

Re-Evaluate Your Priorities And Motivations

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Part Three

In seasons of time like we live in now it is imperative that believers be open to the fact that God may be renewing your thinking, He may be asking you to re-evaluate your priorities and motivations in life. One of the challenges many believers are facing is the adjustments to our economic prosperity. World economies are not stable, nor does it appear that they are going to stabilize in the future. Most believers are doing their best to keep their material heads above water while trying to get out of debt. Some are going into debt to maintain a fading way of life. It takes most people a full month of wages to meet a full month of living expenses only to discover there is almost zero left over. It is time to "Re-evaluate Your Priorities And Motivations."

Rev 6:5-6

I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Across Christendom many believe we are seeing the above verses come to pass. Daily living expenses consume budgets and the luxury items (oil and wine) continue to increase luring many into debt. Are we living in the times that precede the coming of the Lord?

We must not equate the frustration in these world changes to our giftings and calling. God's plan and economy is not the worlds! While we struggle to maintain our present material conveniences of life, we do not have to equate this struggle to reductions in our gifting or calling, yet many believers make the mistake of reducing spiritual involvement in the same way they adjust their budgets.

I want to share a personal statement that Kris and I learned to embrace; "*let go... of good things that don't matter.*" There are many things that are good in life, but in the scope of eternity they really don't matter. Kris and I over the years have defined how we live.... yes we have materials possessions, but we have defined them to such a point that they must compliment our giftings and calling, if they do not we see them as good things that do not matter, and let them go!

There was a time in my life when I was struggling with the will of God for my life. I knew I was gifted and called, but I was confused and frustrated about my calling. What I didn't know at the time was that I had to learn the will of God and learn to keep my

eyes fixed upward on Jesus and never look earthward at religious organizations and to the traditions of men. Because I hadn't learned this lesson fully I found myself crying out to God like David did;

Psalms 143:10

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

To be in the will of God requires some learning. There are some things that have to be taught to us. There is a transformation that has to take place in the mind. The verse below outlines this process I call "divine transformation."

Romans 12:1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

It is up to us to present ourselves a "living sacrifice" as we walk out the good and acceptable will of God for our lives...., notice the words, living-sacrifice. Let's also examine another verse that Paul wrote.

1 Thess 2:8

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Now ask this question. What does it mean to not only share with the world the gospel of Christ, but at the same time be willing to impart your very soul in the process? If you do not learn what Paul is saying about giving of "our own soul" in love you will never become a "living-sacrifice." Service to the King of Kings is far more than saying Jesus words, Paul is actually saying it is the giving away of your soul life (pleasure life) because you want the "will of God" more than "your will." I can really relate to this scripture.

You do this by presenting all aspects of yourself to Him as a sacrifice, ready and willing to do whatever He asks of you. Not everybody is willing to do that. There was a time many years ago when I thought I was. Not that I wasn't serving God, I thought we were doing pretty well. Kris and I helped in the ministry of our church. We sacrificed to the Kingdom. We came to church all the time; we helped in any area that we were asked too. Everything was going along just fine, and then we experienced the moral failure of our Senior Pastor. We were in our thirties and the associate pastors of this church. I immediately began to experience the irregularities of religion and religious organizations. This started a series of testing's for us that lasted for seven years. When

you get your eyes off of Jesus and God's Kingdom and lower them to gaze upon the kingdoms of men you will begin to question your giftings and calling. I thought I was in the will of God, but it was during this time that I began to question my calling, and ask this question. Is God even in any of this?

I didn't understand it at the time, but God was in the middle of this nightmare. He was taking my "YES" and maturing it. He was setting me on a course that would have the right priorities and motivations. It was time to re-evaluate everything.... I thought I was one hundred percent committed to God, but I learned that I wasn't....

A wise servant of the Lord once said to me these words; *"dead men don't hurt. If it hurts, you are not dead in Christ and hidden in God!"* Ouch.... Col. 3.3 was now mine, but what a ruff seven years it was before I became a dead man that didn't hurt anymore. Fall on the sword of the Lord quickly don't ease onto it for seven years.

Maybe you are like I was and are finding out there is still a bit of the world left in you that hasn't come out yet. God was teaching me His ways and His will, God was transforming my thinking. I had to learn to put God first in every part of my life. It wasn't until I presented myself totally to God as a living-sacrifice that I began to see God's plan unfold for my life. It was a time of testing in my flesh, but it was also a time of learning in my spirit. It was a proving period in my life.

At the end of this seven year period Kris and I became able to do the following, if you open the front leaf of my bible you will see these words in it;

"Always commit yourself to be a giver and expect nothing."

I recommend that you close your spiritual eyes tightly and climb up onto the altar of living-sacrifice and lay down. Keep your eyes closed tightly and don't look to the left or the right. Say to yourself this is going to really hurt! Then just wait and let the fire of God fall and burn up the fat in your life. Remember the fat belongs to the Lord and He loves the sweet savor of burning flesh on the altar of sacrifice. You will be surprised that being dead in Christ and hidden in God really doesn't hurt....it is really the place where you find your life!

Some people want God to put the handwriting on the wall in black and white, and then they will say yes or no depending on whether or not they agree with Him. It doesn't work that way. God actually did one better than that, He put His handwriting in a book called the Bible. When you present yourself to God as a living sacrifice ready to do His service whatever it might be, God sees that and responds to your "YES" There is a renewing of the mind that will take place within you. The things of this world begin to grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace and it will become easy...."to let go of good things that don't matter." Kris and I have become fully confident of what

God's Word says about this; *"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."* 2 Tim 1:12-13

The more you become a living-sacrifice, the easier it is tune into God's Kingdom frequency. You now have time for The Kingdom of God. His Word comes alive in your heart and you will know and understand what He is saying to you, why? Because you have purposely cut off the call of the earth to your earth man! You are now living within His Kingdom boundaries and not responding to the spirit of this world. Kingdom dynamics become clear because you have eliminated most of this world's clutter....

But if you have been responding to the calls of the earth to your earthen clay man and haven't hung up yet.... you are fully or partially captivated by the spirit of this world and blind folded to the things of God. Just hang up on the enemy, let go of good things that don't matter and stop responding to the calls of the earth to your dirt man get on the altar and lay it all before Him and don't look around to see who is watching.

"Commit yourself to be a giver and expect nothing."

David knew this better than anybody; he had a lot of enemies. Don't be like Job and say that God has abandoned you, that will never be the case. If you feel like the enemy is gaining the upper hand, read the 27th. Psalm, it is an amazing proclamation of how God lifted David up above his enemies in the midst of the battle. One verses from this Psalm states;

Psalms 27:11

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

God will lead you down a path that is clear to you if you only ask Him to. It is a learning process, ask God to teach you His will. **If** you really want to know it, He will reveal it to you. Immediately....hang up on the enemy or anyone else who is calling out to your dirt man with calls from the earth, let **go** of good things that don't matter.... Don't be like the little boy who couldn't get his hand out of the cookie jar because he was holding onto too many cookies.

If heaven isn't calling don't answer. This is the season to let God Re-evaluate your priorities and motivations....just say "YES!"



Blessings Pastor Bob Hill

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Part Four: Listen To The Still Small Voice Of God