

GOD, OUR PERSONAL TEACHER

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Nothing could be more valuable to a true Christian life than having God as our Teacher, being taught by Him, and to have Him remove the 'self-life' from our heart. So, the most valuable and profitable way to live our life would be a 'trusting faith' on God day-by-day, which allows Him to become our personal Teacher! Nothing could be more valuable than being under the direct teaching of God, Himself (in the person of His Holy Spirit). When a person is willing to go personally to God in every part of their life, the most valuable result is, that they get under His personal teaching and training, (so that He can put us through the tests that He knows we need to go through, to see if we are really willing to surrender to Him and have 'self' removed from our heart). We will never learn anything right (nor get real knowledge of the Truth, or lasting victories in our life) without God's teaching and workmanship in our life. (John 3:27) "A man cannot receive anything except it be given him from above."

The only place where one receives spiritual growth and knowledge, is a life of faith and trust on God (at the foot of the Cross of Jesus Christ). We bow in humble faith at Jesus' feet (Who is at His Father's right hand pleading for us), and where we make sincere confessions to Him, placing our sins under Jesus' atoning Blood, to receive forgiveness and answers to our prayers.

Jesus told us we should do that in the privacy of our room (Matt. 6:6), "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the 'secret place'; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." The most important reward is the spiritual growth received from each answer to prayer received, from God's personal training, when we turn to God in faith and believe on the 'promises' that He gave.

(Matt. 11:28-29), "Come to me, all you toiling and burdened ones, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you", (Jesus meant that we should walk as He walked in life, and travel humble paths as he did), "and, learn from Me; for I am gentle (meeek) and lowly in heart".

(He meant, I am like a poor person, just like a bond-slave, right at the bottom in reputation and social standing (opposite to the way the world lives). How valuable Jesus' example and the instructions from Him should be to a truly surrendered soul). Jesus concluded with a glorious promise to everyone who will choose to walk a humble path as He walked, for He said, "and you will find rest for your souls." (That is not just peace and rest in this life, ... rest for your soul means an eternal rest in Heaven).

In contrast to Jesus' humbleness, the disciples were always trying to get up on a ladder or a pedestal (the late Pastor said), (a higher standing socially, more recognition from other people), and they talked about which one would be the greatest. The mother of James and John came to Jesus asking that He allow her two sons to sit "one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your Kingdom." (Matt. 20:22) "None of you know what you are asking for", said Jesus.

Also (Luke 9:46-48), "Now there arose a dispute among them, which of them was to be the greatest. And Jesus, knowing the reasoning that was in their hearts, took a young child and made him stand by His side, and said to them, "Whoever for my sake receives this little

child, receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives Him who sent Me. For the lowliest among you all—he is the greatest."

To show humbleness via example, Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet (to teach them humility), and He taught them to live like and to associate with poor people, who are compelled to trust God for their provisions and needs each day.

After the Son of God had set the example for His followers, God later inspired James to tell us all (James 2:5) "Listen, my dearly-loved brethren. Has not God chosen those whom the world regards as poor to be 'rich in faith' and heirs of the Kingdom which He has promised to those that love Him?"

We should pray that God will not spare any necessary means to teach and develop us, and to bring us into the image of Christ. that we might live and walk in our life as He walked on this earth (and above all else be prepared for the coming of Jesus and Eternal Life).

Any true Christian who is in a position to receive God's training, can expect things to happen concerning them. Many things have happened to us, and it is all in the course of God's teaching and developing our character to be Christlike. 'Self' in our heart is something that God must remove for us, ... if we want to have any hope of receiving Eternal Life in the end.

When we find ourselves being tried and tested in our life, we should be thankful that God finds us worthy of His personal teaching and training, for He wants to save us from our efforts of the self-life. (James 1:2-4), "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

The devil would like to give us the idea that we do not have to live like Christ,... that we can be on a higher plane and live like the world does in most things. We must remember that the devil is the 'father of lies'. Jesus told us (John 8:44) the devil "was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand firm in the truth—for there is no truth in him. Whenever he utters his lie, he utters it out of his own store; for he is a liar, and the 'father of lies'."

The truth is (the Pastor said), if we ever are to become perfectly happy, . if we ever are to make Eternal Life, we will have to get right down to the plane that Jesus Christ walked on. We will have to live like He lived, .. walk as He walked, .. and have the same attitude to God and to our fellowman, that Jesus had (which came from divine love in His heart). Paul told us (1 Cor. 13:2), "if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing"... (in God's sight, because God sees the heart of a person not minding their outward appearance to others).

We are to follow the example Jesus set, and He instructed us, (Matt. 11:29-30), "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your 'souls'. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

When Jesus said 'souls', He meant 'life',.. meaning that our entire lives will become restful,... spiritually, physically, and financially;... and the devil will be cast out of our homes and out of our loved ones. When we are not getting our victory over a situation in our life, we can be sure there is somewhere we have not fully

surrendered the 'self-life' from our heart. Somewhere we have not been willing to take His yoke upon ourselves (to trust on Him and find "rest for our soul"). Rather, we are holding onto an idol of the life of self, .. a cushion to fall back on, .. a plank on the bridge, to go back to depending on self (instead of trusting on God) (an idol in our life). (John 6:27 says) "Bestow your pains not on the food which perishes" (outward works and false piety), "but on the food that remains unto the Life of the Ages—that food which will be the Son of Man's gift to you; for on Him the Father, God, has set His 'seal'." (God's Word sent to us through His Son, is His 'seal' for us).

We recall what Jesus said to crowds following Him, "What are we to do, they asked, in order to carry out the things that God requires?" "This," replied Jesus, "is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent." (John 6;29).

Nothing on earth could be more valuable to us than to trust on the Son of God (and on what He accomplished for us through His atonement work on the Cross), going to God alone in prayer to deal personally with Him in every situation in our life. God told us to do that (Prov.3:5-7) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;" (not trust on our own understanding and ability, depending on self in our heart). "In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil." (laid-up treasure, false places of trust are idols in our life and such idols are evil in God's sight).

When we fear God's Word and get rid of laid-up treasures, God tells us, (vs.8) "It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones." (That's quite a promise from God for getting rid of laid-up finances and any other idols in our life). (Vs.9) "Honor the Lord with your possessions, (meaning give them up to obey God's Word), "And (honor the Lord) with the first-fruits of all your increase; (tithe on your gross increase or gains) "So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine." (Says the Lord).

We are given further valuable directions from God (to be followed in our life) (James 1:5), "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God," (not from some human being, but from God), "Who gives to all liberally and without reproach," (which means that He never scolds us for asking), .. "And it will be given to him."

Taking that approach to fear and obey what God tells us in His Word (and always turn to Him in trusting faith as a child who depends on its parents for everything), will bring us back to conditions of the Garden of Eden, eventually. It is when we truly surrender our 'life of self' to God, and really believe that He accepts us which He has said that He does (John 14:23), and we get under His direct teaching by taking His easy yoke upon us, .. then He can bring us into the true rest for our 'souls', "for I am gentle and lowly in heart".

Everything that happens to us then, will teach us some valuable lesson that will 'work together for good' if we deal with God about it (because we love Him and want to obey Him). (John 14:23) "If anyone loves me," replied Jesus, "he will obey my teaching; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

It is through our obedience to God (and believing on His Son), that we maintain a close union with Jesus Christ, Who will use every situation in our life to teach us to be like Himself. (John 15:10-11)

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

That is why God inspired Paul to assure us (Rom. 8:28), "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, have been called according to His purpose." (God's purpose for everyone is for all of us to love one another as He has loved us).

So, when we have a sincere love in our heart for Jesus Christ (and for one another), then we will remain in Him, and He will remain in us as He promised to us for obeying Him. God will inspire us to want to obey Him, and to keep our trust centered on Him in everything that we do. Not only will we receive increased spiritual light, but we will eventually become perfected in Him, as God will use everything that touches our life to "work together for good" for us. He will bring us to the place where our last human effort is over with, our last resentment is felt, and no matter what is said or done against us, will not affect us in any way. By God's grace and guidance, we will be made absolutely free from wrong attitudes, hidden resentment, and using 'self-efforts' to get even with people. (As the late Pastor would say at times), (paraphrased), "persecution and insults against us will no longer affect us, rather, they will be like water running off of a duck's back", .(when we sincerely forsake 'self' from our heart and give our life back to God for His control and guidance in all things). That will be the inevitable result, . and that will be our preparation for Eternal Life.

(Rom. 6:11) instructs us to take the position in faith, that we have become "dead indeed unto sin, but living for God through our union with Jesus Christ." By doing that it will allow God to work in our life (with our 'heart attitudes'). God will enable us to reject the devil's attempts to tell us that we are not "dead indeed unto sin", so that we might grow and develop in a life of faith and trust on the Son of God, (and have His Spirit prepare us to meet Christ on His return). It would not be possible for anyone to make any progress in the Christian life, without the Holy Spirit, so our "position of belief and trust" in the Atonement work of Christ, is a 'position' that we can never get away from.

If, however, we do fall away from 'trusting' under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then we are to get back to that place of trust right away, by repenting and surrendering our life anew, and believing God's Word about what His Son has done for us. That 'step of repentance' and re-consecrating our life, is something that can be done at any time, and our faith will automatically be on what we believe in our mind to be true). (MP) It is most important that we are believing what God's Word tells us, ..take our 'stand of faith' on where the 'Bible' says we 'are', .. and as the Atonement Blood of Christ has made us. That is God's divine Truth in reality, and it is the very 'foundation' for 'personal dealing' with God (which is what our growth and development in the Christian life really depends on). (MP)

When the surrender of our life to God is sincere and final, He will bring us to the place where our last human effort is done with, our last resentment is felt, and no matter what is said or done against us, it will not affect us. That will be the inevitable result

with God as our Teacher, and that will be our preparation for Eternal Life. That is our 'one hope' of Heaven, .. getting into God's hands and staying there, as we allow Him to train us until we are fully victorious in every circumstance that we meet.

Furthermore, no temptation of the devil will cause us to use the slightest human effort to deliver ourselves, or to trust in anything, or anybody but the living God alone, when the surrender of our life to Him is a final one. (Rom. 8:31-32), "What then shall we say to this? If God is on our side, who is there to appear against us? He who did not withhold even His own Son, but gave Him up for all of us, will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"

We can have the same conditions as in the Garden of Eden restored to us in this life, and the most valuable result will be our being prepared by God for Eternal Life in Heaven.

(1 Pet. 1:3-5), "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His great mercy has begotten us anew to an ever-living hope through the 'resurrection' of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance imperishable, undefiled and unfading, which has been reserved in Heaven for you, whom God in His power is guarding, through faith for a salvation that even now stands ready for unveiling at the End of the Age."

That is God's blessing for those who will allow themselves to be 'BE TAUGHT BY GOD', and He will be faithful to fulfill His promise (Matt. 11:29), "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

That means, Eternal Rest, in Eternal Life!!

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MAIN POINTS: #S233R GOD, OUR PERSONAL TEACHER 11/17/21

1... To receive God's personal teaching and training is the most valuable result, of a true Christian's 'life of trusting' on the power of the Atonement sacrifice that Jesus made in our behalf. The truth of God's Word is revealed to true 'believers' by the Holy Spirit of God. (John 3:27) "A man cannot receive anything except it be given him from above."

2... A life of obedient trust on the Son of God is the 'will of God', and Jesus wanted us to know that—that is God's will is for us, so He set a very humble example to be followed. It is through our obedience to God (just as Jesus was by example for us), and through our believing on Jesus Christ, that we maintain a close union with Him(the true Vine). (Rom. 11:20) "It was their unbelief that cut them off, and you only stand through your faith."

3... God's personal training of our Christian character uses every circumstance in our life to teach obedient faith to a true believer, and to remove self from our heart. Nothing could be more valuable than to have self removed, and to learn to meet circumstances in life under the training of God, Himself. It is the way God perfects our Christian character. (James 1:2-4) "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

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