

If You Quit, You Will Be Miserable Trying To Live Any Other Way!

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Part Two

The gifting and callings of God are precious and serious. Like Jonah of old, some of us become confused, fearful or just worn down and try escape from our gifting, kingdom ministry and circumstances, yet there is no place on earth that one is able to escape and hide from being a born again Christian. Location never solves issues of the heart. Jonah a covenant man found out that it was a very miserable process to try and run from his kingdom destiny.

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

We cannot ignore or run from God's hand upon our life no matter what we have convinced ourselves of; even if we think our intentions are honorable! Until you respond to your "metron" the measure of grace given to you by Christ you will feel conflicted and restless. You can never return and live the same as you were before you knew Him, you are forever a called out one. Your terrestrial life can end in Kingdom disharmony or disaster with your name blotted out of the Book of Life, but God will never remove or take away the giftings and calling from your life, they are without repentance. You will either be good fruit or fire wood!

2 Corinthians 10:12

But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure (metron) of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure (metron) to reach even unto you. (KJV)

Peter found this out. There is no confusion in heaven about our giftings and calling. The only confusion comes when we allow tormenting spirits and the spirit of this present age to confuse us. I encourage you to put them under your feet right now.... *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Cor 10:4-5*

What has God said to you? What does He want to build upon the rock of your life?

Matt 16:18-19 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of*

the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

It is difficult to walk in your calling when it seems like all of Hell is against you unless you use the keys of the kingdom to bind and loose His operational grace into the state of affairs you are facing. Peter was committed to Jesus and to the calling on His life, but He really didn't have any clue of how tough it was going to get. Jesus tried to explain it to him.

Luke 22:31-34

*And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.** And he said unto him, **Lord, I am ready** to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.*

Peter was so sure of the will of God in his life that he told Jesus he was willing to die for Him. Peter's spirit was welling but his flesh was weak. Little did he know that he would be tested on that statement within hours of making it...., it actually started in the garden when the soldiers came to take Jesus away, Peter reacted in the flesh and cut off a person's ear. Could Peter be thinking this isn't what I expected would happen in my life right now.... carnal choices can change everything. What if he had cut off the man's head, hand, arm or thrust his sword into the man's heart? Poor choices may have alter Peter's kingdom destiny, he may have become the First Christian Chaplain in the Jerusalem or Roman prison system instead of the First Apostle to Israel.

This was the beginning of a very confusing time for Peter. How could this be happening to a disciple of Christ? The bible states that he began to follow them from afar off. Peter was not one to do that, he was the one who was always at the center of the action. As the day progresses, things go from bad to worse. In the space of about two hours, Peter denies the Lord three times. It was a horrible day for all of the disciples, but Peter reacted differently than some of the others; *Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.*

After the crucifixion, it appears that Peter became more confused than ever. Jesus was dead and he had denied the Lord three times. Peter must have felt guilty, confused, sad or depressed. He may even have thought he was done with following Jesus and that the last three years were wasted. It must have seemed like all of Hell was against him. Peter had taken three steps forward in his life and now he is about to take two backward by returning to his old life. He even gathered some of the disciples together and they all went back to fishing. I am sure that Peter was just trying to find some level of relief and peace during this season of uncertainty and confusion. You can find this story in John chapter 21, verse seven states that Peter was fishing naked in the boat. This fact reveals

to us his emotional state. Things were not okay, Peter wasn't thinking spiritually and the enemy was shifting his vain imaginations. Peter must of felt miserable, he was not himself. In fact they fished all night and caught no fish. Going back is never the answer, Peter was given a "metron" a measure of grace by Christ and he is going to be miserable if stays fishing, ***But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.***

I was given some advice by a seasoned mentor a few years after I began pastoral ministry, he said this to me "if you fall, be sure to fall forward." Those who give up on the calling of God didn't fall forward. If you identify with Peter... let these words of "Operation Grace" be encouraging you; ***But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.***

"Operational Grace" always propels a believer to fall forward towards God. Peter returns to the brethren just like Jesus told him to do. Because of this he is now positioned to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and preach the first message at the inauguration of the Church of Jesus Christ on the day of Pentecost...., had Peter continued fishing and running from his destiny to strengthen the brethren, he would have lived a miserable life after learning that he would have missed Pentecost and the calling to be the Apostle to Israel. We must learn to trust God despite our circumstances! Jesus may not come walking onto your shoreline or jump into your fishing boat, but we have something that Peter didn't have, and that is the Holy Spirit and the Written Word of God.

2 Peter 1:18-20

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

It is very interesting to me that Peter was the one who wrote the above verses. Peter knew better than anyone else, how to know God's will while being shifted by the enemy. The scripture is our sure word of prophecy, it is better than what Peter had because we can read it every day of our lives, and we can be sure of what the Lord wants us to do.



Blessings Pastor Bob Hill

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Part Three: Re-Evaluate Your Priorities And Motivations (Wednesday).