

06/01/08

Isaiah 6:8

### ARE YOU AVAILABLE?

The Bible says that in Christ, we can do all things. The moment we say we can't do whatever God tells us to do, we're calling Him a liar!

God has given us everything we will ever need to be triumphant over the devil, his world system, and our still-dead-to-sin flesh. We have the Name of Jesus. We have the living Word of God. We have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. We have angels available to help when needed. We have spiritual armor. We have 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit. And lastly, we've already been declared the "winner" before any fight of faith begins! Don't listen to the lies of the devil, or the lies of those who do his bidding. In Christ, you can tackle and overcome anything that tries to stand between you and the victory Jesus provided, and now promises for you daily!

06/02/08

Isaiah 1:19

### THE BLESSINGS OF AVAILABILITY

God is telling you that if you be willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land. To "eat the good of the land" means your needs will be met, and you will bear fruit for the glory of God. To be willing and obedient is to make yourself available to His plan, purpose and will, and that is the prerequisite for the blessings of God to manifest in your life as He has promised in His Word.

Notice that two things are required to eat the good of the land. First, you must be willing to make yourself available, and let God run your life, not you. Second, you must be obedient to say or do whatever He asks of you, when He wants it done, no questions asked. Many Christians are either one or the other, but not both. Some are willing but not obedient, others are obedient but not willing. Be both! Go to God in prayer today, and ask Him to show you whether or not you've been truly willing AND obedient to Him. And depending upon His answer to you, make the necessary adjustments with the Holy Spirit's help, so you can position yourself to reap the harvest of blessings in your life as God has promised. Proverbs 3:5,6 tells you that if you trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding and acknowledge His Lordship in your life, He will direct your steps! Be available today, and everyday. Willing and obedient. The good of the land awaits you!

06/03/08

Proverbs 24:10

### THE NECESSITY FOR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

God loves all men equally. He is no respecter of persons. He wants to use every Christian in fulfilling the Great Commission of Mark 16:15-18, but He can only use the strong ones! He can't work with the weak! Why? Because when He puts you on the front lines of world evangelism, you must be strong enough to withstand the counter-attacks of Satan. To quit when the going get tough is to admit your level of spiritual strength is very low.

Never forget this. The level of difficulty, persecution and demonic attack in your life is directly proportionate to the amount of fruitful work you're doing in fulfilling the Great Commission. The more God uses you, the more persecution and Satanic attack will come against you. The reason most believers aren't persecuted or attacked much is because they're not doing anything for God. And the reason they're not doing anything is because they can't handle the heat when the battle is on! Friend, God promises you a rich, fulfilling life in service to Him, but never does He promise you a life of ease and cushy comfort. You owe the world! They are entitled to know what you know about salvation. Therefore, you are responsible for becoming strong in spirit, and for staying strong in spirit. No excuses! To bail out on God when the battles grow hot is to admit you're not as strong as you need to be. God has a word for you! **BE STRONG!**

STAY STRONG! The world can't be reached by weak believers. Only the strong can do the job.

06/04/08

1 Chronicles 28:10

### THE NECESSITY FOR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

One of the most awesome truths about God is that He chooses to limit His activity on earth to partnership with man. 2 Corinthians 6:1 tells you to be a "worker together with Him". 1 Corinthians 3:9 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 say the same thing. God has ordained that you be part of the team that goes into all the world to preach the Gospel and set men free. His Word to you: "BE STRONG AND DO IT!" No excuses. No delays. No procrastination!

Never forget this. God is not going to entertain your excuses for failing to take your place on the front lines of world evangelism. He is telling you that He will partner with you to get the job done, so at no point should you ever entertain the idea of quitting or giving up, or worst still, failing to even start for fear of failure! God has a word for you! Get off your "blessed assurance", and go out there and make a difference in your areas of influence for Me. Deuteronomy 9:1-4 shows us that there are 2 parts to every victory in Christ. God's part and man's part. God wants you to do what you can do, and then He will do what you can't do. That's the way it works. You and God working together in ministry outreach. You doing whatever you can do as led by the Holy Spirit, and He doing the impossible in your life to bring the collective effort to completion. BE STRONG! DO IT!

06/05/08

2 Timothy 1:13

### ARE YOUR WORDS SOUND WORDS?

Paul exhorted Timothy to speak the same kind of sound words as he had heard him speak. What about your words? People are listening, so what do they hear when you speak? Are your words "sound"? Do they glorify God, reveal your unwavering faith in God's Word, and challenge, inspire, exhort and encourage your listeners to follow your example? Or are your words "unsound"? We have a responsibility to God, to ourselves and to those who listen to us. Make sure your conversation is SOUND!

As believers, we need to remember the power of spoken words. Words are containers, which can be filled with spiritual forces like faith or fear. God wants our words to be sound words. Words which are filled with faith. Words that not only give God license to move in our lives, but which cut Satan off at the same time. Those are "sound words"! Are you setting that kind of example to your spouse, children, friends, relatives, classmates or co-workers? Do they get to hear "sound words" coming out your mouth everyday? Or do they hear something different? Think before you speak! Words not in agreement with God's word are not sound, and should not be spoken. For your sake, and the sake of those who hear you. Hold fast the PATTERN of sound words. Make it your habit today, and everyday! Don't let anyone or any circumstance steal your pattern of sound words. Hold fast!

06/06/08

2 Timothy 1:13

### FAITH WORDS AND LOVE WORDS ARE SOUND WORDS

Paul exhorted Timothy to speak sound words in FAITH and LOVE. Words you speak that are filled with faith are sound because they always give God something to work with in your life, and in the lives of those who listen to you. And because faith works by love (Galatians 5:6), you know your words are sound because your faith is based on your love for God, and love for your fellow man. Let your words be sound, based on your love for God, and your faith in His Word.

When we develop the discipline to speak sound words of faith and love, we position ourselves to receive much more than we could even ask or think to ask for. Faith words and love words are sound because they tap into the flow of grace available to those who embrace God and His Word. When you

allow your words to be filled with faith and love, you energize your conversation, and license God to get involved in your life according to the words coming out your mouth. In other words, your words are working for you, not against you! When that happens, blessings begin to overtake you, you don't have to confess for them, they just start finding you! At that point, you're free to devote yourself to using faith for others, letting the love of God constrain you on their behalf. That's when your life really begins to be fun!

06/07/08

1 Timothy 1:5            The Purpose for the Commandment

Paul told Timothy the end of all commandments was to walk in love from 1) a pure heart, 2) a good conscience, 3) sincere faith. Jesus said that if you really love God, you will prove it by keeping His commandments (John 14:15). When you develop the discipline to walk in God's love daily, you automatically fulfill every other commandment you can find in the Bible! And what is the foundation for letting the love of God dominate your life? A pure heart! A good conscience! Sincere Faith! Keep an eye on these three things, and you're protecting the "love foundation" in your life!

Your job on earth is to be an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). That can't happen if you're not keeping God's commands, and you can't do that unless you let your love for God dominate everything you think, say or do. When you purpose to love God and obey His commands, you do it because your heart has been cleansed, you no longer have a sin-consciousness, and your faith is being renewed daily through study of His Word. Doing this protects you from your own flesh, and enables you to maintain the love walk, which is the only commandment left to keep! Keep your heart pure, keep your conscience good, and keep your faith strong and sincere, and the devil will never be able to come along and heap his condemnation on you - for sins committed, mistakes made or vows broken. When you walk in love, you are able to fulfill every command God has given, because love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:8). And also, you're able to live free from guilt, with the ability to reach out to others without a feeling of personal hypocrisy or unworthiness! So get busy! God's love is already inside you, let it dominate!

06/08/08

1 Timothy 2:15            THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CONTROL

Paul told Timothy to make sure everyone (not just the women) walked in faith, love and holiness WITH SELF CONTROL. This is a message every pastor needs to be sharing with his sheep. We are commanded in the Bible to walk by faith not sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), to let everything we do be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:14), and to be holy like God (1 Peter 1:16). How to do this consistently, day after day? Only through SELF CONTROL! Your flesh doesn't want to obey, so you have to MAKE it obey!

Your flesh is an enemy. It is still dead-to-sin, and doesn't want to submit to God or His Word. You must MAKE it obey, and that's where self control becomes so important. Paul had these struggles like you, but he overcame. Read Romans chapters 6,7 and 8, and see for yourself. If he had problems keeping his flesh under control, don't feel so badly if you do! 1 Corinthians 9:27 says that he kept his body "under". That means he controlled his carnal appetites, and didn't allow them to affect his ability to walk in faith, love or holiness before His God. You must do the same. Renew your mind, confess the scriptures, stay strong in prayer. When your flesh tries to take over, you do what Paul did. Keep it under, or as the Greek implies in that passage, you "beat your body black and blue!" How? By making your flesh pray! By making your flesh sit and listen to you read your Bible out loud! By making your flesh attend church everytime the doors are open. By meditating in God's word daily, and casting down every thought that exalts itself against God's Word. You can do it! You can do all things through Christ who is your

strength!

06/09/08

1 Timothy 3:15

### ARE YOU A PILLAR AND GOOD FOUNDATION?

Paul says here that the house of God is the church of God. He's not talking here about a physical building, but rather, a spiritual building. WE are the church, you, me and everyone in Christ. We are LIVING STONES (1 Peter 2:5), set like bricks in a building by God, to proclaim the truth to the world (Mark 16:15-18). He says the church (that's us) is the PILLAR and GROUND of the truth. The "ground" is the foundation, and the "pillar" is the column that rises up out of the foundation. Both are needed to build the house of God, and proclaim the truth accurately to the world. Make sure your life exemplifies a solid, unwavering commitment to excellence in Christ. Your life IS your message, so make sure people see Jesus when they see you!

To be a pillar and ground for the truth, you must become solid, unwavering, single-minded and dedicated to excellence in Christ in everyway. People who see you must see Christ living His life through you, the way Paul described in Galatians 2:20. People are watching you all the time, even when you don't think they are. Your life IS your message, so make sure they see a rock-solid, committed Christian, one who lives in this world, but is not of this world. When people see you, do they see Jesus? When they hear you, do they hear Jesus? Do your thoughts please the Lord? To be a pillar and ground for the truth, you must be a mirrored reflection of Jesus, so that the truth you proclaim will not be tarnished by a life style that contradicts the power and purity of God's Word. Jesus said God's Word IS truth (John 17:17). When you share it, make sure your lifestyle backs up what you preach! To the degree you let God's Word control your life, that how strong of a pillar and foundation you become in presenting the Gospel to the world via the Great Commission in Mark 16:15-18.

06/10/08

2 Timothy 3:14

### KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON

Paul told Timothy to CONTINUE in the things he had learned. He knew the journey of life has two parts: 1) Learning the ways of God, and 2) continuing to walk in those ways all the days of our life. Your life is a continual learning process, but as important as it is to learn about God, its equally as important to keep on doing what you've already learned to do. So keep on learning and growing, but at the same time, are you already applying the truths of God's Word which you've already discovered?

So many times, people want to magnify the "new wave", the "new revelation", the "new whatever", failing to understand that our walk with God is built on the foundation of DOING WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW TO DO. Of course, its wonderful to pursue and obtain new insights from God's Word, but understand this one truth. God is not going to reveal anymore of Himself to those who aren't walking in the light of knowledge they ALREADY have! Why would God do that? No, He wants us to continuously walk in the light of foundational truths that insure our success, growth and victory, personally and publicly. As we continue in the things we've already learned, THEN from that platform, we can become excited about the "new truths" we've discovered from God's Word. Are you living in the light of what you already know?

06/11/08

2 Timothy 4:7

### 3 STEPS TO LONGEVITY

When Paul was about to go home to Heaven, he gave Timothy his 3 steps to longevity. Your life in Christ is compared to running a long distance race (Hebrews 12:1). Therefore, you must follow and fulfill these 3 steps to reach a triumphant conclusion to your life in Christ. 1) Fight the good fight. 2) Finish the

race. 3) Keep the faith. Do these 3 things and your life will be filled with satisfaction and Divine contentment. When the time of your earthly departure comes, you can look back to see all the fruit God has produced through you in your lifetime, knowing that you stood your ground and never allowed the devil to convince you to draw back from serving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

First, you must fight the good fight. That means you have enemies, who daily seek ways to neutralize your witness for Christ through sin. They might be sins of the flesh, or worse, sins of lethargy, apathy and laziness. To stay sharp in Christ, you must FIGHT! Resist the devil, and he will flee from you! Second, you must finish your assignment. Whatever God wants you to do with your life, that's your assignment for Him, and you MUST complete it. No rewards will be given, and no excuses can be made, for assignments left undone. Third, you must keep the faith. Don't let the ways of the world pollute your walk with God. The way to Jesus is a narrow, rocky road. Most people enjoy the broad highway leading to death and destruction instead because that road is paved and easy to travel. Stay on track! Stay on target! Stay focused! Stay committed! Fight the good fight. Finish your assignment. Keep the faith.

06/12/08

2 Timothy 4:5                    ARE YOU WATCHFUL IN ALL THINGS?

The road to victory in your life is one that has many obstacles, roadblocks, detours, debris and distractions. To reach a place of victory, and maintain that victory, will require extreme vigilance on your part. Satan is ever-searching for ways to creep back in and regain a foothold of control in your life. You must guard yourself daily, diligent to protect your freedoms in Christ. Proverbs 4:20-27 contains a wealth of guidance you would be well to heed in your life on this issue. Notice Paul told Timothy to watch in ALL things! Not most things, but all things. That means spirit, soul and body, maintain a close watch over yourself, and the enemies all around you.

We must never forget that the race we're running is not a short distance sprint. It's a long distance marathon! And as such, today's victory does NOT guarantee tomorrow's victory! Yesterday's triumph does NOT guarantee spiritual triumph today! You must be watchful in all things, ever vigilant against the 3 enemies we must contend with. James 4:1-7 tells us our enemies are 1) the devil and his demons, 2) the world system he is in control of, and 3) our own flesh. To maintain your walk of victory in Christ, you must keep an eye on these three daily. At the first sign of yielding to any of those three enemies, grab your Bible, speak the Word over those thoughts, or over that situation, and declare your faith in God and His Word. Don't just think it, SAY IT OUT LOUD! Faith for victory is not released until the Word of God is SPOKEN. Learn to watch, and when you recognize the enemy at work against you, speak God's Word IMMEDIATELY, and as OFTEN as necessary until that attack has been successfully repelled.

06/13/08

1 Timothy 4:12                    ARE YOU AN EXAMPLE FOR GOD?

There are six areas Paul tells Timothy he should be an example of to other believers. 1) His Words. 2) His conduct. 3) His love walk. 4) His Spirit. 5) His faith. 6) His purity. As fellow believers, these six areas must be monitored and controlled in our own lives as well. Whether we know it or not, we are always being "watched". God watches us. Satan watches us. Believers watch us. Unbelievers watch us. Because of that, we need to watch ourselves, and make sure we are developing in each of those six listed areas of lifestyle and personal expression.

Each of these six areas listed will require diligence to address and master. You need to control your tongue. You need to conduct yourselves with the constant awareness of God's indwelling presence. You need to make sure God's love is the dominant force guiding you through each day. Your spiritual intensity should be "white-hot" for the things of God. Your faith should be exercised consistently,

growing and developing with each passing year. Your level of inward purity should be such that the devil has nothing which he can use to accuse you before God. Now before you throw up your hands claiming the task is “Mission Impossible”, remember that in your own strength you can’t develop in these six areas, but in the power of the Holy Spirit, you can! Spend time with God, and you’ll have the strength and know-how to master each of these six areas today, and everyday in Jesus!

06/14/08

1 Timothy 4:12

#### ARE YOU WORDS AN EXAMPLE?

Mastering our mouth! This is the first area Paul addresses to Timothy if he’s to become a living example to other believers. I encourage you to study Proverbs and James. Those two books contain extensive and foundational truths about the all-important task of managing our mouth, and training our tongue. When you study Proverbs as an example, you’ll discover that wisdom is nothing more than knowing how to correctly use your tongue! And if we’re to be examples to other believers, we must become wise with our words! James says that the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, setting on fire the course of nature, and is set on fire by hell. That means that when the devil goes after you, he starts with your mouth! Remember that, and think before you speak!

Wisdom! Proverbs says it is more important than silver and gold, and all things desired could not compare to it. (Proverbs 3:13-16). To be an example to believers with our words, we must understand that wisdom is simply knowing what to say, when to say it, who to say it to, and how to say it. That’s it! What, When, Who, How! Master these four expressions of verbal discipline and you’ve got your Master’s Degree in Heavenly Wisdom! Obviously, it isn’t an easy task, and I’m sure you’re aware of that. But if you diligently apply yourself, follow the instructions in God’s Word about the learning process, and apply what you’re learning daily, you will be amazed at how much progress you see yourself making in Christ. Be an example to believers, with your words!

06/15/08

1 Timothy 4:12

#### IS YOUR LIFESTYLE AN EXAMPLE?

The life we live is the story we tell. If you’re to be an example to believers, you must remember that the lifestyle you live is your most powerful witnessing tool. The old saying “Actions speak louder than words” is true. How many times did Jesus chastise the Pharisees because they did nothing more than give God “lip service”? Do you do the same? Do you proclaim your love and allegiance to God, then live according to the dictates and desires of your dead-to-sin flesh? If that’s been you, then its time to change! Time to rise up, and with God’s help, clean up your lifestyle, and use it to declare to the world your love, commitment and devotion to Jesus. Take a look around you. What do people see in your lifestyle that brings them closer to Christ?

What do fellow believers see when they see you living the life you live? Are they encouraged to follow your lead, and emulate your lifestyle choices? If they were looking for someone to show them a godly, disciplined, focused, prioritized, energized lifestyle, would they find that in you? When you wake up every morning, have you set habits in place which work to protect you from the sea of compromise and sin that waits for you at work, at school or at play? I challenge you to get alone with God, and have Him show you where the hypocrisy may be in your lifestyle, and then purpose in His strength to make changes, at home, at work, at school, wherever! For some, your life may be the only “Jesus” they ever see. When they look at your lifestyle, would they be looking at a mirrored reflection of Jesus and the lifestyle He wants to live through you?

06/16/08

1 Timothy 4:12

### IS YOUR LOVE WALK AN EXAMPLE?

God's love is the way to victory in every area of your life. If more Christians understood this, they would devote much more time to the task of developing His love within them. God's love is already in you by virtue of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Its not a matter of asking for it, but just developing what you already have. How? With practice! Walking in love is a never-ending exercise which brings you closer and closer to the heart of God. God is love (1 John 4:8), so if you want to know Him, you must let His love dominate in your life. In doing so, you let the power of that love bring you victory in every area you may now struggle with. Its worth the effort! For you, for God, and for your fellow brethren in Christ.

Without faith, you can't please God (Hebrews 11:6). But faith works by love (Galatians 5:6). So if love isn't working in you, your faith will never produce for you. Think about that! Don't let that truth slip by unnoticed! Faith WORKS by love! Why are so many believers frustrated in faith? For many, its because they've never understood the important of walking in love, and how their faith is totally dependent upon the degree of God's love they're allowing to dominate in their lives. Are you one of those? Before you take time to learn and apply all the principles governing your faith, you better take time to learn and apply all the principles governing the love walk in Christ! First things first! Don't put the cart ahead of the horse. Get serious about love, and God will move heaven and earth to respond when you exercise your faith!

06/17/08

1 Timothy 4:12

### IS YOUR ENTHUSIASM AN EXAMPLE?

Paul told Timothy to make sure he was an example "in spirit". That means intensity, fervency, enthusiasm, excitement and passion. How "on-fire" are you for the things of God? Are you like Jeremiah, who said he had to preach because it was like a fire shut up in his bones? (Jeremiah 20:9) Because the race we run is a long-distance race, we must learn how to protect our fire, and not allow the lethargy, apathy and laziness of others to extinguish the flame for God within. Are you like John the Baptist, someone so on-fire for God, people went out into the wilderness to "see" him as much as to hear him? (Luke 3:3-6) Are you like Paul, who was stirred in spirit when he saw all of Athens given over to pagan worship? (Acts 17:16) Do people see that kind of drive, excitement and enthusiasm in you for the things of God?

You can't lead anyone until they see a level of passion in you that inspires them to do more than they thought they could do before. And you can't show them that kind of inspiration without a fervency within you that absolutely drives you and compels you to excellence in Christ. The 3 main enemies of the cross are lethargy, apathy and laziness within the church. Imagine if all believers were as excited and enthusiastic as you? What would be the result concerning world-wide evangelism? Would we be moving forward at every turn, or wallowing in self-absorbed pity and worldly selfishness? Does your level of passion give God something to work with, or something the devil can rely upon? Think about it. If you've lost your fire, seek God's face and find it again! God never promises to bless apathetic, lazy believers. He works with those who work!

06/18/08

1 Timothy 4:12

### ARE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF PURITY?

Purity is a word that nowadays is almost extinct in the lives of many, including believers. What about you? How pure are you? God tells us to be holy as He is (1 Peter 1:15,16). Purity is one of the most obvious byproducts of a holy lifestyle. And, purity is also God's ticket to a level of power, anointing, favor and intimacy with Him that most will never experience. It opens Heaven's doors, and qualifies you for a level of Divine awareness and intimacy reserved for only those willing to get pure and stay pure

(Psalms 24:3,4) Purity IS power in this world. Power to do the Father's business, and bring people up out of the miry clay, to set their feet on the rock to stay! (Psalms 40:2)

What was the first thing Isaiah said when he had his vision of God in Isaiah 6:5? Whoa is unto me, for I am a man of UNCLEAN lips! What do the 4 beasts repeat 24/7 as they sit around the throne of God? Holy! Holy! Holy is the Lord! (Revelation 4:8) To be close to God is to instantly aware of His holiness and purity. This fact alone should be incentive enough for you to get clean and stay clean, because God is a pure, holy being who hates sin! 1 Timothy 6:16 tells us He dwells in light so pure and powerful no one can approach and live! God told Moses that if He allowed him to see His glory, it would kill him! (Exodus 33:20) We're ambassadors for Christ, so what does that tell you about the power of purity in your life? Get there and stay there! Now!

06/19/08

Isaiah 58:6,7

### DO YOU DO THE GOD-KIND OF FAST

The God-kind of fast is different from what most Christians think of when they think of fasting. God's fast has nothing to do with external disciplines exercised to keep the body under, but rather, has everything to do with disciplining our desires so that we focus our lives on OUTREACH, not on the acquisition of things pertaining to this life down here. Read all of Isaiah chapter 58. The Jews were very excited about the things of God, but failed to realize their responsibilities to the world around them as the people of God. This was why they were praying, seeking God, delighting to know His ways, and still not walking in the blessings and manifest presence of the Lord. In short, they were selfish, focusing only on themselves, and not on others! Do you do the same?

God has a message in this chapter for all of us. Concentrate your time, effort and resources on outreach and ministry, and He'll be there for you in prayer, power, presence and provision. Notice the word "then" in verses 8,9,10. In other words, AFTER you've refocused your life on MY priorities, which is outreach to others, THEN you'll enjoy my presence, have your prayers answered speedily, receive your healing, have my glory become your rear guard, and enjoy a satisfying, fulfilling life of fruitfulness for the glory of God. Your life is not about going to church, reading your Bible, attending conferences and seminars, and even spending time with the Lord. Its about doing all of those things SO THAT you can more effectively reach out to others in the Name of Jesus! If you really love the Lord, you'll know His priority is to develop us into effective soul-winners. Nothing else matters to Him! Do other things matter to you?

06/20/08

Isaiah 58:1

### IS THIS SIN IN YOUR LIFE?

God tells Isaiah to proclaim to His people that there is sin in their lives. What kind of sin? The same sin as many Christians commit today. It's the sin of selfishness. In Isaiah 58:2, we see these people loved God. They sought Him DAILY. They DELIGHTED to know His ways. They DID NOT forsake His commandments. They TOOK DELIGHT in approaching God in prayer. But, they were self-absorbed with what they could RECEIVE from God, instead of understanding their responsibilities to the world, not concentrating on the business of outreach to others. God calls that SIN! Is this sin in your life? What are your priorities? Winning souls, or just winning! Where does most of your time, talent and money go? To God's work, or to your work?

This sin is the reason why many believers experience frustration in their relationship with God. They pray, read their Bible daily, bask in the presence of the Lord at church, sing songs of praise and worship, but see no visible manifestation of God's presence in their lives. No power. No answers to prayer. Nothing! Why? They're committing the same sin the Jews committed. They're so wrapped up in

what they can receive from God, they fail to realize that all He gives us is to be GIVEN AWAY to others! Nothing God gives you is for you, its for you to give away as He directs. And the more you give away, the more He gives back to you. Money. Talent. Favor. Promotions. Favorable settlements. Health. A sound marriage and happy home. Every good gift (James 1:17). Your life is a gift from God, and at the same time, God's gift to the world. Do you understand that?

06/21/08

Isaiah 6:8

#### THE RIGHT ANSWER TO THE ONLY QUESTION

God is asking you the same question He asked Isaiah. Who will go for Me? Who will go for Us? Depending on how you answer that question, all of Heaven's blessings become available to you, or get cut off from you. You see, God only cares about souls. Saving them, making disciples and training them to evangelize others. Nothing else matters to Him. If that sounds too simplistic for you, examine the Bible carefully. The whole book is about the work of redemption, with God using men to make the announcement to the world. Everything else is secondary as far as He's concerned. He won't hesitate to bless you, IF you understand why you're being blessed! To bless OTHERS! That's what His promises are all about. Helping you help others.

How are you answering His question correctly? Isaiah gave the right answer. Have you? Most Christians give the wrong answer to this question. They are not available to God. Some think they are, but their "availability" is on their terms, not God's. It's a selective availability. As long as God's will for them doesn't require any significant sacrifices, they're ok with it. But ask them to really submit to God's will for their lives, and suddenly they're "too busy", or "too tired", or "not qualified", or a thousand other excuses. All of Heaven's blessings are tied to our decision to be available for God to use us, when He wants, where He wants, how He wants. How about you? He wants to bless you. Are you available?

06/22/08

Ephesians 4:16

#### ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART?

The body of Christ is made up of many people like you. We all have a part to play. We all have something to do. You are special in that sense. Nobody can do what God has chosen you to do as well as you, that's why He chose you! Every part must do its share for the body to function properly, and stay strong and healthy for the Lord. No matter who you are, you are important to God! He needs you. Do you know what your function is for Him? What part are you to play in fulfilling the Great Commission? (Mark 16:15-18) It doesn't matter what others say about you, or even what you say about yourself! God says you're important, and He says He needs you! That makes you precious, special, and NEEDED. See yourself that way!

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06/23/08

1 Corinthians

#### NO ONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU

The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!" The foot can't say to the ear, "I don't need you!" What is God telling us? The body of Christ is a many-membered organism, and as such, can only function when everybody understands everybody needs everybody else! No one is more important than you! You are no more important than anyone else! Everyone is EQUAL as far as God is concerned when it comes to the body of Christ. No matter who you are in God's body, you can't function without the rest of us, and we can't function without you. We all need each other, so temper your attitudes to accurately reflect that truth.

Anyone who begins to think they're something "special" is doomed to failure in the body of Christ. God will replace such an individual with others who understand the concept of unity, harmony, one accord and team play. For every "super star" we see out there doing notable works for Jesus, there are untold thousands behind the scenes, praying, interceding, giving, sacrificing, making it all possible. When we stand before Jesus one day when the rewards are passed out, we will see many surprises. So many we thought would get so much won't get nearly as much as we thought. Why? Because without the support of many others who we never saw, they never would've been able to do what they did. Remember that next time you're tempted to think no one notices, or no one appreciates you. God sees everything, and everyone. He sees you, and knows what you've done for Him!

06/24/08

Mark 14:8 DO WHAT YOU CAN

What made what this woman did for Jesus so special? The key is found in verse 8. SHE DID WHAT SHE COULD. That is all God will ask of you. He doesn't expect you to do what you can't do for Him, but He DEMANDS you do what you can. God won't do the impossible for you until you do the possible for Him. That's the way it works my friend! You do what you can, and God will do what you can't. Look around. What are you doing with what you are, or with what you have, to bless, help, and evangelize others for Jesus? Don't expect God to move any mountains in your life until you're doing what you can to help those around you. This is your purpose. This is your destiny. This is the pre-requisite for God's blessings in your life. Understand?

When this woman poured her perfume on Jesus, she had no idea her simple act of kindness would be memorialized for all time, included in the canon of scripture. Since she did what she did, millions have read of it in the Gospel of Mark, and found strength and encouragement from it. She wasn't looking for that, or for anything else. She just saw an opportunity to be kind to Jesus, and took advantage of it. But everytime someone gets blessed by what she did, she'll be rewarded for it someday in Heaven! Like her, do what you can do! That's all you need to do. Look for opportunities to bless others in the Name of Jesus, and let God take care of the rest. Whatever happens for the good of the Kingdom of God, you'll be rewarded for it someday in Heaven!

06/25/08

Ephesians 4:24 TRUE HOLINESS

Many believers have the wrong idea about holiness. Holiness is not an external lifestyle of carnal control, but rather, a lifestyle which consistently allows the love of God to dominate our lives the way God wants it to. When the Bible tells us to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15,16), its talking about letting the love of God control us spirit, soul and body. To be truly holy is to walk in love, the way God does. The more you walk in God's love, the more your heart will become established in holiness (1 Thess.3:11-13).

Meditate on the love verses of 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Think about them, say them out loud, personalize them as you confess them. As you do, expect the Holy Spirit to work with you to develop the

love of God within you. Its already there, shed abroad in your heart, waiting to be developed (Romans 5:5). The more God's love dominates your life, the holier you become. Why? Because God is love, and His essence is revealed and expressed through holiness. When you walk in love, the walk itself makes you holy in God's eyes! Be holy! Walk in love! They go together. You can't have one without the other. (Ephesians 1:4)

06/26/08

Luke 11:2                    IS GOD'S WILL YOUR WAY?

Do you live each day in light of God's will for you? Most believers don't. They do what they want, when they want, the way they want, and then expect God to bless their efforts. That's backwards! Each day, we're supposed to live our lives in light of God's plan, purpose and will for our lives (Ephesians 1:5). You're supposed to take time each day to ASK God about what He wants of you that day, and then believe Him for the strength and wisdom to live that day the way He wants you to live it. In doing so, you position yourself to receive all of God's blessings, because His will for your life is automatically blessed. Why? Because its His will, not yours!

Most believers pray and say: "God, here's my plan! I believe its blessed in Jesus' Name!" Rather, you should pray and say: "God, what's your plan?" That's all you need to be concerned about. You won't have to believe His plan is blessed because His plan and will for your life is ALREADY blessed! You need to realize that its worth the time to find God's will, and make it your way each and everyday. Don't be like Martha, but rather, be like Mary (Luke 11:38-41). Sit at the Master's feet in prayer, praise and Bible Study, and let Him reveal His plan for your day, your life, your happiness. You'll find that inside God's will is a Divine flow that can't be found anywhere else. Make all your daily decisions after counseling His will (Ephesians 1:11). It's a lot easier swimming with God downstream, than trying to swim for him upstream!

06/26/08

Ephesians 1:14            ARE YOU NOT YOUR OWN?

You are a purchased possession, spirit, soul and body. You don't own yourself, nobody does. If you're born-again, you belong to God. If not, you belong to Satan. Its that simple. And even though your body wasn't yet born-again the day you received Jesus as Lord, understand your body has been bought nevertheless. (1 Corinthians 6:20) As a purchased possession, never forget you are responsible to God's for how you take care of it and control it while you still live on earth. Remember, your body does not want to obey God, ever. Even as we live inside it everyday, it is still an enemy which must be controlled, subdued and kept under (1 Corinthains 9:27). You will stand before God to answer for how you took care of the body He gave you, the one you lived in. If you were to die today and stand before Jesus, could you give a good account for how you took care of His body?

James 4:1-8 will list the three enemies you must contend with while here on earth. First, there is the devil and his demons (James 4:7). Then there is the world system he is the author of (James 4:4, 2 Corinthians 4:4). Third, there is the body we live in, the flesh (James 4:1). Believers have more problems with their flesh than with anything else, in part because they fail to realize their body is a purchased possession, one which we'll have to answer for someday in heaven. How are you controlling your flesh? It only wants to do three things in life: eat, sleep and sin! Are you controlling it, or is it controlling you? Eating and drinking too much? Eating and drinking the wrong things? Allowing your flesh to indulge itself with carnal, sinful appetites? Control it! Subdue it! Make it obey! Nobody else can do it for you, its your body in stewardship, but its God's body in ownership.

06/27/08

Psalms 119:37,38

### WHAT ARE YOUR EYES LOOKING AT?

The more established you become in God's Word, the less of an allure the world will have to you. The less established you are in God's Word, the more of a "pull" the world will have in your life. If the world and what it offers has a significant place in your life, you need to spend more time with God and His Word. The more you do that, the more you'll be able to turn your eyes away from the allure of the world. You won't be coveting what the world offers, but rather, you'll be busy about the Father's business, just like Jesus was. Nothing of this world has any value spiritually. The only thing of spiritual value on earth are the souls of men. Never forget that!

As far as God is concerned, being rich has nothing to do with how much money or possessions you possess. Being rich towards God (Luke 12:21) has to do with your fruitfulness in winning souls, and disciplining them into a closer walk with Jesus. The more people you help, the richer you become. Money, and all it can buy, is only for the purpose of financing the Great Commission. Nothing else matters. Matthew 6:33 promises that when you seek first God's kingdom, and make His priorities your priorities, everything else is added. God wants you to have a prosperous, successful life, but only for the purpose of being in a better position to win souls, and disciple believers. As long as this remains your priority, He won't hesitate to bless you abundantly. Just be sure your eyes are turned away from the world, and focused squarely upon God and His Word!

06/28/08

Psalms 119:18

### PRAYING FOR OPEN EYES

God wants to open your eyes and show you wonderful things from His Word. This should be your prayer everytime you open up your Bible. The Word of God is full of truths which you need to know about to live a victorious, prosperous and successful life. That's why David prayed for God to open his eyes. He wanted to see the truths he needed to put him over in life, and you need to see them too. This is the "Rhema" verses the "Logos". The "Logos" is God's written word to all men. The "Rhema" is God's spoken word to YOU. Something that leaps off the page and speaks directly to you. Pray for the open eyes which enable you to see every truth that pertains to you, and to your ability to minister effectively in Jesus' Name.

James 4:2 says you have not because you ask not. Ask God to open your eyes every time you read His Word, then expect the "Rhema" and "revelation knowledge" to flow. Expect it! God's not into keeping secrets from His children. He wants you to understand His mind, His ways and His Word. But you have to ask for the revelation. You have to ask for the opened eye. When you have it, it WILL change you. One verse, one statement, one passage can change your life, if only you've got eyes to see what God wants you to see. Believe your eyes are opened to the riches found in God's Word. Ask for it, and believe you receive it in Jesus' Name (Mark 11:22-24)!

06/29/08

Psalms 25:10

### IS GOD'S PATH YOUR PATH?

Psalms says God's path is 2 things: mercy and truth. Is this your path too? If you are his child it should be. Mercy and truth. We're called by God to present the truth to the world, which is the Word of God. Jesus said God's Word IS truth (John 17:17). It doesn't just contain truth, it IS truth. That's what you share, the truth, the Word, and let God take it from there. And when men choose to resist you when you evangelize, what do you do? The same as God. Show them mercy. Thank God for His mercy! When the Bible says His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22,23), its because you NEED His mercy

every morning! We all do! Be merciful with others the way God shows mercy to you. Tell them the truth, and extend mercy whenever they need it. That's the path of God. Is it your path too?

Don't be like the man in Matthew chapter 18, who refused to extend forgiveness to others for small debts, after being forgiven for large debts himself. Jesus called that man a "wicked servant". Don't be wicked in God's eyes! Tell people the truth, and no matter how they respond, be ready and willing to extend mercy, kindness, forgiveness, patience, or whatever else they may require at the time. Remember, God extended all of that and more to you, so you do the same to others. This is the path God walks, and it must be the path you walk. If you want to look like, act like and talk like God, let mercy and truth be the path you take everyday.

06/30/08

1 Corinthians 4:2

#### ARE YOU A FAITHFUL STEWARD?

You are a steward of God, and God wants faithfulness from all His stewards. Qualifications are important of course, but if God has to choose, He will always select somebody because they've proven themselves faithful, whether they're qualified or not. Paul was a qualified man when God saved and called him, but he was placed in ministry because of his faithfulness (1 Timothy 1:12). No matter what the devil tried against Paul, it was unsuccessful because Paul was faithful to God's call, and to God's assignments. You must be the same. Its fine to be qualified to do something significant for God, but are you faithful first? Have you proven yourself reliable to God when He calls on you? Qualified or not, have you been available with no strings attached?

Faithfulness as a steward must be top priority. God can teach someone and make them qualified, but faithfulness comes from the heart. It's a decision you choose to make. Come hell or high water, you decide you're going to be there if God needs you. That's faithfulness, and that's what God looks for. Paul told Timothy to find "faithful men" to teach (2 Timothy 2:2), who could then teach others. Faithfulness was their pre-requisite in finding new leaders in the early church, and that pattern remains the same today. Above all else, make sure you're faithful to God. When you stand before God someday at judgment time, He will not say to you, "Well done, good and qualified servant". If you're done well, it will be because you were good and FAITHFUL! (Matthew 25:21).