

Are You Walking Daily With Jesus or Have You Left Him?

In John 6:66-67 - From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him. "YOU DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE TOO, DO YOU?" Jesus asked the twelve. We who represent the Body of Jesus Christ are being asked the same question. It seems like in the hustle and bustle of life on this earth that OUR PRIORITIES are more important than God's. In that sense we have left God to make a choice(s) that please our flesh rather than Him. At that point our priority is to please ourselves rather than God.

Life has so many seemingly good things that can easily take precedence over the things of God. Have you ever noticed in your daily quiet time with the Lord, how the flesh and the devil's distractions can change your focus? One minute you are walking with the Lord, and the next minute you have left Him by making a choice to focus on something you feel is more important.

We can tell Jesus over and over that we would NEVER allow anything to get between ourselves and Him, and yet we do. What are some of the challenges we face every day that can cause us to misplace our priorities and by so doing, focus on other things that we deem more important than God?

Our Daily Quiet Time With The Lord (prayer and the Word)

Jesus after praying in the Garden of Gethsemane found His Disciples asleep numerous times. In Matthew 26:40 - Jesus asked His Disciples "Could you men not keep watch with Me for one hour?" And then later on in verse 41 He exhorted them to, "WATCH and PRAY so that you will not fall into temptation." He also recognized as we, "The Spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

In this Gethsemane experience we see the weakness of our flesh, IF we yield to it. Jesus set us a very clear example by NOT allowing ANYTHING to deter Him from His relationship and focus on His heavenly Father.

Dealing With Our Daily, Sometimes Unforeseen Circumstances Causes Us To Allow Worry To Control Us Again, A Choice We Have Made, A Change Of Focus

We worry about issues and needs that pertain to life on this earth (food, clothing, shelter, etc.), which changes our focus from God to self. He has asked us and promised us in Matthew 6:33 - "But SEEK FIRST His Kingdom and His righteousness, and ALL these things will be given to you as well."

And yet in Matthew 6:34 - Jesus says, "Therefore DO NOT worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Once again, we make choices to worry that are not based on the promises of God, but a choice(s) we have made.

Dependent Upon Our Circumstances, Fear Can Swirl Around Us And Interrupt Our Trust In God

In II Timothy 1:7 We are told, "God DID NOT give us a spirit of timidity (fear), but a spirit of power, love and of self-discipline (sound mind)."

We are also told in 1 John 4:18, "There is NO FEAR in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears IS NOT made perfect in love." So here again, we have made a choice to leave God and yield to our flesh rather than standing on His promises.

Doubt Robs Us Of Our Trust In God. It Is Sometimes Related To What We Consider To Be Unanswered Prayers, And At Other Times, When We Find Ourselves In Difficult Circumstances

In Matthew 14:28-33 - We are told about Peter's walk on the water and subsequent doubt when he saw the wind and became afraid and started to sink. Jesus said to him, "You of little faith," WHY DID YOU DOUBT?"

The same thing happens to us when we doubt and are controlled by what we see in the natural rather than by our faith in God. We start to sink or go down in defeat.

Anxiousness Robs Us Of Our Peace Because We Have Allowed Our Flesh To Control Our Emotions And Separate Us From God's Peace

In Philippians 4:67 - We are told, "DO NOT be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

In everyone of these areas and in many others we can be defeated by the weakness of our flesh (ungodly choices) and the lies of the enemy who ALWAYS tries to defeat us. We must see that our minds are renewed through the Word, Prayer and Fellowship with God. In so doing, we must RESIST the devil in Jesus name and know without a doubt that he has to flee (Romans 12:2, James 4:7).

We must renounce the devil's lies that God has forsaken and rejected us for allowing sin to have any freedom in our lives, and that the sin we have committed is unforgivable.

We must stand on His Word, that promises us in Hebrews 13:56 "NEVER will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

God also promises to forgive us in I John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and WILL forgive us our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.

In closing, may we always remember God's words to Paul in II Corinthians 12:9 But He said to me, "MY GRACE is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. May we all purpose in our hearts, not to leave God even for a moment when our flesh would desire to focus somewhere else or the devil would tempt us to do so, but walk without compromise with Him daily in His strength, empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill His purposes for our lives.