

Lesson #13

God's Plan After Salvation



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Preparation for study

The only thing that prevents the Holy Spirit from teaching us is our personal sin(s). King David of the Old Testament clearly put it this way:

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; (Psalms 66:18).

Therefore, if the Lord cannot hear a believer's prayer due to unconfessed sin in his soul, it follows doctrinally that the Holy Spirit will not teach the individual.

Here is the solution:

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

At this point, you may want to pause and acknowledge directly to God any sin that may hinder you from being fully blessed through the Word of God.

Office of Ambassadorship (continued)

In our last lesson we concluded with our commission by the apostle Paul:

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20a).

To this commission, all believers in Christ Jesus-male and female-have the following in common:

1. They are citizens of the heavenly Kingdom:

For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20).

With this in mind, every believer should recognize that he is a total stranger to this world. He should readjust his thinking to the plan of God after salvation with the knowledge that his citizenship is in Heaven.

2. They have the highest rank that Heaven can provide.

3. All believers in Christ are commissioned to be ambassadors by God Himself (2 Corinthians 5:20a).

4. The believer is God's spokesperson on earth (2 Corinthians 5:20b). The question is, do believers today speak on behalf of God?

5. All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are under the maximum security that Heaven can offer. The apostle Peter writes:

Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:5).

6. All their needs are provided by God Himself (Philippians 4:19; James 1:17).

Concerning the needs of all believers, the apostle Paul has this to say:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

The Lord Jesus Christ said :

THEREFORE GO [through personal witnessing and evangelism] and make disciples [students] of all the nations ... teaching them to observe [apply] everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19a, 20a).

This command, often called "the great commission," is one of the main reasons believers are left on earth after salvation, and one of the ways we bring honor and glory to God.

As an ambassador you need to ask yourself these questions:

As a believer, am I obeying this command?

As an ambassador, do I witness for Christ?

Do I support those on the mission field?

The Office of Priesthood

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).

Besides being sworn in as Christ's ambassador, God in His marvelous grace introduced us to a new line of priesthood, a "royal priesthood." What is God's purpose in making us a kingdom of priests? The Word of God will provide us with the only sufficient answer. From the isolated island of Patmos, where the apostle John was banished because of his faith in Christ, he wrote:

To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood-and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests TO HIS GOD and Father-to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever! Amen (Revelation 1:5b, 6).

Therefore, God's plan after salvation is that believers would serve Him as priests. This service includes the following:

* To represent one's nation or those in authority before God in prayer:

I urge that entreaties [requests] and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

The question is, do you pray for your nation and those in authority?

* To pray for the unbelievers, that they may have the opportunity to hear the Gospel:

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4a).

* To pray for those in the mission field including me-Evangelist Moses C. Onwubiko.

Praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak (Colossians 4:3-4).

* To pray for pastors who have abandoned everything to serve our Lord? This is part of God's plan after salvation that you pray for them on a regular basis.

* To pray for other believers as the Lord may direct you. More importantly that they may:

Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18a).

* To represent oneself before God to make petition for one's personal needs.

* To pass on the doctrine that one has learned, to others.

We look forward to our next lesson where we will look at the importance of the study and application the truths found in the Word of God. Until then, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

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