

Do These 3 Things, And You Will Never Fall!

I am going to attempt to make this a brief Message that you can read through, rather than study – but please, contemplate what I am saying to you – so you will APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!

There are THREE THINGS that a solid Christian lifestyle require to be complete, and, IF you will do THESE THREE THINGS, YOU WILL NEVER FALL AWAY FROM GRACE AND ABANDON YOUR FAITH!!! You also will NOT turn aside from living unto Jesus to be fruitful in Him, but will rather live the abundant life He promised!

(1)

Everyone knows that they are to PRAY – but many of us seem to fall short of doing that...but IS THAT REALLY THE CASE?

Consider what prayer is:

We talk to God, tell him all of what concerns us, and inform Him of our wants and needs (which He says He knows about already, anyway! – see Matthew 6:8,32; Luke 12:30)... and most believers think that it ends right there!

Some believers actually go the next step: They sit back and wait for the Lord to give to them answers to their concerns and queries, and they listen to His voice – but, how many say, “I DON’T HEAR GOD’S VOICE!” **Is THAT true?!!**

Then, there are those who go the next step: they wait patiently on the Lord for their answer to come, and they persevere until He answers their questions and solves their dilemmas! **And that is commendable, certainly!** In fact, ALL of these steps **ARE**, really!

But what if I tell you that prayer consists of a number of things we ***normally*** DO NOT consider? Listen to me, hereafter:

Prayer starts, and ends, with OBEDIENCE!!! AND WITH PRAISE, WORSHIP, AND HONOR UNTO GOD – WITH ALL OF OUR LIVES!!!

We tell God what concerns us; we stop and listen to what He says; we persevere through our trials; and we patiently endure until He gives direction and answers our petitions. But then, WHEN He does come through with an answer, WE DO what He said to do!!! AND THEN WE PRAISE HIM AND THANK HIM FOR HIS GUIDANCE, ALSO!!!

In fact, we THANK HIM for ALL He has done while we are seeking Him, for WHO HE IS, **FOR HIS PAYING THE PRICE FOR SUPERABUNDANCE IN OUR LIVES**, SIMPLY BECAUSE OF WHAT HE PAID ON THE CROSS!!! WE PRAISE AND THANK HIM WHILE WE WAIT FOR AN ANSWER, WE PRAISE AND THANK HIM WHILE WE ASK HIM, AND WE PRAISE AND THANK HIM AFTER HE GIVES US HIS GUIDANCE!!! **THAT** IS THE LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP!!!

“My sheep HEAR My Voice,” Jesus said (John 10:16,27). SO, THE TRUTH IS, that we DO hear His Voice...EVEN IF WE CAN'T DISCERN IT!!!

God speaks to our conscience and directs us, thereby, to do, and not to do, things that will enable us to walk out righteous living and holiness; and, the question is, DO WE LISTEN TO THAT STILL SMALL VOICE TO OBEY IT? OR NOT?!! If we DON'T obey, we then begin to become “dull of hearing” Him when He speaks, and less able to perceive when He does, in the future! (See Matthew 13:15; Hebrews 5:11.)

We don't have to disobey, as the Spirit within us gives us **THAT Power** to conform to the image of God's Son, Jesus!!! **We CHOOSE NOT to obey** and to not heed the things God says to us! That is walking in disobedience and rebellion!!! (See now 1Samuel 15:22-23.)

Okay, I've said enough about that subject! Let's move on to listening to Him and obeying His Words to us:

So, we have done what God said to us for us to do, via Paul's words to us, in Philippians 4:6; look here:

Philippians 4:6

(6) **Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

And this end result will come:

Philippians 4:7

(7) **And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

So, what does all that **actually SAY to us?**

First, let's consider the words “be careful” stated in Verse 6:

We think of being careful as something we do to avoid problems, right? Well, when we heed the Voice of God, we do precisely THAT!!!

But, the word used herein literally means to not be encumbered by the cares of your life, and then to present those cares to God, in prayer and with supplications (i.e., petitions) unto Him! The words “be careful” are rendered “be anxious” in other translations...we are not to be anxious about the cares of our lives, but to lay them at the Lord's feet!

SO THEN, THAT IS WHAT HE INSTRUCTS US TO DO BEFORE WE HAVE EVEN BEGUN TO DISCERN HIS VOICE!!! DO WE DO THAT????!!!

IF we DO, then God, by Paul, says that it will bring PEACE to us – a peace that SURPASSES ALL OUR THOUGHTS AND CONTEMPLATIONS ABOUT OUR CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS!!! AND the same will produce the result of KEEPING – that means PROTECTING AND PRESERVING – our HEARTS and our MINDS through Christ Jesus!!!

So, we are able to hear God's Voice WHEN we respond in THAT manner, and the fruit of that will be peace for our souls!!! Our hearts and minds are the centers of our souls!!!

Thus, we listen to His Voice, and DO what He says, and we are then able to hear more clearly what He says to us the next time...and we begin to be trained up in how to listen to God and hear His Voice on a regular basis!

Just writing this on this day was my own obedience in responding to the Voice of God – at 4am – to start writing this Message, even before the day's work begins! I'm now producing the fruit of that, and I have PLEASED HIM...BYWALKING WITH HIM!!! (That is said to give you an example of what I mean by what I stated heretofore, not to give glory to myself...just in case you were thinking that I was merely being prideful!)

If you DO what God states to you to do one time, He will be quick to instruct you the next time, because He sees in you a heart that seeks after Him! And this is plain to see in what was written by Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 29:11-13

- (11) For I know *the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace*, and not of evil, *to give you an expected end*.
(12) Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, *and I will hearken unto you*.
(13) *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart*.

Do YOU want a relationship with God **LIKE THAT?!!** YOU **CAN** HAVE THAT... PROVIDED THAT HE LIVES IN YOU... **RIGHT NOW!!!**

You will take note that the word “anxious” is a mere label that many people put on themselves, saying “**My anxiety**’ is doing (this, or that) to me” – and yet, “anxious” is such an elusive term! What, EXACTLY, IS “anxiety” and “being anxious?!!”

If we get right down to the brass tacks about the expression, and word, it means “fearfulness;” “worrisomeness;” “stress” and “stressing;” and “being distressed!”

The Lord says that we DON'T **HAVE TO BE anxious** about anything, NOR **full of cares** for our lives and times, but we **CAN** have **PEACE** that **SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING!!!**

That means that ALL HUMAN REASONING CANNOT COMPREHEND THE PEACE THAT WE SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF ATTAINING TO, AND OF OBTAINING!!!

So, let's consider that **the #1 issue** is in hearing God's Voice, obeying His Words to us, listening for His instructions if He doesn't give an answer right away (or, if He says wait), and then simply casting our cares on Him, by means of prayers and petitions to Him, for whatsoever we are concerned about! (See 1 Peter 5:7.)

If you do this, you are one-third prepared to walk the walk... not just talk the talk, and then fail in the end because you have no solid relationship with the Lord, in being committed to **PRAYING TO HIM AND, LIKEWISE, LISTENING TO HIM AND OBEYING HIM!**

(2)

The other two-thirds are just complements to that! This second thing to do – consistently – is just as important, and it is one that many Christian believers don't take the time to do:

You MUST study the Word of God, to learn it...

2Timothy 2:15

(15) Study **to show thyself approved unto God, a workman** that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

And YES, THAT **IS** IMPORTANT **FOR GROWTH, TOO!!!**

But then, there is not only understanding the Word that needs to be applied to your life, but you need to contemplate what God might be saying **BY His Word to YOU!**

The Word of God is divided into the Logos, which is the WRITTEN Word of God – that is, the Bible, itself; then there is the Agape Word of God, which is the Word of God that comes alive and speaks to us, individually and personally!

God speaks BY His “still small voice” (1Kings 19:9-12, 13 – the first time, God SAID unto Elijah; the second time, A VOICE CAME TO HIM [King James Version]); we do KNOW that voice; quite often, we call it “our conscience speaking to us” – but, the Lord is actually the One Who is speaking TO our consciences!

However, when we read the Word like a story book, we pick things up from it that speak to us in different ways, and we MAY or MAY NOT receive an Agape Word from God by doing so. Likewise, we can be very pensive in STUDYING the Word of God to derive much of what He has to TEACH US ABOUT from His Word, which reveals His INSTRUCTION in the Word (Acts 18:25 and Hebrews 5:13), but we still may not receive Agape Words from Him thereby!

All said, there IS benefit from BOTH of these methods in order to grow in Christ! Most importantly, however, there is thoughtfully and carefully reading the Word, all the while seeking an answer to our anxious thoughts and queries...TRULY **SEEKING GOD** for an answer! It MAY come as a written instruction, one that becomes an Agape Word to us, BUT IT'S NOT ALWAYS IN THAT MANNER!!! THE FOLLOWING IS WHAT I'M WANTING YOU TO FOCUS ON:

The times when GOD JUST MAKES ONE VERSE – OR ONE PARAGRAPH, OR ONE PHRASE IN A SENTENCE, OR EVEN ONE SOLITARY WORD – COME ALIVE TO ANY ONE OF US, OR TO ALL OF US CORPORATELY, AND SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO US, THIS IS THE TRUEST FORM OF AN AGAPE WORD FROM GOD!!!

THIS is what spending time in the Word – daily – is so critically important for! As, oftentimes, God speaks THROUGH HIS LOGOS WORD TO GIVE US AN AGAPE “WORD OF WISDOM,” OR HIS INSTRUCTION, OR SOME COUNSEL, GUIDANCE, OR ADVICE FROM HIM – OR JUST AN AGAPE WORD OF HIS LOVINGKINDNESS AND COMPASSION!!! OR EVEN CORRECTION!!!

It’s so important to comprehend that hearing from the Lord BY HIS WORD makes the difference between head knowledge and A **LIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!!!**

Agape Words can come BY MEANS OF His Logos Word, or they can come by His “STILL SMALL VOICE” speaking to us! EITHER WAY, IT IS A DAILY LIFESTYLE OF LISTENING TO THE LORD, NOT JUST VAIN RELIGION!!!

In short, Agape Words make it a LIFESTYLE not EMPTY RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF MEN! (See Matthew 15:1-9 NOW!)

All said, this constitutes the 2nd third of the things you must do to become steadfast Believers in, and Followers of, Christ Jesus. **The 3rd portion of that faith-walk is like it, and is also wherein Agape Words are experienced:**

(3)

We must remember the words of the writer of Hebrews, which states the following:

Hebrews 10:23-25

(23) **Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;))**

(24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

(25) **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another;** and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

So many people quote Verse 25 and say, “SEE, God wants you to keep going to Church! Don’t stop assembling yourselves with each other!”

There IS an aspect that “fits that ticket,” as we SHOULD assemble ourselves corporately, even as Israel did in the Tent of Meeting (the Tabernacle, that is) in the wilderness, which Moses was shown the pattern of by God (see Hebrews 8:5 and Exodus, Chapter 40).

However, this is NOT SPECIFICALLY talking about public, corporate gatherings, but it states “forsake not the assembling of yourselves ONE TO ANOTHER,” more importantly!

Jesus said this:

Matthew 18:19-20

(19) Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

(20) For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Consider that we are “ASSEMBLING OURSELVES TOGETHER” WHENEVER WE VISIT A FELLOW BELIEVER!!!

And there is my point:

WE REQUIRE FELLOWSHIP!!!

The 3rd aspect needing to be regularly experienced is FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN BELIEVERS!!!

Yes: We go to Church to hear sermons preached and to be taught things in Sunday School – and **they are** significant to our growth...and we **can** hear Agape Words spoken from that source, **absolutely** – *and we SHOULD receive Agape that way, as well!*

BUT, MOREOVER, THERE NEEDS TO BE TWO DISTINCT THINGS THAT OCCUR BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS:

(a). TO BE SPOKEN TO IN PROPHETIC UTTERANCE, WHETHER IT IS INTENDED, OR IF GOD IS JUST SPEAKING THROUGH A FELLOW BELIEVER TO US;

and:

(b). EACH ONE OF US MUST BE UTILIZED TO SPEAK INTO ANOTHER BELIEVER’S – OR EVEN A NON-BELIEVER’S – LIFE, SO AS TO “HONE” OUR OWN GIFTING IN SPEAKING “WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE,” “WORDS OF WISDOM,” AND SPECIFIC “PROPHECIES,” UNTO OTHERS (IN THE BODY OR OUTSIDE OF IT)!!!

So many people have said to me, “I don’t need to go to Church to have a relationship with God!” And then they reinforce that by saying things like, “I can experience God in nature, going hunting or fishing, in the great outdoors!” Etcetera!

THAT IS STILL VERY TRUE! BUT IT IS ONLY HALF THE TRUTH WE NEED!!

The OTHER half is BEING SPOKEN TO by God THROUGH OTHERS, and BEING UTILIZED by God TO SPEAK TO OTHERS!!!

How will you hear from God “on the fly” when you’re facing a crisis, and you don’t have a moment to pick up the Word of God and read it to look for your answer, or to hear from God by means of the Logos becoming Agape unto you, personally?! How will you do so if you aren’t in an emotionally stable place to hear God’s guidance coming directly from His still small voice?!!

WE NEED OTHERS!!!

WE NEED THEM TO SPEAK INTO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND CRISES;

AND THEY NEED US TO DO THE SAME FOR THEM!!!

**AND WE NEED EACH OTHER TO DEVELOP OUR FAITH-GIFTINGS TO
SPEAK GOD'S WORD TO OTHERS!!!**

**THAT IS WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD, RELATIONALLY
SPEAKING!!!**

**You MUST be used of God to speak to someone else, and thus, HE BECOMES
"THE WORD" IN YOU, AND BY YOU, THAT SPEAKS THROUGH YOU TO
SOMEONE ELSE...AND VICE VERSA!!!**

**You are able to hear God's Word speak by His still small voice when He speaks
THROUGH YOU TO SOMEONE ELSE; AND THEN, WHEN HE GIVES YOU A
WORD OF INSTRUCTION OR REVELATION TO IMPART TO ANOTHER, HE
SPEAKS IT BY YOU!!!**

**AND IT MIGHT JUST BE A WORD OF CORRECTION OR ADMONISHMENT
THAT STEERS YOU OUT OF A COMPROMISING SITUATION, OR AWAY
FROM A SIN YOU ARE ALREADY COMMITTING:**

James 5:14-16

- (14) Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:
(15) And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
(16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

James 5:19-20

- (19) Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;
(20) Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Jude 1:21-25

- (21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
(22) And of some have compassion, making a difference:
(23) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.
(24) Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
(25) To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF HIS BODY, AND HE SPEAKS THROUGH, AND BY, YOUR MOUTHPIECE!!!

(CONCLUSION)

In conclusion, what I am asserting will keep you from EVER FALLING AWAY FROM THE FAITH, OR EVEN FROM FALLING INTO SERIOUSLY SINFUL CONDUCT, IS TO DO THESE THREE THINGS:

INTENTIONALLY WALK WITH GOD, IN OBEDIENCE, SEEKING HIS WORDS OF LIFE – HIS AGAPE WORDS – TO YOU:

- (1). by His still small voice speaking to you directly – especially via prayerful discourse with God (to and from God, that is);**
- (2). by His written, Logos Word becoming ALIVE to you; and:**
- (3). by means of others speaking into your own life “the Word of the Lord” – and by being utilized by God to do the same unto, and for, others!!!**

IF YOU DO THOSE 3 THINGS, YOU WILL NEVER FALL!!!

2Peter 1:1-10

- (1) Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:**
- (2) Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,**
- (3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**
- (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**
- (5) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;**
- (6) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;**
- (7) And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity [THAT IS, LOVE].**
- (8) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- (9) But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**
- (10) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

REITERATING THAT:

“IF YOU DO those things, YOU SHALL NEVER FALL!!!”

Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

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