah 46.9-11 I'll just read a couple of excerpts,

I am God, and there is no other, I am God and there is no one like me. My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all my good pleasure. Truly I have spoken, truly I will bring it to pass, I have planned it surely I will do it.

Isaiah 55:11 says,

My word which goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

It appears from these two statements from God, that the word "try" is not part of his vocabulary. He plans it and it happens. He says it and it comes into existence.

In Matthew chapter 23.37 Jesus said to the Jews,

How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

It's pretty obvious from this scripture, that man has the option to respond to God's word, or reject it by his own will.

God makes His gospel, and the resulting transformation that it creates, available to man by covenant.

A covenant is a promise from God. They are often conditional. Meaning, if you will, then I will.

We know from reading the Bible, and by our own experience, that the will of God does not flutter down on us from the sky like magic dust.

This promise is conditional, and requires an action from us. Let's go to the scriptures to see what kind of action is required.

2 chronicles 16.9

The eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the Earth that he may strongly support those whose hearts are completely His.

Hearts that are submitted and surrendered to God make God's part of the covenant available to us.

Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you.

The kingdom of God is to be our primary focus.

Matthew 6:22

The lamp of the body is the eye.

If your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light.

But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other.

It appears that a complete and total focus is required and that there is no dual citizenship in the kingdom of God.

In Romans 5:7-10 It says,

God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God made his supernatural redemptive work on our behalf available to us before we even asked.

Luke 12:32 says,

Do not be afraid, little flock, for the Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

Let's go to the Word to see what our action should be in response to his promise, to make His Kingdom our reality.

Luke 11:9+10 amp

So I say to you, ask and keep on asking and it shall be given to you, seek and keep on seeking and you shall find, knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you.

For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives, and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds, and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking the door shall be opened.

Our response needs to be more than a casual, curious, inquiry. God's promise is that, everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives and everyone who seeks and keeps on seeking finds.

Here's another one from Matthew 11:12 Amplified version.

From the days of John the Baptist until this present time, the Kingdom of Heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force, as a precious prize. A share in the Heavenly kingdom is sought with the most ardent zeal and intense exertion.

When someone brings us a gift and sets it on the table in front of us, it's not really ours, until we take it, and open it.

In Philippians 3:12 Paul says,

Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

When I read this scripture, I always picture a drowning man being rescued by someone in a boat. They grab the man by his shirt, but he is so desperate to be rescued that he grabs hold of the person's arm who has grabbed hold of him.

In 1 Timothy 6:12

Paul encouraged his young co-worker to fight the good fight of faith, and take hold of the eternal life to which you were called....

And finally let's look at

Colossians 3:1-3. I'll read it out of the Amplified version.

If then you have been raised with Christ to a new life, thus sharing his resurrection from the dead, aim at and seek the rich eternal treasures that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds and keep them set on what is above, the higher things, not on things that are on the Earth.

For as far as this world is concerned, you have died, and your new, real, life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him, in the splendor of his glory.

God has made a complete and total commitment of his eternal life to his children. His covenant promises are backed by his Integrity, his authority, and his power to bring them to pass in our lives.

In John 16.15 amp

Jesus said, everything that the Father has is mine, and I've sent the Holy Spirit to declare, disclose, and transmit it to you. Based on these scriptures that I've shared, I believe it would be very foolish for us not to seek first his kingdom, and allow all these things will be added to us.

God bless you.

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