

PLACING FALSE TRUST on FINANCIAL SECURITY HINDERS ONE'S PATHWAY to ETERNITY

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The spiritual importance of not having false trust on laid-up treasures, owning property, or accumulating other possessions of value in this life (that could be depended on for a person or a family's financial security), is a subject which is a must need for true 'believers in Christ' to fully understand, because it is essential to a true Christian life of 'faith and trust' on God alone, which will lead 'believers' to Eternal Life. Jesus put emphasis on its importance as He said (Luke 13:24), "strain every nerve" to enter through the 'Narrow GATE'." The GATE (in Capital Letters) at the end of that straight and narrow 'pathway of trust' to Life Eternal. Any dependance on human plans and places of 'financial trust' on things that can be seen to be trusted on, is 'excess baggage' in a true Christian life of faith. Even if a person thinks they can carry 'false places of trust' along with them on that 'Narrow Path', they will come to find out that the excess baggage of 'trust on things of the self-life', won't fit through the Narrow Gate to Heaven. *Scripture informs us that God is a 'Jealous God', so 'false places of trust', instead of full trust on God and His Word and His Promises (which are all made sure by the power of Jesus Atonement Sacrifice and His resurrection to Life), are wickedness in God's sight. We don't want to arrive at that Heavenly Gate only to hear Jesus say (as He told us that He would say in Matt.7:23) "And then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you: begone from me, you doers of wickedness.'"*

The 'principal of Truth' involved in God's 'financial plan', has always been a difficult subject to be understood in the Christian world, because the devil (or the human nature that each person is born with), always tempts and induces them to depend on 'seen things' to be accumulated and trusted on in this life.

Jesus warned about the dangers of having laid-up treasures in this life to depend on. (Matt.6:19) "Do not lay up stores of wealth for yourselves on earth, where the moth and wear-and-tear destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But amass wealth for yourselves in Heaven," through a 'life of trust' on God.

Jesus gave admonitions and guidelines for true 'believers' to follow in a lifetime of faith and trust on the Son of God, and we are to follow Jesus' example of obedience to His Father (as we are reminded Heb.10:7), "Then I said, 'I have come--in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me--to do Thy will, O God.'"

After a young man told Jesus that he had obeyed God's commandments, Jesus said to him (Luke 18:22), "There is still one thing wanting (or lacking) in you. Sell everything you possess and give the money to the poor, and you shall have wealth in Heaven; and then come, follow me."

Jesus didn't permit the man to have a financial cushion to fall back on when hard times would come (and such times must come to test our faith, if we expect God to prepare us for Eternal Life). We must depend on God, and Scripture tells us that God is a jealous God. We are not permitted to have finances in reserve to depend on instead of depending on God. Jesus explained (Matt.6:21) "For where your wealth is, there also will your heart be." Nothing could be more important in the Christian life, than 'where' (in one's 'heart' and 'mind') they have placed their 'trust' (financially or otherwise). Where one places their trust, is the 'Christian life' 'in a nutshell' as one might say. The human heart wants to trust on people, places, and things that can be seen, instead of a life of trust on their unseen God, who will fulfill His promises if we will believe on them and the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ which supports them. Jesus explained clearly (Matt.18:3), "In solemn truth I tell you that unless you turn and become like little children, you will in no case be admitted into the

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Kingdom of the Heavens. We are to have a childlike trust on God's power and Promises, just as a child trusts on its parents to do and provide things for them.

The devil, however, will try to make the 'life of trust' on God to seem difficult, but the Holy Spirit was sent to this earth (upon Jesus' request), to empower every true believer who is 'willing' to be led by that Spirit. He will make a Christian's 'life of faith' and following the Savior, a most pleasant and easy path to follow. More importantly, valuable spiritual lessons will be learned from trusting on God, and all will be used to prepare us for Eternal Life.

Few professed Christians have realized or claimed the part of their inheritance that pertains to their life here on earth. However, Jesus died on the Cross to grant us God's rich blessings in this life, just as much as in the life to come-Eternal Life.

Jesus gave us all a glorious invitation to seek guidance and provisions, and peace and protection from Him. (Matt.11:28-30), "**Come to me, all you toiling and burdened ones, and I will give you rest. 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.**" When we are yoked to Christ in Spirit, we have to follow Him (like two oxen yoked together have to go along with each other). When yoked to Christ, He will lead us on His humble, 'lowly in heart pathway' of trust on God that leads to an eternal rest for our 'soul' (and it can include our children). What could be better for us than that promise? Jesus said, "**For it is good to bear my yoke, and my burden is light.**"

The rewards that God promised for a true Christian (in their life here) have been almost entirely lost sight of in a Christian world today. However, it brings glory to God to claim and receive financial rewards and blessing in this life, just as it glorifies Him to receive healing (or anything else that we trust God alone for without compromise).(Ephes.6:8 reminds us) "You well know that whatever right thing any one does, he will receive a requital (reward) for it from the Lord." We know that to trust on The One whom God has sent is right to do, for that is one

requirement that God placed on believers for their Salvation. (John 6:29).

The believer must communicate personally with God in prayer to receive all things from Him, and always be contented as God provides what is within His will for us, not try to get things through our own self-will (which we must allow God to remove from our heart). God not only already knows our needs, but He also knows what is best for us spiritually, and God's Promises are more than abundant. So, a believer should claim to receive those blessings.

Satan has devised many financial (and insurance) plans to protect a person's financial interests and to distract a believer away from having faith on God. The main objective of Satan is to keep everyone away from trusting on God financially (well-knowing that it will hinder any 'spiritual growth' in our life and will lead one's soul to destruction in a Lake of Fire if not repented of). A believer cannot allow, with the Holy Spirit's help, any wrong 'places of trust' in their life, nor allow anything in their home that is not for their or the family's best spiritual interests. We (parents) have a God-given responsibility to train the children to follow the right pathway, so we are responsible for protecting children from wrong influence, and to teach them not to have false places of trust. (Prov.22:5-6) "Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them. Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

The devil creeps into the lives of more professed Christians each passing day with many and various forms of idolatry. Most trust on medical and financial plans, depend on insurance coverage for financial protection, safety devices, and avenging wrongs instead of forgiving others. Outward religious gestures (with no spiritual value) are practiced by professed Christians, who are 'saying' that they 'believe' in Jesus Christ, while in many cases they are not trusting Him for anything in their life. (Matt.15:8, Jesus said), "**This is a People who honor Me with their lips, while their heart is far away from Me.**"

We must pray for God to remove 'stumbling blocks' from our lives, because all false places of trust are rebellion against God, which is

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a form of idolatry that must be removed from our heart. (1 Sam.15:23) "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." (Matt.26:41) "Keep awake and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

We can't afford to have or allow something that provides for our own temptation, nor to have a false place of financial trust, and foolishly think the devil will not take advantage of that opportunity that we have provided, for him to tempt us to follow a wrong path in our life. God looks at the true condition of a person's heart. Jesus said, (Matt. 6:21) "For where your treasure is, there also will your 'heart' be."

God spoke to His people through the prophet (Ezek. 14:2-3) "*And the word of the LORD came to me, saying 'Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity' (stumbling blocks). 'Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?' (vs.6-8) Therefore say, to the house of Israel, thus says the Lord GOD: 'Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. For anyone of the house of Israel, or, of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the LORD will answer him by Myself. I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.'"*

So, when one chooses to trust in other people and things instead of trusting on God's faithfulness to His Promises to provide, and they begin accumulating treasures and laying up treasures (which can be trusted on in the future), like savings accounts. (Ezek. 14:7-8) "*I the LORD will answer him by Myself. I will set My face against that man*" (or person). "*Then you shall know that I am the LORD.*"

Or, one accepts and takes responsibility for insurance plans and other of man's financial plans which are designed to protect one's interests financially, instead of truly believing that God will protect them, or, if one chooses to use safety devices to protect from unexpected

mishaps (which God has promised to protect a believer from) and the list of idols could go on, then they have expressed 'their free-will choice' to place their faith on some thing or person, instead of on God. (Ezek. 14:7-8) "*I the LORD will answer him by Myself. I will set My face against that man*" (or person). "*Then you shall know that I am the LORD.*"

When one's faith is placed in the wrong place, it is in some measure a 'form of idolatry', and if it is not corrected it will effectively hinder the Holy Spirit from working with them (the only way that one can be prepared to enter into God's Heavenly Kingdom), via God's Spirit enabling a person to exert an 'active' or 'working faith' on Him in their life. Faith unaccompanied by corresponding actions is really no faith at all (apostle James concluded). Referring to Abraham's faith in God, he said, "Do you see that faith was working together with his 'works', and by 'works', 'faith' was made perfect?"

Abraham's faith was inspired by the Spirit of God, because he first believed God's Word when God spoke to him. Through his 'believing' God's Spirit enabled Abraham to walk in faith the rest of his life, and to pass every test of his faith in God.

The Israelites in the desert, did not believe God's Word given through Moses, so they also could not obey Him, and they wandered about depending on their own stubborn self-will, trying to get what they wanted and needed.

"The righteous shall live by faith", (Paul explained in his letter to the Romans), so (he continued) "For I am not ashamed of the Good News. It is God's power which is at work for the salvation of everyone who believes--the Jew first, and then the Gentile. For in the Good News a righteousness which comes from God is being revealed, depending on faith, and tending to produce faith; as the Scripture has it, 'The righteous man shall live by faith'. For God's anger is being revealed from Heaven against all impiety" (meaning a lack of reverence for God) "and against the iniquity of men who through iniquity suppress the truth. God is angry: because what may be known about Him is plain to their inmost consciousness; for He Himself has made it plain to them." (Romans 1:16-19).

Here we can see, that already, in the first century after Christ died on the Cross for the people on this earth, to atone for their sins, and, to attract them to Him in humble reverence, people were already perverting His wonderful 'grace' as an excuse for sin, for as the apostle said, they "through iniquity suppress the Truth" (enemies of the 'Cross of Christ' he had said). Thus, God's anger against sin, was already being revealed against the sins of men, less than thirty years after His Son had died to take away their sins.

Again (Matt.26:41) "Keep awake and pray that you may not enter into temptation". And (Luke 18:22), "There is still one thing wanting (or lacking) in you. Sell everything you possess and give the money to the poor, and you shall have wealth in Heaven; and then 'come, follow me'."

Placing false trust on financial security hinders one's pathway to eternity!

S386R -SOME MAIN POINTS:

1 The spiritual importance of not having false trust on laid-up treasures, owning property, or accumulating other possessions of value in this life (that could be depended on for a person or a family's financial security), is a must-need subject for every true 'believer in Christ' to fully understand, ..because it is essential to a true Christian life of 'faith and trust' on God alone!

2 However, the 'principal of Truth' involved in God's 'financial plan', has always been a difficult subject to be understood in the Christian world, because the devil (human nature that each person is born with), always tempts and induces them to depend on 'seen things' to be trusted on (in our life here on earth).

3 The devil, will try to make the 'life of trust' on God to seem difficult, but the Holy Spirit was sent to this earth (upon Jesus' request),..to empower every true believer who is 'willing' to be led by that Spirit 'to a life of trust'.

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