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## **HOW ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE LIKE THE DEVIL And Other Sermons**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Once a thing is begun, only the all wise God can tell when it will end. I waited for  
twenty-five years before I tried to put any of my sermons in print. However, less than twenty-five

days have passed since I received the first book off the press, until I am ready to submit the manuscript for the second one.

So many ministers have said to me, "We need some sermons that face the problems of our day. So many of the great sermons of the noted preachers of the past do not deal with the complex society we are living in today". These little sermons were prompted by the Holy Spirit, dealing with the problems of this day.

A General Superintendent told me that we needed more holiness writings; but the demand was not great enough to make it profitable, for publishing houses to print the material of a common holiness preacher. I am sure that this is true; and because of this, I am trying to print these sermons and keep them as inexpensive as I can. If they will stir, awaken, shock, encourage, or strengthen someone, I will feel that my labors were not in vain. If these little books can go into places that I can't go, and be of any help, I will be thankful.

December, 1967  
Daniel Stafford

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#### 01 -- CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE LIKE THE DEVIL -- Matt. 4:1, 10

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" v-1.

The devil stands for everything that is bad and unlike God. He is the one that we are to guard against, and never obey. In the New Testament there are many places where we are told to watch, resist, and like statements.

To speak of being like the devil sounds like an insult. I am sure that few people would consider it a compliment to be compared with the devil. However, there are some very commendable ways of the devil that it would be mighty good if we all were like him. (I trust that my little message will not have the effect on any one that a pastor, I heard of, had on one lady. It seems this pastor had been called to another church. After his last sermon, the people were filing by to shake hands with him for the last time. One lady took his hand, as her voice broke she said, "Oh, pastor, you'll never know what you have done for me! When you came here as pastor, I did not love God or the devil; now I love both of them!") I certainly don't want this to happen; but I feel sure we could benefit if we would consider four ways that would be good, for all Christians to be like the devil.

First, We need to be **CONSTANT IN OUR EFFORTS**: Although his works are evil, the devil is constantly on the job. There is no such thing as a let up with him.

We have an expression, "working like the devil." This expression makes it plain that the devil is constantly on the job. He is working day and night to accomplish his purpose. He is constantly putting his best into his efforts.

How wonderful it would be if each child of God would be constant in his efforts. Surely this is the greatest need of the day in which we live. The greatest blight on the attempt of any church, to fulfill its ordained purpose in the community, is the "service by spurts" of the average member. If the pressure is put on firmly enough from the pulpit, the last revival meeting effective enough, some contest pressed hard enough, many will give a little "service spurt" However, when the prod is not too hard from the pulpit, and there is no attractive contest, entirely too many settle back to the old unfaithful rut in service. There is little wonder that so many loved ones, friends, and neighbors are not being won. Satan is constantly trying to prevent their conversion. He is wise enough to know that he can't be defeated by "service spurts." There is little wonder that the average church makes such a small impact, and snatch so few brands from the burning, in their community. The devil is constantly working to prevent this.

We, seemingly, have been too slow in seeing that the only way that we are going to defeat the devil, is by "working like the devil." Our loved ones, friends, and community will continue to be lost unless we become constant in our efforts.

Second, we need to be **VERSATILE IN OUR ATTACKS**: The devil does not try to run all men through the same mill. The devil is smart enough to know that all people do not respond alike to anything. Knowing this, he is very versatile in his attacks on men and women. My own mother and father heard a sermon on hell, preached by Ed Ferguson, in 1902. At the end of the message my father fell on his knees and begged God to have mercy on his soul. At the end of the same sermon my mother said, "If God will forgive me for coming, I will never come back again." Later, in that same meeting, my mother heard Uncle Bud Robinson preach on heaven, This made her so hungry until she could not hold back.

The devil attacks different men in different ways; and if his first plan of attack does not succeed, then he attacks in another way. He is not so dogmatic, or set in his way, until he will only attack in one way.

How wonderful it would be if each child of God would be so versatile in his efforts with men, until he would be willing to try anything. It is too easy to fall into an "evangelistic rut." We have just one way to approach a person about his salvation, If they do not respond to our effort, we just conclude that they are too hard. We are tempted to give up entirely too easily.

How wonderful it is to not be so hardheaded as to have only one way to do a thing! It will take prayer and real good religion, to be as smart as the devil, and be versatile in our attack.

Third, we need to be **UNDAUNTED IN OUR ATTEMPTS**: The devil tried to get the **SON OF GOD**! You might conceive of him trying to get all the common people, and maybe a few of the more important people, but certainly not the Son of God. However, our scripture makes this unmistakably true. There are none too large for the devil to try to defeat.

The devil never admits failure with any one, until he has done all that he can to win them. No one ever lives long enough for the devil to feel that he has done all that he can. Therefore, no one will ever live long enough for the devil to cease to try to defeat him. He tried three ways with the Son of God. I am convinced he would have tried many more ways if he had not been forced to

leave. His tempting Christ did not cease because the devil got discouraged, but because Christ made him depart. We read in the tenth verse of our scripture section these words, "Get thee hence, Satan." We also read in verse eleven, "Then the devil leaveth him."

How wonderful it would be if we would not accept impossibilities, in the spiritual realm. There is no field that the statement, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," is more applicable, than the field of Christian endeavor. The devil will magnify our obstacles and get us to give up in our efforts. However, he won't give up when we cease to try, but he will continue on in his efforts. Many of the "Big ones" could be won if we would be undaunted in our attempts. If one does not yield to our first "old routine" effort, we are tempted to give him up. I remember a man in one of my pastorates. His wife was a member of the church, even though her looks and life did not harmonize with her affiliation. (Future events have proven this was not false judgment, unchristian criticism, or a legalistic appraisal. She was proven to be immoral, left her husband, and the church. She has gone into deep disgrace.) Her husband was a business man; he owned two businesses on the main street of the city. He had other monetary interests, such as a farm and other things. He seemed to show no interest in anything spiritual. The only time that he would come to church was the last night of a revival meeting. God moved on our church and gave us a revival. We not only increased greatly in numbers, but the people cleaned up, moved up, and prepared to go up. This man came on the last night of one of our revival meetings. The fire was burning and the glory was rolling. Before we could even pass the offering plates the glory of God swept over the congregation. People were shouting and rejoicing. Then, without an invitation, sinners began to come to the altar. When we finally came back down to normal emotional level it was ten o'clock. The offering had not been taken; no sermon had been preached, but an altar full of seekers had sought God. You might wonder how this all reacted on this man that seemed to have no interest in the church. He stayed through all of the rejoicing, the seeking around the altar, and the last testimony. When it was all over he said to one of the men, "I did not know that people acted like this anymore. I remember thirty-five years ago that my Methodist mother used to shout like this; but I thought that people did not do this anymore." I got to beat that man in the back like a hayseed farmer. He prayed clear through. One of his businesses had a department that sold beer. He immediately went out of that business. He entered right into the activities of the church. He delighted in going to prayer meetings and revival meetings. If any opportunity was given to testify, you would find him on his feet, with his face aglow telling what God had set him free from. He loved to call himself the "sin hater." The last time I ever saw this man he drove into another state, where I was conducting a revival meeting, to hear me preach. Thank God, that was one of the "Big ones" that did not get away!

Fourth, we need to be **CONSTANTLY AFTER OUR GOAL**: The consistency of the devil after his goal is proven by his astounding success. One would only have to take a hasty glance to see that the masses are his victims.

Seasons, conditions, successes, or defeats do not keep him from constantly seeking his goal. His goal is the destruction of souls! Think what would happen if each Christian worked as consistently after his goal the salvation of souls! If he would do this he would be assured of his ultimate goal, the eternal city.

If we would not let seasons, conditions, successes, or defeats hinder us, we would surely reach our goal. In this "mad rush" of this end time world, there seems to be no convenient season to work for God and the lost. It seems that churches are having to diminish the time they can slate revival meetings, because there are so many "others" that demand the time of the people. It seems that conditions have to be just right or we feel there is little hope of producing. This keeps us from trying so many times. If a few successes become our lot, we will have to fight the temptation of becoming satisfied. How wonderful it would be if we would be encouraged by our successes to work a little harder, instead of becoming satisfied to coast awhile. If we run into defeat, we will have to fight real hard to not become so discouraged until we cease our efforts. How wonderful it would be when defeats come, if we would be driven to our knees. If we would be constant in our efforts, God would make ways where, seemingly, there were no ways.

The Apostle Paul had many discouragements, hindrances, and persecutions. In fact, he faced so many times of suffering, until he was known as the "apostle of suffering." Still, we hear him saying, "None of these things move me." He moved relentlessly on; though his path led through rebukes, false accusations, beatings, stoning, prison, and finally death. In each of these circumstances, he was constantly trying to win others and press toward the mark. Even in his last move on earth he left his final report, so that it could encourage other faithful ones that were on the way. He said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Tim. 4:7, 8) Paul had gotten a glimpse of the eternal city and he was determined to reach his goal. Who is there that has any doubt that he did?

If we will fight the devil with all of our might, but be like him in these four ways, we will also see the city.

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## 02 -- PAUL'S SECRET OF SUCCESS -- Phil. 3:13, 14

"But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." v-13b, 14

Paul was a success in life, That is a statement that is accepted in all religious circles. Even in the face of the fact that he left no money for schools, hospitals, or charity at his death; he worked with his hands, spent a number of years in prison, and finally died a victim of Nero's block; he was a success.

His preaching caused kings to tremble, and common people to rejoice. From his pen came words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that still today instruct men in righteousness.

Paul, as it were, is giving his testimony to the whole world here. He is giving three basic reasons for his success. These three basic, reasons will assure success for everyone. Let us give these three reasons careful attention.

First, THIS ONE THING I DO: There was one consuming passion in his life. That must be first, once, and always. Everything else must fail in line behind this one important thing. Rightly, could the Apostle Paul be called the man of the "Undivided Interest"?

This one consuming passion has been the characteristic of all those that have succeeded in their endeavor. Christ was a good example of this. He made it plain that doing the will of the Father, that sent Him, was His meat. This was His one guiding star. Whether understood or misunderstood, he held steadfastly to that course. He did not let kinsmen, friends, disciples, or the devil, keep Him from doing the will of the Father. Thomas Edison was so consumed in his work, until he was not conscious of what others were doing, or not doing. He worked early and late to make his experiments a success. When failure came he continued to work on, until failure was turned into success. Henry Ford had one consuming passion. The fact that he was striving for something different, did not detour him. Because others were making criticizing remarks did not stop him. He knew what he desired to do, and would not be satisfied until he saw it accomplished.

There was no warfare in the affections of Paul, between God and business, loved ones, friends, or self. All of these things had to take their place, behind the one consuming passion. Business, with all of its demands, could not force its way up the line, It was just not that important to the Apostle Paul. He had a far greater interest. Loved ones, even as dear as they might be, had to take their rightful place, back in the line, behind his one consuming passion. Friends, as priceless as they are, could not become priceless enough to compete with his one consuming passion. Self, with its many desires and demands, had been denied by the apostle, He had had the old self nature crucified by the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He, continually, kept his legitimate appetites in their rightful place. We hear him say, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (I Cor. 9:27) He further said, "neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy," (Acts 20:24)

The Apostle James said, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:8) Just as a drunken man's physical equilibrium is distorted by alcohol, so the spiritual equilibrium is distorted by divided interest. When one has a mind to serve God and a mind to do other things, he is unstable. Does this not explain the great wave of vacillation that is keeping the church from moving forward in victorious strides today? There are entirely too many that desire to serve God, but their whole will has never been completely surrendered. Therefore, they find there is a constant warfare between the will of God and their own stubborn will.

The Apostle Paul got it settled and put God first in everything. When you can put God first in what many are pleased to call "little things," you will be surprised how the big things will take care of themselves. As Dr. Purkiser said, "A straw is not as large as a telephone pole, but it will show you the way the wind is blowing much quicker." When one can't be obedient in the little matters of dress, adornment, and illegal associations, you can rest assured that he will never be true in the larger things. I remember a layman in Arkansas that was the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce public speaking committee. A desired speaker wanted to change his engagement to a Wednesday night. This man canceled the speaker because it was prayer meeting night. I am sure there are many that would criticize the actions of this man, but those that will criticize will not be

faithful to their vows. They vowed to faithfully attend the means of grace. How wonderful it would be if each, supposed to be, Christian could honestly say, "This one thing I do."

Second, FORGETTING THE PAST: Surely, if anyone had a past he should forget, it was the Apostle Paul. He had persecuted the church, even unto death. Little wonder he was made to cry out, "I am the chief of sinners." However, the apostle got everything under the blood, and left it there. He realized that he would never press on unless he forgot the past. He could not live in the past and press on toward the goal. Therefore, he had to forget his past sins, blunders, and hurts in life. He was sure that God had put his sins as far as the East is from the West. He was perfectly happy to leave them there, and not live in remorse over them. He could say, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus," (Rom. 8:1) If the devil can get one to live in remorse over his past sins he will keep him from pressing on.

He was letting his blunders remain in the past. Yes, he had made many of them. We all will make them. I am sure that I have made plenty of them. Anyone that will do very much will do part of it wrong. The apostle was determined that these blunders would not defeat him, but he must forget them.

He was willing to leave the hurts of life with the just judge. It hurt when Demas forsook him, having loved this present world. It hurt when Alexander, the coppersmith, did him much evil. However, he was willing to let God take care of that matter, so he said, "the Lord reward him according to his works." (2 Tim. 4:14) It hurt when the disciples would not receive him at Jerusalem, because of fear. It hurt when he and Barnabas had a difference of opinion about John Mark. It hurt to have to withstand Peter to his face. However, the apostle knew he could not stay with these hurts in life; he must forget them.

Third, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK: The apostle was depicting a Greek race. He seemed to say, "I am hitting the home stretch, and I am now throwing my all into the race. The finish line is not too far ahead. I am pressing, or exerting every effort., There are no divided demands for my energy, but it is all to do this one thing.

As the race is nearing an end, there is no time to look over my shoulder at past sins, blunders, or hurts. I can't even glance around to see how others are running. I must keep my eyes on the mark, or tape, at the end of the track. I don't want to break stride by looking over my shoulder, but I want to keep stride, and put my last ounce of energy into the race."

The apostle seemed to say, "every step I take, I am going farther and farther from the things that are behind, and I am getting nearer and nearer to the mark. The best is not behind, but ahead." A painter was asked, one day, which of his pictures did he consider his best one. He shocked the inquirer when he answered, "my next one."

Paul never looked back, but he hit the tape a winner; for we hear him say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:7, 8) .

Paul did not indicate that the race was a casual stroll; but it was a real fight. It had taken the very best there was within him, but he had given just that.

Paul could rightly be elated over the fact that he could report, "I have finished my course." I have actually made the finish line! I did not make a good start and then suddenly drop out of the race. I did not run well for awhile, and then become careless and begin to look around. I did not break my stride by trying to look back to see how far I had come. I have actually made the place I started for, the finish line.

Paul was confident that the righteous judge had the proper reward for one that had won the race. He knew that his crown was reserved for him, and there was one also for all the others that would run the race successfully.

Let me make a suggestion to my own heart, and to everyone that desires to make the city. Let's glue our eyes on the tape, and not look back. Surely, there have never been more distractions than we are faced with today. In this complex day in which we live, we can become engulfed in so many seemingly, legitimate things. There are so many discouraging things to try to take the heart out of us along the track that we run. There are so many "false runners" running today that we dare not get our eyes on them. They would make us become so discouraged, confused, and break our stride, until we would never finish the race. Let's just encourage our hearts that we are nearer the finish line than we have ever been. Every step takes us one step nearer the goal. Let's not dare look back, but literally burn the track up, from here on, to the finish line. Let's press, and press some more, until we have pressed our way across the goal. We'll have plenty of time to rest when we go home with the righteous Judge for that eternal day.

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### 03 -- WALKING IN GOD'S LIGHT -- I John 1:4, 7

"If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; but if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." v-6, 7

The Apostle John was one of the most positive writers in the entire Bible. He wrote his epistles always asserting there was a definite experience that could be attained on definite conditions. He was so bitter against false professors until he said if you claim the experience without meeting the conditions you lie.

In the scriptures before us we see the great need of all who profess to know Christ is to walk in the light. For by doing this we obtain fellowship with God, and cleansing from all sin by the blood of Jesus Christ. As these are the two things that every Christian needs, we should give careful attention to three important things.

First, WHAT IS LIGHT, AND FROM WHERE IS IT OBTAINED? Webster's dictionary defines physical light -- The imponderable agent by which objects are rendered visible -- an illuminating or enlightening agent. In line with this I believe we can safely say of spiritual light --



It is the illuminating or enlightening agent of God whereby His will and plan is revealed, There are two major sources: The Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The secondary sources are the preaching of the Word and the example displayed by a Spirit-filled believer. Every preacher knows that light is the most debatable subject that he can approach. I know that every time that my mouth opens that light does not come forth. I also know there is a vast difference in light and the notions of men. The Lord gave me a definition for light that Dr. Andrew Johnson said it was the best he had ever heard. This is the definition that I feel that God gave me: "Light is the revealed will of God. Whether He chooses to make His will known by the writing of His Word or the prompting of His Spirit, once that His will regarding a matter is made known it becomes binding on all that hope to come unafraid into His presence." The Apostle John made it plain when we profess to have an experience with God and are not walking in the light of these two, we are professing falsely.

When one says he has no light on certain things, that does not mean that these things are not wrong. It could mean that he has not searched the scriptures or that the Holy Spirit does not abide in his heart. I am personally convinced that the Holy Spirit is the greatest dispenser of light. I believe He will speak when preachers will not be faithful to speak. Even if the preacher will not be faithful, if the Holy Spirit is abiding in the heart, He will. He will always speak in harmony with the written Word.

The Bible on the shelf, or the Holy Spirit, not in the heart, will not guide one. That is why we all need to study the Bible and be sure the Holy Spirit is abiding in our heart.

Second, WHAT IS GAINED BY WALKING IN THE LIGHT? There are two wonderful things that are gained by walking in the light, We have fellowship with the Father, and cleansing from all sin by the blood of Christ. Although there are only a few people that realize that these are the two greatest needs of any man, they certainly are. Webster's dictionary says of fellowship -- association, communion, intimacy.

Think of being just associated with the great Alpha and Omega! To have association with the One "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance"? (Isaiah 40:12) Such an association should lift one far above the common level of this world.

Even greater is the joy of communion. Communion has the meaning of common possession. Whatever the great God has that you need you can have by faith. The Apostle Paul said, "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things." (Rom. 8:32) The "all things" would have to include grace, strength, wisdom, help, and material needs.

Still greater than the joy of association, or communion, is the joy of intimacy. Intimacy means close or confidential friendship, God is not a far-off deity that I must approach through an ambassador. He is so close until I can have Him with me all the time. I can confide in Him. When I have burdens I can take them to Him. When I have problems I can take them to Him. When there

are question marks I can take them to Him. He can confide in me. He can whisper to my heart the things that I should know and do. When other voices can't reach me, His can.

Webster's dictionary says of cleanse -- to make clean -- purify from moral impurity or guilt. Or to remove all presence of sin, and all guilt of past sin. Personally, I am perfectly willing to accept this definition, This is exactly what happens when one is sanctified wholly. There is cleansed away all the roots of sin. The expressions of carnality such as temper, jealousy, pride, and self-will are purged away. The heart is made pure and clean. This experience, and this alone, qualifies one for heaven, That is why Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

How wonderful it would be if people could only see that the heart will not be cleansed unless they walk in the light, and continue to walk in the light, If the heart is not cleansed, and thus male pure, they will never be able to come unafraid into God's presence. Therefore, the gain of walking in the light is beyond proper evaluation.

Third, WHAT IS LOST BY FAILING TO WALK IN THE LIGHT? The losses that were sustained in the crash of the stock market in 1929 pale into insignificance compared to this loss. Even though the carnal heart will blind the spiritual eye to the great loss that one receives for not walking in the light, the loss is still a grim reality.

When we fail to walk in the light we lose fellowship with God. I like to think of fellowship as two fellows in the same ship. They are sailing together, heading for the same port. When one fails to walk in the light he no longer can sail in the same ship with the Lord. Neither can he hope to go to God's eternal port.

When we fail to walk in the light we can't unlock the storehouse of God. Faith and rebellion can't walk hand in hand. When one fails to walk in the light he is ultimately rebelling, or refusing to walk in the light. Therefore, we may say words and call it prayer; we may ask God to give us things and to do things for us; we can ask, but we can't receive because we will not be asking in faith.

When we fail to walk in the light God's presence is not intimate. We cannot confide in Him; neither can He confide in us. We can't revel in His presence; therefore, our association with Him does not thrill the soul. Would it not be a profitable thing for each one to make a careful check at this very point? Does your fellowship with God thrill you as once it did? Really, it should thrill you more. That is why the wise man said, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Prov. 4:8) I am aware that there is far more to salvation than emotional manifestations. However, it is mighty distressing to me to see these manifestations strangely absent from most of our services. If one is of the temperament that he can shout, and has ever shouted, it would be dangerous for those shouts to die.

When we fail to walk in the light we can't have the cleansing of the blood. The cleansing of the blood is an instantaneous experience, but it is also a continual process. Both the instantaneous experience, and the continual process, is conditioned on walking in the light. One can never be

cleansed until he will walk, or obey, all the light that he has received. One can not remain cleansed unless he continues to walk in all the light he has had, and all the new light that comes his way.

When we fail to walk in the light there will be darkness where once there was light, guilt where once there was peace. When we dare to look into God's Word, or listen to a faithful preacher preach we will have to wrestle with question marks.

The tragedy of the church today is the vast number who are not walking in the light. The, supposed to be revival meeting, has not gone many services until usually the majority of the members are wrestling with question marks. Instead of facing up to the fact that they are not obeying God, they either judge themselves by themselves, or they ask each other if they think that these things are wrong. Usually the one they ask is doing the very thing they are asking about. Naturally, even if the one asked is the pastor's wife, she will not say, "yes, I do think these things are wrong but I am deliberately rebelling against light." She will probably say, "I don't see any harm in that." Then, she will probably tell that so many other, supposed to be, Christians are doing it.

Because so many professing Christians are not walking in the light is the reason that sweeping revivals are not being seen today. This is why that many kinfolk have not been saved. I shall never forget going to hold a meeting at a large capital city of the south. I was impressed with the hilarious way the people entered into the services. Seldom would the song service ever end before there would be shouts and demonstrations. There was a man that always sat on the front pew. Usually, by the time the song service would be half over he would be on his feet and reminded me of a cheer leader. As he was making one of his sweeps across the front of the building I saw something. I saw a big ring on his finger that looked nearly big enough to mash two "tatter bugs" at one time. I remember that I fought myself for two nights. I said to myself, "keep your big mouth shut, you have said if people could shout and wear these things you would keep quiet." About the fourth night this man came to me and said, "Preacher, I want you to pray for my wife." I asked him where his wife sat in the service. He said she had not been there. I asked him when she was coming. He said that he hoped she would come on the last Saturday night. I'll never forget when I saw his wife for the first time. She was standing in the doorway of the church. She was a real large, not fat, woman. She must have weighed 240 pounds. She had rusty hair and a freckled face. She was a tough-looking proposition. I remember that I thought, "she will never seek God." However, the faithful Holy Spirit worked in spite of the lack of faith of the evangelist. Before the altar call was made the woman was crying. She pushed her way out from where she was sitting and rushed to the altar. When she prayed through I looked for her husband, but he was on the other side of the church. After the woman had rejoiced for awhile on her knees she began to twist at her fingers. I thought, at first, that she might have poor circulation, but soon discovered that this was not the case. She had something in the valleys of her fat fingers that she did not want anymore. I heard the four rings as they tingled on the altar. Then I did look for her husband! He was hanging over a chair about like a limp sack of sand. The next night I found out the reason why. He got up before the people and made his confession. He said that he had been under conviction over his ring for two years. He said he had caught himself shouting with the hand that had the ring on it, in the air and he would pull that hand down. He said that he would be leading prayer-meeting, and would find himself admonishing the people with that hand and would pull it

back. When his wife got converted she walked in more light than he had, even though he professed to be sanctified. This story could! be told all over the country.

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04 -- LOVE, TESTED BY HATE -- Ps. 34:12, 16

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil" Ps. 97:10.

The proof of some things are so clear and concise until they are overlooked. This is another proof of the deceptive powers of Satan. There is no reason for doubt about the proof of our love for God -- IT IS TO HATE EVIL! How sad that we have made the test of our love of God, everything but what God does. We make it church membership, baptism, testimony, broadmindedness, etc. None of these things, or all of them combined, really prove our love for God. Many have done and are doing, all these things, but they do not really hate evil. The dictionary tells us that evil means, injurious; bad; sinful; wicked; wickedness; harm.

The reason that evil is so prevalent today is because the majority of those that say they love God, don't hate evil, With the largest part of the teenage and adult population members of churches, while evil is constantly increasing, is definite proof that most church members don't, really, hate evil. Because this is true we should, carefully, notice three things.

First, ALL THAT HAVE EVER REALLY LOVED GOD HAVE HATED EVIL: Those who have hated evil are like the "WHO'S WHO" of the Bible. Space would not allow us to mention even a majority of them, but we should notice a short list of them. Elijah, slaying the prophets of Baal on Carnal, reveals this truth. Elijah knew that it was not enough to just expose evil, but it would have to be destroyed. He not only proved the false prophets to be evil, but he saw they were destroyed. In all of his activities, miracles, and accomplishments, he did not prove his love for God more than when he was destroying the prophets of evil. Amos denouncing the sins of Israel by name, is another revelation of love for God. Even when he was calling the fat, lazy, rich women cows he was displaying real love for God. Their actions were evil, and he hated it. John the Baptist, denouncing the Pharisees and calling them vipers, was another glowing example of love for God. These professors of religion were evil; and John the Baptist hated evil to the point he would even tell the ruler that his taking his brother's wife was wrong. Christ, using the whip on the money changers, was a brilliant example of love for God. Christ was so much for His Father's house, until He was against anything against it.

Evil has caused all heartaches, tears, death, even the death of Jesus on the cross. The long list of sorrows and heartaches that evil has caused is enough to stir each one that is not spiritually dead, or willfully blind.

God is against all evil; all evil is against God. God, being holy, cannot tolerate sin in any degree. Every phase of evil is directly offensive to His holy nature. If the Spirit of God abides in any individual, that individual will hate evil. To love God is to hate that which is against God. There is no hope of ever having a change in the ungodly, lustful, suggestive ways of men today.

until those that profess to love God, begin to hate sin. They hate it to the point they take a spiritual offensive against it.

Second, ALL THAT LOVE GOD HATE EVIL IN EVERY REALM: They hate evil in SELF, enough that they never stop until they turn from all evil, and have all evil purged from their heart. They even "Abstain from the very appearance of evil." No one that engages in sinful acts, attend sinful places, uses sinful language, wears immodest attire, really loves God. He may belong to a church, teach or preach, and claim to love Him with all of his heart. However, those that really love God will hate evil to the extent they will turn from all evil. They just go out of the sin business! John, the Revelator, knew this and said, "He that is born of God does not commit sin." (I John 3:9) We have every scriptural reason to conclude that those that commit sin are not born of God, and they do not love God. Not only will they turn from all acts of evil, but they will not stop until they have all evil purged out of them. They will not be satisfied until the prayer of the Apostle Paul has been answered in their life. We read that prayer in first Thessalonians, chapter five and verse twenty-three, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Every expression of carnality, whether it is expressed in temper, jealousy, pride, self will, etc. must be purged out, by the cleansing baptism of the Holy Ghost. Realizing that their body is the temple (housing place) of the Holy Ghost, they are careful to abstain from even the appearance of evil, They are so careful in their actions, attire, and associations, until they have a "margin of safety." They are so set against evil, and so separated from it, until they give no appearance of it.

They hate evil in their LOVED ONES, enough that they never stop praying and urging until they turn from all evil, and have all evil purged from their hearts; they even abstain from the appearance of evil. They hate evil to the point, they would far rather have their children to be holy than to be popular, or financially successful. They would rather have their companion holy, and live in humble quarters, rather than allow them to mingle with the world, and have more of this world's goods. They are so set against evil the very appearance of it, about their loved ones, will cause them much concern and prayer. They certainly don't give in to the silly idea that, maybe this is a different day, so maybe their loved ones can do things that are wrong for them to do. Personally, I have always felt that anything that was wrong for my wife to do was wrong for my daughters to do.

They hate evil in EVERYONE until they will never stop praying and witnessing to the lost. They won't lose their protest or shock of evil. As Lot, if their soul is actually righteous, their soul will be vexed from day to day, in seeing and hearing. Instead of giving in to the false idea, "It must be alright because so many are doing it," they will hate evil all the more because so many are being defeated by it.

The downfall of every spiritual awakening is the fact that entirely too many lose their hatred for evil, and begin to CONDONE where once they CONDEMNED. If one will travel from twenty-five to thirty-five thousand miles with us each year, he will know what I am talking about. He will find that far more time is spent in trying to condone the lives of, supposed to be, holiness children, than in condemning their evil ways and attire.

Third, ALL THAT LOVE GOD ARE GOING TO A PLACE FREE FROM ALL EVIL: The very thought of this should make every person, that truly loves God, to rejoice. Those that really love God are going to live with God! They are going to live in the holy atmosphere that surrounds Him, They will live in the holy place He has prepared. They will live with all those that have been washed white in the blood of the Lamb.

The Apostle Peter tells us about the place God lives in. We read in 2 Peter 3:13, "We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." The outstanding thing, to the Apostle Peter, was not the material splendor of the place, but the moral quality of the place. Those that really love God are not looking, primarily, for material, mansions, gold-paved streets, indescribable surroundings; but they are looking for an eternal abode, free from all evil. A place where only righteousness dwelleth.

The Apostle Paul tells us who will go to this place. We read in Ephesians 5:25, 27, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." I am sure that most Bible students realize that the word church means, called out ones. Those that have been called out of the bondage of sin, into the liberty of grace. Those that have been called out of darkness, into the light of the gospel.

Think how free from evil they will really be! Not one spot, not one wrinkle, or any such thing; but it shall be holy and without blemish. Think of no spots on their garments! The heart and life both holy. Think of no wrinkles of decay! All will be holy eternally. All will be holy and without blemish! In every sense they will be holy, pure, and perfect.

If one doesn't really hate evil, can live peaceable with it, is not forced to condemn it, he would not feel at home in such a place, with such a select group, in the presence of a Holy God. The misery that a sinful, or carnal individual has in this life, in the presence of a group of rejoicing, sanctified people would be magnified, without measure, in that eternal abode. Of course, he will never enter that land; but if he possibly could, he would soon be begging to be allowed to leave.

If one really hates evil, the promise of such an eternal abode will encourage him to fight on, cry out, and be marked if needs be. Even though he is in the minority, he is aware that he is fighting for a worthy cause. Others may lose their protest, and subscribe to the theory that they will just live their religion; but this one will keep his "sigh and cry." Although he is marked, in his own crowd, as being a radical, fanatic, legalist, he is not ashamed of it, but proud. He wants everyone to know that he literally hates evil in every form.

If one does not really hate evil, he will not have any real hunger for heaven. Instead of longing for a place of purity, he will look on heaven as an eternal "Retirement Home."

Will you ask your heart this question right now? "How much do I hate evil"?

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## 05 -- SPIRITUAL MULTIPLE-SCLEROSIS -- Mark 8:14, 18

"Have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears hear ye not? and do ye not remember?" v-17, 18.

IN this day of great knowledge, so many new diseases and cures have been found. However, in the face of all this knowledge, there are still those diseases for which they have found no cure. One of those diseases is Multiple-Sclerosis. Multiple-Sclerosis is the third or fourth in disorders that effects the nervous system. Ultimately, the important organs of the body, involved in seeing, hearing, or taking care of the digestive functions become affected. The memory is greatly affected.

Sad to say, Spiritual Multiple-Sclerosis has been active since the fall of man, and seems to be far worse today. Each one should examine and see if he is a victim of this dread disease. A careful and prayerful examination is needed, because usually, one with Multiple-Sclerosis is optimistic about his condition. Let us prayerfully examine three of your spiritual organs.

First, HOW IS YOUR SPIRITUAL SEEING? Do you see the Word of God as the absolute authority? Does it take sway over what loved ones, friends, and even preachers say? Can you see the wisdom in the instruction the Apostle Paul gave to the Romans, when he said, "Let God be fine, and every man a liar"? (Rom. 3:4) Is your vision clear enough to see that even your companion, children, brothers, sisters, mother, or father, are wrong when they are contrary to the Word of God? This is one of the first noticeable symptoms with many people. They just can't see how so many, what they call, good people can be wrong, even if the Word of God clearly condemns them. They begin to wonder if maybe they have seen the Word correctly all the time; or if maybe there is not some other meaning to the Word of God, that they have never known? They just. can't see how they could admit that some loved one, favorite preacher, or religious teacher, could be wrong, even though he is out of step with the written Word.

Do you see all of the Word of God as important? Do you read second Timothy 3:16 as the Bible gives it; or do you try to read it as one preacher I challenged? This preacher had a daily radio program in the town where I was pastoring. He bragged that his church was the one that Christ established, and he preached only the Word of God. One day I called him just when he had finished his radio broadcast, and told him he had misquoted scripture, This was an awful insult to him, as this was the one thing that he claimed that he did not do. He immediately asked me what I meant. I told him to read his text he had used over the air. He started to read, "All scriptures that are given by inspiration of God -- " I stopped him before he could continue, I said, "Read it right; that is the way you read it over the air." He began again, "All scriptures that are given by inspiration of God -- " I stopped him again. I said, "No, read it again." He said, "What do you mean"? I told him he was putting in the two words, "that are," when they should not be there. The word that should be there was, "is." So he began to read the verse as it is actually recorded in the scriptures, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." This preacher emphasized that only the New Testament was binding on us today. I reminded him that the Old Testament is just as much inspired as the New Testament. The Old Testament is just as profitable for doctrine as the New, when we

rightly divide it. Do you claim to believe that all scriptures are given by inspiration of God, but some of it is not important, as one, supposed to be, holiness preacher that I held a meeting for? God began to break on the services with deep conviction. Some of his people were seeking God; others were remarking they had not seen a move like this in a long time. However the pastor's wife became very indignant. She finally forced her husband to call me into the front room to have a talk with me. He couldn't bring himself to mention the thing she was so disturbed about, so she blurted it out. She said, "Why do you preach against women cutting their hair"? I told her because the Bible did. She said, "I have heard that all my life but I don't believe it." She had attended the Clinton camp for years. She worked herself into such a fit of anger until her husband had to call her down. I then said to the pastor, "Will you please tell me just what the first sixteen verses of the eleventh chapter of first Corinthians means to you"? He immediately said, "I don't know, I have never taken time to study it; it is not that important to me." I asked, "You mean the Word of God is not important to you"? He said, "That part is not important enough." That man was a member of the District Advisory Board of that district. He was pastoring the largest church of his denomination in that city of over one million.

Do you see the need of repentance for all? Can you see that Jesus never one time ever said, "Make a decision for me"? but He did say, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Can you see there is a vast difference in making a decision for Christ to be the substitute for your sins, and repenting, which means turning from them?

Do you see the need of a godly walk? Do you see that the only way you can actually convince others that you are a new creature, is by the way that you walk? Can you see that as you are an epistle read of all men, all they can read is what they see?

Do you see the need of Entire Sanctification for all? Does "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" mean just that to you?

Second, HOW IS YOUR SPIRITUAL HEARING? Do you hear the Spirit calling you to daily devotions? Over the clamor of the many voices, that call you to labor, pleasure, personal interest, do you hear the voice of the Spirit calling you for daily devotions? Is that voice so loud and clear until you are caused to not only hear it, but to obey it? Or do the many other voices become so loud and demanding until the voice of the Spirit is drowned out? One of the first symptoms of this dreaded disease is the fact that one can be-come so busy with seemingly, good things, until day after day can pass by, without him hearing the Spirit calling him to devotions.

Do you hear the Spirit calling you to service? Can you hear Jesus saying to the disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest"? (Matt. 9:37:38) Knowing you were saved to serve, do you hear the Spirit calling you to pray for some soul, give a word of testimony, make a call on some needy soul, or invite someone to the house of God? Another noticeable symptom of this dreaded disease is the fact that one can go day in and day out spending all of his time on self, and seemingly, never hear the Spirit calling him to service.

Do you hear the Spirit calling you to some needed Grace? If you are not Sanctified Wholly can you hear the Spirit, Who is always faithful, calling you to this needed grace? Another symptom



of this dreaded disease is the fact that one can know he is not Sanctified Wholly, but he can go day after day without hearing the Spirit calling him to this needed grace. He can, finally, attend revival meetings where the subject is preached on, and others even go to the altar to seek the experience; but he, seemingly, hears no voice calling him. This means the soul is either dead, or almost dead. It usually indicates the fact that this one has lost his justification because he did not go on and get sanctified.

Do you hear God's voice over all the other voices, that are clamoring to be heard today? Do you esteem Him more than loved ones, friends, possessions, pleasures, or self? Do you keep His voice in clear focus, so that He can direct you every day?

Third, HOW IS YOUR SPIRITUAL MEMORY? Do you remember the "pit from whence you were digged"? Does your memory take you back through memory lane, and remind you of the awful pit of sin you once languished in? Does it remind you that you were helpless, without any hope of breaking free in your own strength? Does it remind you that all the silver and gold of the world could not pay your sin debt? Does it refresh your mind with the glorious fact that the moment you called on Jesus, in true repentance, He lifted you up out of the horrible pit, and put your feet on solid foundation? One of the first symptoms of this dreaded disease is the fact that one forgets so quickly what Christ has done for him, and feels it such a chore to do something for the work of Christ.

Do you remember the promises your lips uttered when you were in trouble? Does your memory remind you how heavy the load of guilt and sin was upon you? Does it remind you of the promises you made the Lord as you struggled with this awful load? Does it refresh those promises your lips uttered when you said, "I'll break clean from every filthy habit, turn from every known sin, sever from the ungodly crowd, shun the things that have the appearance of evil"? Maybe you did not express it exactly that way; but if you were ever truly converted you said as much in substance. Do you remember to keep those promises? One of the first symptoms of this dreaded disease is the fact that one can be-come so careless about those promises. Things just don't seem as wrong as once they did, or they fail to shock anymore.

Do you remember your vows when you were seeking God with all your heart? Do you recall the vows, quite often, that you made the Lord? Do you remember when you told the Lord He could have all of you? You told Him that He could have your hands to do His labor, your feet to run His errands, your lips to speak His praise, your heart to burden over the lost. You told Him He could have all there was of you, and all that He could make you to be. You told Him that all you know, and all you ever hope to know, He could have. You told Him that all you had, and all that He would ever entrust into your keeping, you would surrender to Him. Maybe you did not say it in just that many words; but if you were ever sanctified wholly, you had to come to just this point of total surrender. One of the first symptoms of this dreaded disease is the fact that one can work his hands so hard, run his feet so swiftly, burden his heart so greatly, but all in the mart of trade. The cares of life may engulf him until he seems to forget, completely, the vows he made the Lord when he was seeking to be sanctified.

Do you remember to keep your consecration active? As you promised God you would go where He said go, do you always go when He speaks? As you said you would always give when

He said give, do you always give when He speaks? As you said He could direct your life completely, do you allow Him to do the directing? One of the sure symptoms of this dreaded disease is the fact that one can, so glibly, explain away why he is not doing what he promised God he would do.

Do you have any of the symptoms of Spiritual Multiple-Sclerosis?

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## 06 -- THE SAME WORD FOR ALL

"For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity" Is. 57:15.

"I am the Lord, I change not" Mal. 3:6.

Poor limited man has never been able to really comprehend an unlimited God. He has struggled through the years trying to make God small enough that he could understand Him. Seemingly, he doesn't realize that when his God is small enough for him to understand, He is not large enough to meet his needs. When understanding seems hopeless, so many try to deny there is a God. Their little intellectual ego is so inflated, until they want to deny anything they can't comprehend. Others won't deny there is a God, but keep contending that God changes for each generation, as the weather changes for each season. However, the Lord tells us, "I am the Lord, I change not."

This statement is very definite. We must face the fact that God does not change for different generations. His word is the same to all men, of whatever generation they may have lived in. There are three basic reasons why this is true:

First, HE SPOKE WITH ALL ETERNITY IN VIEW: Poor, limited man can only see for the present, so he can't comprehend eternity. In fact, he can't really know what even one day will bring forth; therefore, he can't grasp what an existence without end could be. Mr. Webster, in a feeble attempt to define eternity said, "infinite duration." Many other men have tried to define eternity, but each of them have also failed. The best definition that I have ever seen is this, "Eternity cannot be defined. Beginningless and endless, it cannot be measured. Its past increased, its future diminished; it has no past, it has no future; it has no middle, it has no part. An unanalyzable tremendous unit, it is something which always was, always is, and always will be. If asked what is ETERNITY, one can only answer, ETERNITY! It is older than the world, older than the sun, older than the stars, older than angels, as old as God. Yet, no older than when worlds, suns, stars, and angels were made, and never will be any older, yet never was any younger."

God is as much present a thousand years ago, or a thousand years hence, as He is this moment. One of God's attributes is immensity. He fills all of eternity. This that we call time, is only an infinitesimal part of eternity.

Because of our limitations, we feel that the little day that we live in is of great importance, and God will just have to adjust Himself to it. This has been the thinking of so many in every

generation, However, all of the generations combined, both those that have been and those that will be, are only an infinitesimal part of eternity. God saw it all in a glance and spoke with every generation in mind.

Nothing catches God by surprise. Even though men are shocked by the changes in events, God knew it was going to happen all the time. This is why Jesus told His disciples, "for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." (Matt. 6:8) When the skies suddenly turn dark, the wind begins to blow from, seemingly, every direction, we feel inclined to, frantically, inform God that an emergency has arisen. However, long before the first dark cloud appeared, or the first puff of wind came, God knew all about it.

When God inspired men to write His Word, He spoke with all eternity in view. How wonderful it would be if each one, that claims to be a follower of God, would realize this. Years, conditions, locations, and changed views do not change God's Word one iota. If God's inspired Word ever condemned a thing, that thing will stand condemned, even if everyone begins to do it. If God's inspired Word ever instructs us to do a thing, that thing will always be demanded, even if no one is doing it. It is, certainly, the height of spiritual ignorance for anyone to justify his failure by saying, "this is a different day." I would like to ask, "a different day to whom"? It certainly is not a different day to God. He saw this day before he ever made the heavens and the earth.

Second, HE SPOKE WITH ALL CHANGES IN VIEW: Many are shocked to know that God saw every step of the "Church Age," and inspired the Apostle John to write about them. In the Revelation, John shares with us some of the things that God revealed to him. In the first three chapters, he tells us about the seven churches of Asia, which were the seven steps of the "Church Age."

1. THE APOSTOLIC AGE. This was from Pentecost to about 100 A.D. This step was represented by the church at Ephesus.

2. THE MARTYR AGE. This was from 100 A.D, to about the time of Constantine. This step was represented by the church at Smyrna.

3. THE MUSTARD SEED AGE. This was from Constantine to the formation of the Roman Catholic Church. (In spite of their claim of being formed at Pentecost, they were actually formed about 595 A.D. This step is represented by the church at Pergamos.

4. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC AGE. This was from 596 A.D, to the Protestant Reformation. This step is represented by the church at Thyatira.

5. FROM REFORMATION TO WESLEY. This step was represented by the church at Sardis.

6. THE WESLEYAN REVIVAL AGE. This step was represented by the church at Philadelphia.

7. THE DRAG-NET AGE. From after the Wesleyan period to, and beyond our time. This step is represented by the church at Laodicea.

Everyone of these steps were seen clearly, by the Lord, before they ever came into being. What they would do, and fail to do, was known to God. What they would think, and refuse to think, was known to God. Not one thing has, or will happen, that God did not already know. How absurd to think God would change His demands, just because people change their views and actions. All of these changed views and actions were known to God when He spoke through inspired men. He knew that they would put more dependence in the words of men than they would in the word of God. Therefore, He inspired the Apostle Paul to write, "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent, Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:19:21)

Third, HE SPOKE WITH ALL ETERNAL DESTINIES IN VIEW: There is no wonder that God tells us in the last chapter of His Book, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:13, 14) God seems to remind man, for the last time, that He is the only eternal One. He was, before all the thoughts and actions of men. When all actions of men must cease, God still will be. He also seems to remind us that He actually knows who will, and who won't be able to enter into the city of God. God never predestines any man, but in His (over all) wisdom He knows the choices that each one will make. He tells us "Blessed (happy) are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." If language can be clear, if implication is a safe means of teaching, anyone can see that only those that do His commandments will have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates, into the city.

God has more commandments than the ten that Moses brought off of the mountain. The Apostle Paul, the apostle to this Church-Age, made it very plain that there were more commandments of the Lord than the ones that Moses brought down on the tablets of stone. He said, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." (I Cor. 14:37) The apostle was not only the master theologian in the book of Romans, and other places; but he was also the one that could write on the practical side of Christian living. He could tell every age group how they should conduct themselves, in the book of Titus. He could tell us God's divine order for the home, in First Corinthians. He also told us in that same book, chapter eleven that long hair was a glory to a woman. He said that it was a badge of subjection, given to them by God. He also said it was a shame for a woman's hair to be shaven or shorn, His writing on the practical side of Christian living was just as much inspired, and just as binding, as his theological discourses.

The history of every church has been the fact that they followed their own ideas, instead of the eternal Word of God. When they first came into existence their hearts were warm, and their faith was child-like, They were perfectly willing to let God be true. They were willing to let Him mean exactly what He had said. The first generation of any holiness awakening is holy; because they follow God's Word fully. The second generation is wise; because they have established

colleges and trained their children. They become very smart; so smart until they see things different from their fathers. The third generation is worldly. They feel that things have changed. They look at things altogether different from what their parents and grandparents did. They feel that this is a different day; and they can not be expected to hold to some of the things that people did in another day. Seemingly, they don't realize that every generation they educate, they continue to go farther and farther away from the stand of the founding fathers . It never seems to come to their thinking that God spoke the same thing for both them, and the founding fathers. What He demanded of one, He demands of both. Neither one of them can enter the city except they keep the commandments that are written in the eternal Word.

Do you realize that God spoke the same word for all?

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#### 07 -- THE ONE INDISPENSABLE THING -- Ex. 33:12, 13

"And he said unto him; if thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. And he said, my presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest" v-14, 15.

There is one indispensable thing needed to successfully run a church. That one thing is not money, buildings, or human personnel. All of these things are needful, but not indispensable. The one indispensable thing is the presence of God. Regardless of how nice the building, how educated and trained the personnel, or how much money is raised, if the presence of God is not there the services have failed. When His presence is real, whether it be in a tent, brush arbor, store building, or under a tree, the heart is made glad.

In this conversation between God and Moses, this wonderful truth is made plain, It would be very profitable for us to notice three very important things:

First, THE PRESENCE OF GOD: When one speaks of the presence of God he has stepped into an indefinable field. The heart can be gloriously aware of it, but the tongue can never properly describe it. Adam Clarke tells us that the Hebrew word, that is translated presence in the King James version, can also be translated faces. He depicts God as saying, "I shall give thee manifestations of my grace and goodness through the whole of thy journey. I shall vary my appearances for thee, as thy necessities shall require." Anyone that tries to make the presence of God to be just one expression of the emotion, has failed to see the scope of that wonderful presence.

Moses would not try to go one mile without the presence of God. He knew that unless he had supernatural assistance, and a most particular providence, he could have no hope to govern, or support the people in the desert. All the other "Things" would not take the place of the one thing needed most.

The presence of God is the crowning of every act, or service for God. When Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, it was the presence of God that made the difference and convinced the people. His building an altar, preparing the sacrifice, pouring water on it all, would

have been without meaning without the fire falling, It was when the fire fell, the presence of God was manifested, that the people were convinced that the Lord was God. When Abraham prepared his sacrifice, it was the presence of God that gave it meaning. His preparing the sacrifice, fixing each animal and fowl as instructed, did not have real meaning until the burning lamp passed between those pieces. Probably, the smoking furnace might be designed as an emblem of the sore afflictions of the Israelites in Egypt; but the burning lamp was certainly the symbol of the Divine presence. This Divine presence was the crowning thing of the entire ordeal. The length of time in building, the enormous amount of cost, the beauty of construction, and the number needed in building the temple was not the most important thing. The wonderful, and very inclusive, prayer that Solomon prayed was not the most important thing. The enormous sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and hundred and twenty thousand sheep, was not the most important thing. The most important thing is found in the seventh chapter of second Chronicles, verse one, "Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house." No wonder we read in the third verse of this same chapter, "And when all the children of Israel saw the fire come down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." Regardless of whatever else we may have, it is the presence of God in the local church service that is really important, Whether that presence comes in deep conviction, spirit of praise, glorious exhilarating surges, it is this Divine presence that makes the service have any real meaning.

The presence of God has always been the identification of God's people. Peter and John had that identification at the gate of the temple, even though their pocketbook was empty. How sad to go into a beautiful church building, listen to trained fingers play the organ and trained voices sing, hear a trained minister deliver a message, but never sense the Divine presence.

Second, THE CONDITION FOR HIS PRESENCE: Lowly environments are no barrier to the presence of God. He will manifest His presence in a burning bush on the back side of the desert, in a back shed room, or under a brush arbor. However, there are some conditions that God does demand.

Every sin must be confessed and forsaken. Sin and the Divine presence will not walk hand in hand. The Psalmist said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (Ps. 66:18)

The heart must be made clean by the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Apostle Paul tells us, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:6, 7)

There must be the right relationship with the brethren. That is why Jesus told us, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (Matt. 5:23, 24) No wonder the Psalmist said, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon

the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments" (Ps. 133:1, 2)

There must be a willingness for the human to be pushed into the background, at any time that the Spirit of God desires to completely direct the service. I believe in divine order. Being haphazard in the conducting of a service is no sign of piety. However, the service should be flexible enough for the Holy Spirit to take control at any place.

We must demand no substitutes. Moses made it plain to the Lord that he would not be satisfied to even be led by an angel. He demanded the presence of the Lord! If we can be satisfied to have some entertaining singing, a few correct religious procedures, and a little non-anointed message, we can rest assured that this is all that we will have, If we have the presence of the Lord we must demand it, and not be satisfied without it.

Third, THE RESULTS OF HIS PRESENCE: There are some definite results. when the presence of the Lord is with any people. When these results are not found then one had better examine again that which they have called God's presence and see just what it really is.

One of the definite results is a separated people. Moses recognized this and said, "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be SEPARATED, I AND THY PEOPLE, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." (v:16) By this he meant, so shall we be separated by having this Divine protection, we shall be saved from idolatry, and be preserved in thy truth and in the true worshipping of thee; and thus shall we be separate from all the people that are upon the face of the earth: as all the nations of the world, the Jews only excepted, were at this time idolaters. Everyone that is not saved from every sin and sanctified wholly, has things. that he worships. It could be habits, possessions, fashions, fads, just anything that will keep the heart from yielding completely to God.

This separation is really accomplished by elevation, God said to Moses, "Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock" (v:21), When an individual, or group, is elevated into that high place by the Lord, "the things of the world seem so small." When an individual, or group, is on the level with normal men, he is too far below the place God desires him to be so that His presence can lead them.

Another result of this Divine presence is a protection from sin and worldliness. The "Glory of God in the midst" is one of the greatest protections against sin and worldliness. His presence so thrills the heart, and so satisfies its every desire, until the heart is not attracted by the things of the world. However, when this presence is not a reality, it is amazing how much sin and worldliness can come into a group that claim to be holiness people. In fact, it is a logical conclusion, when sin and worldliness are prevalent in any group, it is a proof that His Divine presence is not in the midst.

A very definite result of this Divine presence is attractiveness. Even sinners are impressed by this presence. They may not understand it, or they may be made miserable by it, but they recognize that here is something more than human. I have heard of many sinners that said, "If I am

ever a Christian, I want to be a good one." I have never heard one say, "If I am ever a Christian, I want to be a nominal, indifferent, worldly one." I am convinced that it was this Divine presence, that they have come in contact with, that made them make this statement. I heard of an organist that had played in the village church for twenty-seven years. She was not an accomplished musician; but she had the presence of God with her. The people seemed to sense this. One day a very accomplished organist came to the service and was asked to play. When the service was over, he played a tune to hurry the people out of the church; and they did hurry out. He then asked the regular organist if she knew how to play them out? She admitted that she didn't. She said, "I have tried to play for twenty-seven years. I have never tried to play people out of the church, but have always tried to help them sense the presence of God." How desperately we need this presence today! Men can sit on padded pews, amid beautiful surroundings, listening to trained personnel, and their souls starve to death. While others can sit amid very humble surroundings, and be lifted by that Divine presence into heavenly places.

Really, the only right motivation for Christian service is the Divine presence. We should never labor for popularity, human praise, or how much we can get out of it. It should be, "I labor and His presence goes with me." That is the one indispensable thing.

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#### 08 -- OFFERINGS THAT COST -- 2 Samuel 24:18, 25

"Nay, but I will buy of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which cost me nothing" v-24.

David became a man after God's own heart. No doubt one of the reasons he did was because he wanted to give offerings that cost him something. What a tragedy that so many people want to shop in the bargain basement in God's salvation store. They want that which does not cost them anything, or at the most, very much. Little do they realize that if it cost you nothing, it is worth only that.

The Lord was pleased by David's offerings, but no doubt is insulted with what most professing Christians offer Him. Araunah would have willingly given his oxen and threshing instruments to David for a sacrifice, However, this was exactly what David did not want to happen. That sacrifice would have cost only Araunah. David wanted the offering to cost David.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if this attitude was manifested by every child of God to-day? Surely there would be far more that would manifest this attitude if they would honestly face three things. Let's notice them now:

First, THE GRACE OF GOD CAME AT A COST: Paul told the Corinthian Christians, "Ye are bought with a price" (I Cor. 6:20) . Who has a tongue so learned until he could tell the price that was paid for man? Many have been the great orators that have tried. Long is the list of gifted preachers that have taxed their vocabulary to try to convey this price to their listeners. Still, when the highest flight of oratory has been taken and when the preachers have exhausted their vocabulary, the price has not been told. Mathematicians can never figure the price that was paid



for man's redemption. Even with the computers that they have to work with today they are still faced with an impossibility, For all they have to figure is in terms of silver and gold. They can invent new terms for amounts of silver and gold that are greater than any they have ever named before; however, these new terms would never tell us how much was paid for our redemption. The Apostle Peter tells us, "Ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ." (I Peter 1:18, 19) This precious blood put us into a realm of value that we do not have words or figures to describe. Who can stand on Calvary's knoll and set a true value of the blood of Christ as it flows from His dying body? There at Calvary, on a hill shaped like a skull, this great price was paid. This hill was outside the city because it was looked on as a place of shame. Only those who were vile were supposed to be crucified here. As Jesus Christ was led toward that hill He was looked on as a cursed one. The Apostle Paul said, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." (Gal. 3:13) The prophet Isaiah said of Him, "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isa. 53:12) There on that hill, nailed to a cross, amidst the jeering of those that passed by, Jesus shed His precious blood for you and every sinner, From the wounds of the thorns, the lash, the spikes, and the spear, that priceless blood flowed, That blood was the cost of your redemption! That blood cost something! It cost the Father His only begotten Son! It cost the Son His life! It cost heaven its greatest jewel! Surely the grace of God came at a cost!

Second, REAL SALVATION HAS A COST: I know that salvation is free. There is no amount of money that would buy it. There is no amount of education that would qualify one for it. The grace of God is made accessible to all men, rich or poor, learned or unlearned. However, there is still a cost to those who would have the joy of sins forgiven and the presence of the Holy Spirit. I am sure that I could not list all the price that one will have to pay; but there are three basic things that will have to be true with every genuine Christian.

Separation is part of the price for every real Christian. Separation seems to carry a very high price tag with so many people. God demands that we separate from unbelievers. We read in the Amplified New Testament, "So, come out from among (unbelievers), and separate (sever) yourselves from them, says the Lord, and touch no (any) unclean thing; then I will receive you kindly and treat you with favor." (2 Cor. 6:17) This separation does not mean sitting on a 60-foot pole for 30 years as Simeon, a Syrian monk, did. This separation must come in your will, your heart, and your actions. Jesus prayed in His High Priestly prayer, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them. from the evil, They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." (John 17:15, 16) This separation must show in every ramification of our life.

Material possessions are another part of the price that must be paid. The early church thought it nought to sell all and put it in a common treasury. Of course, there were Annanias and his wife that held back part of the price. How sad that many want to be identified with the Christians; but they do not want to pay the price.

Self is another vital part of the price that each real Christian must pay. Who, better than the Apostle Paul, knew what it means to actually present your body? He said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1)

Entirely too many people are doing like a little boy I heard about. It seems that this little boy's mother had given him a penny. He ran straight toward the candy store. He pressed his little face up to the store window and looked longingly at the different goodies. He then made his way into the store and asked the store man how much a certain piece of candy cost. He was told that the desired piece of candy cost one penny. The candy man was shocked to see the little boy burst into tears. The boy wanted the piece of candy, but he did not want to give up his penny. So many want a real experience with Christ; but they do not want to pay the price for it.

Third, GOD ACKNOWLEDGES ONLY THAT WHICH DOES COST: So many people never feel the presence of God because they never really give. They are very insistent that God gives, and keeps giving, to them but they do not want to be asked to give back to God. If serving God, or even attending His services, costs anything, many never try. There are so few that are willing to pray, as Daniel, when praying will really cost them something. There are so few that are willing to stand, as the Hebrew Boys, when standing will really cost them something. There are so few that can sing praises for being faithful, as Paul and Silas, when their being faithful had cost them something.

The rich man of the Bible is not the last person that has turned away, sorrowfully because Christ asked him to give all his possessions and follow Him. Selfishness blinds them to the fact that the Lord, that asked them to sell all, is the One that gave all of it to them.

The world may say you have lost everything you give to God; you have invested your life and possessions in God's work, and you will surely lose it. This is the only conclusion that a totally materialistic world could come to. However, I am persuaded with Paul, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Cor. 5:10)

I am afraid to offer to God that which cost me nothing. For Paul says again, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in the body whether it be good or bad." I am aware of the fact that nothing is permanent in this life. Things only become permanent across the divide of worlds. If I should gather of this world's goods in abundance, I could only hope to keep it through life's short day. If I spare myself of any sacrifice in this life, I have only spared myself for a short time. I know that permanent joys or sorrows can't begin until I have crossed the divide of worlds. I know that permanent rewards or punishment will be on the other side also. Adam Clarke said, "We labour to walk as to please Him, because we know that we shall have to give a solemn account of ourselves before the judgment seat of Christ; where He, Whose religion we profess, will judge us according to its precepts, and according to the light and grace which it affords. That each may receive to himself, into his own hands, his own reward and his own wages." I may try to blame many things for the amount of wages that I receive in this life, but I will have only me to thank for the rewards that I receive then. For I will receive,

then, the things done in my body. That is, while I was in this lower state, for in this sense the term body is used here.

John saw the one hundred and forty-four thousand around the throne of God. When he asked Who they were he was told, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us of another group of "Faithites." He said, "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy.) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." (Heb. 11:33, 40) Surely, everyone will agree that both of these groups gave at a cost!

Personally, I have had a nagging question for some time now. How can we that have given so little stand at ease with those that have given so much? Help me to say with David, "I will not offer burnt offerings (or any kind of offering) unto the Lord my God of that which cost me nothing."

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## 09 -- DON'T REPLACE PERIODS WITH QUESTION MARKS -- Gen. 3:1, 7

"And he said unto the woman, yea; hath God said" v-1.

Satan does not want to let God be absolute authority; neither does he want anyone else to do it. Beginning with the first woman, and continuing with every man and woman since, Satan has tried to put a question mark where God has placed a period. Because we are creatures of time (time is an infinitesimal segment of eternity) we have the tendency to live for the moment. We feel that we must have what we want, and do what we are going to do now. The devil, being a creature of eternity, is satisfied to inject a question mark into the heart and mind of a person, and let it work like a spiritual termite.

Isn't it strange how God, that is all wise and inhabits eternity, could make so many definite statements if He really didn't mean them? If He inhabits eternity, then that means that He can see a thousand years hence, or a thousand years back, as easily as He can see right now.. With this perfect knowledge of all things, it does seem that He would say what He meant and mean what he said. personally, I don't have one doubt that He did just this.

Each one that claims to be a believer would do well to check up and see if Satan, in a subtle way, has made him place a question mark where God has placed a period, There are three questions that I would like to ask your heart and mine.

First, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION MARK ON THE DEMAND OF THE NEW BIRTH? Christ seemingly said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," period! I can't see how the English language could state a thing any plainer. Neither do I believe that Christ, with all of His infinite wisdom, knew anyway to make a truth any more clear.

If God put a period here, that would mean that only those that have a divine birth can hope to see the kingdom of God. Christ was making it plain that this birth was from above, or divine. The Jews supposed every baptized proselyte enjoyed a new birth, for they said they were like a child new born. The birth the Jews contended for was of water from below. The birth for which Christ contends is from above -- by the agency of the Holy Spirit. Every man needs two births, one of his body, the other of his soul. Just as essential as it is for one to be physically born, to be able to see the light of this world; so he must be spiritually born, to see the light of the eternal world.

Satan put a question mark in Nicodemus, and has continued it through the majority of professed Christian people. Nicodemus was an actual living person. However, he was also a very significant symbol. He was the symbol of education, training, ecclesiastical position, and religious activities. He was one of the best educated men of his day. He had been trained meticulously for his duties. He was a member of the grand Sanhedrin, the highest governing body. He was very zealous and faithful in his religious activities. Few of us will ever measure up to all these qualifications of Nicodemus. However, if we did have all the qualifications. we would still need to be born again, as Nicodemus did.

How sad that so many will question the new birth, but accept church membership, water baptism, confirmation, and religious endeavor. Others will accept the words of some friend or loved-one instead of the Word of God. I shall never forget an hour I spent talking to John Nance Garner former Vice President of the United States. I was holding a meeting in his home town. The pastor and I went to visit Mr. Garner. I had heard that he had never professed any religion, I was determined to talk to him about his soul. He was very congenial as long as we spoke about secular things. When I would approach the subject of salvation, he would begin to erect a wall. Finally, he tried to sum it all up and bring an end to the subject by saying, "My mother told me if I loved everyone, I'd make it to heaven. I believed it then, I believe it now." I tried to agree with him on the importance of love, and to explain the difference between human and divine love, Each time that I would seemingly have him convinced by the scriptures, he would pull behind the wall of his mother's statement. He wanted to accuse me of trying to get him to be a member of my church. I assured him that I had no thought of trying to get him to become a member of any church. I wanted him to confess his sins and be born of the Spirit of God. When he finally had to admit that I was not there to get him to unite with my church, it seemed that the light was trying to break through. However, at the crucial moment, he went behind his wall again. One of the last things I ever heard him say was, "My mother told me if I love everyone I would make it to heaven. I believed it then, and I believe it now." How sad that a man that was brilliant enough to be Speaker of the House for 36 years, Vice President of the United States for 8 years, was not wise enough to see that Satan had removed God's period with a question mark.

Second, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION MARK ON THE DEMAND OF HEART HOLINESS? God said, "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8) Then, to

put in the period, He said, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14)

If God put a period here, that would mean that only the pure in heart, THE WHOLLY SANCTIFIED, will ever see God. Personally, this is exactly what I believe. I don't even try to make any more, or less out of it. The Bible is entirely too clear on the need, and the provision for every born again believer, to be sanctified, completely, for any thoughtful person to doubt.

Satan has certainly put question marks on these two statements. He knows they are true, FROM HIS FORMER STATE, but he does not want men to see God. As the devil one day stood at the high altar of God, directing praise to the Son, he knows just what state one needs to be in, in order to stand unafraid, in God's presence. He knows they must be pure and clean.

It is amazing how the devil can inject these question marks in the mind of individuals and denominations. This accounts for so many who stay around a holiness church, help pay the bills, do the physical labor, but never pray clear through to the experience of heart purity. History has revealed more than one denomination that was the champion of the doctrine of heart purity for a period of time, but then drifted from that position. No doubt, one of the reasons for this was the desire to be accepted as a "Sister Denomination." When a holiness group is first organized it is a "Holiness Movement." When it grows to some size, and its schools become liberal enough, it would rather take its place among the sister denominations, It can commend and cooperate with those that deny the doctrine of heart holiness. When leaders will give this approval, is it any wonder that laymen will follow their leadership?

So many will deny the need, or the possibility of such an experience, while others will seek for signs, power, and demonstrations. The devil has many helpers in placing question marks about heart purity. When so many, supposed to be, preachers will contend there is no need for it. He has so many more helpers, supposed to be preachers, that say such an experience is not possible in this life. He really has some zealous helpers that urge people to look for a sign, or seek power, instead of a pure heart. Few people realize that none of the popular groups of today, that are teaching that (supposed to be) unknown tongues are the evidence of the Holy Ghost, believe in a pure heart. They believe the carnal, nature must remain, but the Holy Ghost suppresses, or holds it down. They do not realize that the devil has used a demonstration to put a question mark in the heart, about the need of heart holiness.

Third, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION MARK ON THE REALITY OF HEAVEN OR HELL? Christ said, "I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2, 3) Christ said, "I go to prepare a place for you." If we can determine where He went to prepare that place, then we can know where the eternal abode of the redeemed will be. We find where he went in Acts 1:11, There we read these words, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." This should put the period on heaven.

Christ also said, "If thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." (Mark 9:43) If the fire in this statement is only a figure of speech, as so many, supposed to be, religious

people contend; we must conclude that the "prepared place" must be a figure of speech also. We either must discard the thought of both places, or accept them as unquestionable.

If God put the period at the end of these two statements, that would mean there is a literal, eternal, heaven and hell.

If only the pure in heart shall see God, and God lives in heaven, all others will ultimately go to hell. This is a truth that can't be denied, unless we remove the period with a question mark. As this is a truth that can't be denied, how it should stir each one of us to be sure that we have the experience, and that we urge others.

Satan will allow one to believe in heaven, if he can get him to question hell. Self preservation is the first concern of men. They are willing to believe that there is a glorious place prepared for them, but they just can't believe there is a burning, blistering, eternal place of torment where they might go.

Satan knows if one really believes in hell, he will turn from every sin and seek for a pure heart. I shall never forget when Holy Ghost conviction seized me. Hell became such a reality to me until I, seemingly, was walking over it on a brittle canopy. For six weeks I was afraid to go to sleep at night, for fear I would go where the lights would never be turned on again. In the day time I was afraid to leave the house, for fear that a reckless driver would jump the curb and run me down. I sought God at the altar every night for six weeks. I confessed every sin, broke clean from every filthy habit, made restitutions, and separated from the ungodly crowd I had run with. While I was rejoicing in my conversion (not one shadow of doubt) I began to seek for heart holiness. I sought the experience every service for three months. There was no thought of stopping with me. I knew that only the pure in heart could see God. I certainly did not want to go to hell! I shall never forget when the door of faith opened and the blessed Holy Ghost came in with His cleansing baptismal power. It was not an it, thing, feeling, or demonstration (my unconsciously seeking for the like demonstration of my mother had necessitated the long period of seeking) but the blessed Holy Ghost, Himself, came.

If you aren't entirely sanctified, and will continue another day without seeking the experience, that proves where God has placed a period, Satan has replaced it with a question mark.

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## 10 -- WHEN THE BEGINNER OF MOTION STOOD STILL -- Mark 10:46, 52

"And Jesus stood still" v-49.

How startling that many would seem amazed, or even skeptical, that the sun and moon stood still; yet, they seem not to think it strange that "Jesus stood still." Many of the modernists will read Joshua 10:12, 13 with utter skepticism in its validity. For there we read, "Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of

Ajalon, And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." Those same people will read our text, "And Jesus stood still," without giving it a second grace.

As Jesus made all that was made, it is not such an amazing thing that He could stop anything that He made. We have no doubt that He made both the sun and the moon; for we read in John 1:3, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." He was the "beginner of motion"; He could just as easily be the "stopper of motion." Again, I say that this is not too amazing. However, it staggers the mind to think; just what would make the beginner of motion to stand still? We know that many rich men didn't make Jesus stand still, but a poor blind beggar did! We all know that it was not his wealth, abilities, or position in life that made Jesus stand still, It was the same three things that will make Him stand still at any time.

First, WHEN AN ABILITY WAS RECOGNIZED: Bartimaeus was not sitting by the highway to be present as a parade passed by. It was not curiosity that had brought him there. He was not there accidentally, but on purpose. This was his customary place. He had been there yesterday, and the day before, and even the many days before that. For we read, "Blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus sat by the highway side begging." People were coming and going by him day in and day out. Through the many weary days that he had sat there, on that highway side, a very large number of people had passed by. No doubt, on that highway side, a very large number of people had passed by. No doubt, there had been a cross section of mankind, There had been the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, All he expected from them, or could hope for, was some temporary help -- alms. Therefore, when he heard anyone passing by, it only meant to him another person that might give him an aim. Those, who were disposed to help him, probably tossed a coin in his container as they continued on by.

No doubt many rich men, scribes, and even priests had passed by, To them he lifted his cup. When Jesus passed by, Bartimaeus lifted up his heart to him, instead of his cup. His physical eyes were blind, so of course, he could not see the size of Jesus, the cut of His clothes, or even the color of His hair. His eyes of faith could see that He was able to do something that all the people that had ever passed him by, could not do. Therefore, he did not extend his cup toward Jesus; but he did lift up his heart. Little wonder that Jesus stood still! Jesus will always stand still when any person cries out to him with his heart. Entirely too many people only lift to God the cup. They are always wanting something of a material nature. They have no desire for salvation, which Christ alone can bring. Whenever anyone recognizes that Christ is his only hope, and lifts to Him his heart, he will always stand still.

Second, WHEN A CALL WAS MADE: Even though Bartimaeus was convinced of the ability of Jesus, he had to express his confidence by a call. The pounding of his heart, and the emotion that swept over him, when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth that passed by, did not make Jesus stand still. The realization of his poor, blind state did not make Jesus stand still. That strong desire to be able to see, did not make Jesus stand still, Had he depended on these, Jesus would have passed on by, and blind Bartimaeus would have continued to beg by the highway side. He had to call! There had to be an expression of his need, and his desire.

No doubt there were many noises and voices along the way that Jesus passed. These did not even slow Jesus down; but a call for mercy made Him stand still. All the prestige, wealth, and abilities that were represented by those along the way, did not seem to slow Jesus; but a sincere call for mercy from a poor, blind beggar made Him stand still. Even though there are few that want to admit it, this is just the condition of every sinner. His eyes are blind by sin; and he is spiritually bankrupt. However, a sincere call from him will make Jesus stand still. Have you ever sent that sincere heart call to Jesus?

Third, WHEN FAITH COULD BE EXERCISED: It is no wonder we read, "And many charged him that he should hold his peace." Any time that one is about to call to Christ in faith, the devil will try to keep him from doing it. This is the one thing that the devil does not want any needy soul to do. For he knows that a call like this will make Jesus stand still every time.

No doubt the "many" who charged him to hold his peace, had different suggestions for him. One probably said, "wait until He is not so busy." To the natural eye, it did seem that He was very busy. He was in the midst of the crowd. He was the chief point of interest to the crowd that moved with Him. Surely, He was just too busy to even hear the cry of a poor blind beggar. If He did happen to hear, surely, He would be entirely too busy to stop for a beggar. Another probably said, "Wait until so many others are not around." To the natural eye it did seem wise to wait until the crowd had dispersed. If he were the only one around, there might be a chance he could get the attention of Christ, If he were the only one around, no one else would have to know that he had called to Jesus. Still another probably said, "Wait until you have more time to think it over. You don't want to be a spectacle. You have been an accepted part of this community. Are you sure that you want people to tell that you have been calling out to Jesus?" Surely another said, "He would not stop for you; just who do you think you are? What do you think that you have to offer Him? Don't make a fool out of yourself, you know that He would not stop for you."

I have little doubt that these very suggestions were made to Bartimaeus; because these are the very suggestions that the devil is still trying to make, to keep needy sinners from calling on Jesus. He makes these suggestions because every one of them are lies. Jesus has never been too busy to hear the call of faith. Regardless of how many may be calling to Him from all over the world, there will never be a "busy signal" when the needy one calls in faith. It is not more thinking that one needs to do; he needs to call now. Yes, Jesus will stop for you! It makes no difference how poor and needy you may be; just as sure as you call in faith, Jesus will stand still.

Bartimaeus had no assurance that Jesus would come his way again; therefore, "He cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David have mercy on me." Even though he was poor and blind, he was not without wisdom and backbone, He had enough wisdom to know that this was the very time to call. He had enough backbone to not be discouraged by the opposition that he had to face. How wonderful it would be if each needy soul had as much wisdom and backbone as Bartimaeus did.

When Bartimaeus exercised faith, when faith could be exercised, there is little wonder that Jesus stood still, or that He said, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." As Jesus is no respecter of person, He will stand still and make whole, anyone that calls on Him and expresses faith.



How wonderful it would be if every sinner would realize that he is blind, poor, and needy. If he would call to Jesus, admit his need, and call for help; he would find that the "Beginner of Motion" would stand still to meet his need.

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THE END