

Lesson #15

God's Plan After Salvation



© *Moses C. Onwubiko*
Grace Evangelistic Ministries, Inc.
Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.

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.

A Glance at Contentment (Continued)

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.

There was a man in the Bible who had everything. God, in His grace, had blessed him abundantly. He was blessed in every sense of the word. Women - he had them by the hundreds.

Silver and gold - he had those things in abundance. This man had experimented with women, money, and many other things. He searched intensely for contentment in everything he could think of, but to no avail. This man was Solomon. In the end, Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, concluded:

Vanity of vanities! All is vanity! (Ecclesiastes 1:2b)

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

The apostle Paul had his own experience with lack of contentment. Finally he discovered that contentment is hidden in God. And to find it, one must know God, and for one to know God, one must learn God's Word. Once Paul realized this, he centered his entire life around the truth of God's word. Paul expressed this when he said:

I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned [through Bible doctrine] the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need (Philippians 4:12).

This was a testimony of the apostle Paul, a man whose life after his salvation was meaningful to our great God. Therefore, a believer can conclude that contentment does not depend on wealth, money, success, marriage, promotion or becoming famous. Contentment can only be discovered and experienced through learning sound Bible doctrine and applying it to situations. Therefore, as a believer lives his daily life, it is important for him to remember to:

- Use wisdom, grace and discernment:

Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of every opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person (Colossians 4:5-6).

- Remain focused on whatever he does for God and keep on meditating on the apostle Paul's words:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

- Continue to learn Bible doctrine while listening to these words:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped [matured] for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

- Face difficulties and challenges of this life knowing that:

Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4b).

- Remember His words of encouragement when life looks difficult and confusing.

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10).

- Listen to Him as He tells you from His infallible Word:

I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you (Hebrews 13:5b).

- Fix his mind on Him, meditate on His Word:

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

- Serve our Great God by listening as the Lord Jesus Christ speaks:

“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20b).

Dear Heavenly Father: My prayer is for every reader to fully appropriate the tremendous spiritual wealth and privileges You have bestowed upon them. May You encourage them to continue to study the unadulterated truth of the Bible so that they may be transformed by the renewing of their mind. That they will continue to study and apply Your Word until they cross the line and reach spiritual maturity.

Father, I pray that everyone takes refuge in their Heavenly citizenship and extends hope, love and truth to others as Your ambassador. That they encourage the believer and evangelize the unbeliever; that they utilize their priesthood, come to you in prayer, remembering not only themselves but the needs of others. That they will continue to focus on the things of Heaven and find the contentment only You can provide. That the perfect peace that only comes from trusting God will be theirs. I lift this prayer in the name of the One who loves us, the King of kings, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

7/19/11