

From the book,

GOD is GOD and We Are Not

Chapter 15

CHAINED TO THINGS?

Leave it all and follow Me

HEARING GOD'S VOICE, now that's a challenge...until it isn't. God's voice is as distinct as your mother's. Can't you tell her voice from all the others? If you're serious about hearing God, shut out all the other "voices": the TV, newspapers, radio, internet, phones, and other people. What we listen to should line up with the word of God. Jesus said, "***So take care how you listen!***" (Luke 8:18).

God will let you know anything you need to know. We waste precious time from His call on our lives by getting into business that's not ours. Why take on the distractions of other people's clutter and confusion when we have no authority to deal with it?

We urge you, brethren, to excel still more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we

commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need. (1 Thessalonians 4:11)

When God called me to a higher place with Him, He directed me to get rid of the TV, books, tapes, magazines, newspapers, and all the other clutter. He said, “If another person wrote it, it’s not your call; if it was written yesterday, it’s ‘old manna.’ There is no time left for ‘regurgitated knowledge’ or the distractions of other people’s lives. This is ‘Holy Ghost and Knees Time.’ You are the only YOU I have. Stay in My word and I will speak to you as I did Moses; then you will go out empowered to do what I have called you to do.” At that, I entered “H.S.U.” (Holy Spirit University); a unique, individualized study program, designed by God just for me.

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. (1 John 2:27)

The Apostle Paul wrote, ***“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things”*** (Philippians 4:8).

Pick God over everything, for one day we shall give account for our time, money, relationships, and our thoughts and words.

God, in Your grace and mercy, I ask you to forgive us for all we've squandered, and help us **"make the most of our time, because the days are evil."** (Ephesians 5:16).

Guys, this is your paragraph: about that television, or should I call it the "hellevision"? How is it that you can yell, scream, jump up and down for a football and not for God? Only He is worthy of our praise. If the TV is your god, then at least be honest and bow down to it. Do you know as much about the Bible and its ways as you do those sports figures? It's a question of priorities and your moment-by-moment decisions will determine your future.

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

It's time to go free, so let's get rid of the junk in our lives...
sell it, give it away, or throw it out.

Jesus said, ***“None of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions”*** (Luke 14:33). Your “all” may be different from my all, but it’s anything that keeps you from God’s highest and best purpose for your life.

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. (2 Timothy 2:4)

The conditions for following Jesus are the same as they were 2,000 years ago, when He called a man:

“Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:59-62)

When Jesus calls you, it’s time to go; there’s only death back there, so come on, ***“let the dead bury their own dead.”*** It’s a decision we all make and I invite you to choose life.

Paul wrote this to the Philippians:

“One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13b-14).

If God wanted us to look backward, He would have given us eyes in the back of our heads or rearview mirrors. He didn't do either. He put our eyes in front, aimed forward...as we should be.

Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness; rivers in the desert...The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise.

(Isaiah 43:18-21)

The graveyard of the past is no place for a child of God to live, so why not throw away our shovels and quit digging up old graves? Will we declare His praise? God used the word, “If,” many times to let us know we have choices. Jesus said, ***“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me”*** (Matthew 16:24). Everyone has a choice to receive or reject God, and the God in us; however, the Lord will call for showdowns, as Elijah did on Mount Carmel:

How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him...you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God Who answers by fire, He is God.

(1 Kings 18:21, 24)

Amen! So many times He does answer by fire, to consume everything that can't go forward with you. Before entering the Promised Land, Joshua told the Israelites, ***“Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”*** (Joshua 24:15).

It's a decision we each must make. God's heart is that none perish, but He will not always strive with us. His mercies are new every morning, but I've learned not to test His patience...that, my friend, has a limit!

As I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest”...So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief...Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it...For we who have believed enter that rest. (Hebrews 3:11, 19, 4:1, 3)

Jesus is still inviting all who will to ***“enter that rest”*** today:

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

If you're not free to do what God has called you to do, you're bound, and that's no way for a child of God to live. Go through the "dying"; be willing to pay the price to be free from the entanglements of life; and go free to owe no one anything but the love of Jesus Christ. That way, **"Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet"** and walk on (Matthew 10:14). You'll find more of Jesus' instructions to His disciples in *Matthew 10*.

Where He leads, I'm going, though none go with me!

Ask God to give you His next course of events for your life; however, before you expect an answer, be sure your life is in order. He won't add to clutter, confusion, and unfinished business. Clear out the old to make way for the new. What if we're not waiting on God, but He is waiting on us to do our part? Do what you know you should, and then you'll get the next piece.

Three things I pray in any situation:

1. I ask that everything hidden comes to light, so I know what I'm dealing with, and what's not of God be exposed and removed.
2. Give me Your strategy for the victory.
3. Shut the doors that no longer serve Your purposes in my life and open those that do.

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: "I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name." (Revelation 3:7-8)

God answers prayers like that as His searchlight reveals the hidden things. Heaven's view is a wonderful perspective.

A man told a great pianist, "I'd give my life to play like you."
The pianist replied, "I did!"

Jim Elliot, a missionary in Ecuador, who was martyred for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 1956, said, "He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

We have to pay the price to go onward and upward for the cause of Christ. Only God knows how much time we have left to make a difference. Trust Him to take you into His presence, where you can hear His voice, free of distractions. When you are in the center of God's will, there is perfect peace.

***The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace,
Because he trusts in You.*** (Isaiah 26:3)

Jesus knew that the cost was everything, including family and friends.

“Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?” And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father Who is in Heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother!” (Matthew 12:48-50)

The Lord is pouring out His Spirit today. He is free to change our lives at His discretion, and doesn't have to validate our plans. May God keep you on fertile soil, where His Spirit is moving.

Truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, “You must be born again.” The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3:5-8)

Don't try to put flesh clothes on spiritual things; or spiritual clothes on fleshly things; it just won't work. God is holy and His ways are perfect.

You are not your own...you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Today is your day to say, “Yes” to Jesus. If you’ve never been “born again” – born of the Spirit – why not ask Him to come into your heart, forgive you of your sins, and change your life now? Here’s how:

1. Admit you have sinned (“missed the mark”).

There is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:10, 23)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

2. Ask God's forgiveness.

Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13)

3. Believe in Jesus.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

4. Receive Christ as your Savior.

As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. (John 1:12)

5. Confess that Jesus is your Lord.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

He likes prayers like that...they work.
Welcome to the family of God.

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