

Lesson #14

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.

Eagerly Awaiting the Glorious Day

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires, and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds (Titus 2:11-14).

The moment a person believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, he is born into the family of God. God's requirement for that newborn baby is spiritual growth (2 Peter 3:18).

The spiritual growth of a newborn baby cannot take place apart from "pure and undiluted milk," which is sound Bible teaching. Sound Bible doctrine, if, and when it is found by the hungry baby believer, becomes the basis for developing what I call, "spiritual bones." When the baby graduates from the milk [basic doctrine], he advances to another level of Bible doctrine. By his continued desire to take in Bible doctrine on a consistent basis, he will eventually face his first test as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. If he applies the doctrine he has learned to the experience, he will pass the test to God's glory. The believer who continues on the right path, taking in God's word, advancing to spiritual maturity, and anticipating spiritual testing, will one day cross the line from spiritual adolescence to reach spiritual maturity. When he does, he will undoubtedly get a glimpse of the glory of God that Abraham, Moses, King David, the apostle Paul and other believers saw.

The apostle Paul faced many trials; he was beaten, whipped and stoned. He nearly drowned and was maliciously ridiculed and ripped apart by both unbelievers and believers. What kept him going during all these adversities? How did he endure? The answer is simple: Paul's glimpse of the glory of God was exceedingly greater than the constant afflictions which he encountered while on earth.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).

Even while he was chained and imprisoned, he sang melodious songs to God instead of whining and complaining.

Today, many believers are so miserable simply because of lack of spiritual growth. Christianity, a personal relationship with God through faith in Christ Jesus, is awesome. The Word of God is sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103). Until believers discover this, they are going to continue to sleep on a bed of misery. And this is exactly what Satan wants for the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God has a perfect plan for each believer. This plan is hidden inside His Word. It will not miraculously fall out of the sky. Believers have to discover this plan by daily study and application of Bible doctrine.

Now let us pause and reflect on the teachings so far. Notice that the phrases, “Bible doctrine,” “God’s Word” or “Bible teaching” have been used over and over again. This repetition holds the very thread that can sew the believer’s life together in the devil’s world. Study and apply, study and apply, study and apply. The importance of God’s Word can never be over emphasized.

What Does God Think About Wealth?

There is nothing wrong with a believer having wealth. Abraham was wealthy. Moses of the Old Testament had this to record about Abraham:

Abraham was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold (Genesis 13:2).

People like Job, King David, King Solomon and many others who served the Lord were richly blessed with wealth by God Himself. Concerning God’s blessing to Job, the author of the book of Job writes:

The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys (Job 42:12).

However, when a believer’s wealth becomes more important than God’s plan for his life, then his wealth has become an IDOL before God. A believer in the Lord Jesus Christ can examine himself on this issue of wealth with this simple question: Do I honestly view the things of this world like the apostle Paul did when he wrote:

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things [including wealth] to be loss [no longer important] in view of the surpassing value [what is important] of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish [excrement] so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith (Philippians 3:7-9).

For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. (1 Timothy 6:7-8).

A Glance at Contentment

Many people have erroneous ideas about what brings contentment. They think that being very successful in life will bring contentment. Some of these individuals have truly become successful and yet none of them seem to be content. Just look around you. Some of the multi-millionaires who are professional athletes had probably dreamed in their teens about becoming millionaires one day. Today, many of them have realized their dreams. The question then is: have they become content? No, they have not. Every season, these financially wealthy athletes want more money. Some refuse to sign new contracts unless they have a couple million more dollars. On the other hand, some have said, "The only reason we are not content is because we are single." Many of them have married and discovered otherwise. Some have said, "If we can move into a larger house with a big walk-in closet, many rooms, bigger bathrooms, large acres of yard, big garage, swimming pool, and cars of our dreams, we will definitely be content." These dreams have come true for some. Are they content with those things? Still the answer is no.

If believers paid closer attention to the successes, failures, experiments, catastrophes and blessings that came to the Biblical figures, we would learn certain lessons about contentment.

Please join us for our next lesson where we will take a look at the lives of some Biblical figures to see what they tell us about contentment. Until then may the Lord bless you and keep you.

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