Your Best Self

Your best self is becoming the individual child of God that he designed you to be. The Holy Spirit revealed to the Apostle Paul what our best self is, and he shared this revelation in AMP Ephesians 4:4-8, 11-16. There is one body (of believers) and one Spirit just as you were called (to salvation) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all Who is (Sovereign) over all and (working) through all and (living) in all. Yet Grace (God’s undeserved favor) was given to each one of us (not indiscriminately, but in different ways) in proportion to the measure of Christ’s (rich and abundant) gift.

And His gifts to the church were varied and) He Himself appointed some as apostles (special messengers, representatives), some as prophets (who speak a new message from God to the people), some as evangelists (who spread the good news of salvation), and some as pastors and teachers (to shepherd and guide and instruct), (and He did this) to fully equip and perfect the saints (God’s people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ (the church); until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, (growing spiritually) to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ (manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity). So that we are no longer children (spiritually immature), tossed back and forth (like ships on a stormy sea) and carried away by every wind of (shifting) doctrine, by the cunning and trickery of (unscrupulous) men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything (for personal profit).

But speaking the Truth in Love (in all things both our speech and lives expressing His Truth), let us grow up in all things into Him (following His Example) Who is the Head, Christ. From Him the whole body (the church, in all its varies parts), joined and knitted firmly together by what every joint supplies, when each part is working properly, causes the body to grow and mature, building itself up in (unselfish) Love (Agape). Each part working properly, is every one of us becoming our best self.

To begin working on your best self you must understand a very important principle. This principle is in AMPC Proverbs 23:7; For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. According to this Scripture, what you think or believe is what you will become. And this is why the Holy Spirit inspired the prophet Isaiah to say in AMP Isaiah 55:7-9; Let the wicked leave (behind) his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion (Mercy) on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. “For My Thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways My Ways, declares the Lord.” The thoughts and ways of man apart from God’s Thoughts and Ways are wicked as the Scriptures explain. In order to remedy this, you must choose to receive the Thoughts and Ways of God as your own.

God will attempt to speak with you about you, to help you become your best self. This is why Jesus admonishes you to not focus on other people, but to focus on yourself so you can be working on your best self each day. AMPC Matthew 7:1-5; Do not judge and criticize and condemn others, so that you may not be judged and criticized and condemned yourselves. For just as you judge and criticize and condemn others, you will be judged and criticized and condemned, and in accordance with the measure you (use to) deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you. Why do you stare from without (but won’t stare from within) at the very small particle that is in your brother’s eye but do not become aware and consider the beam of timber that’s in your own eye. You hypocrite, first get the beam of timber out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the tiny particle out of your brother’s eye.

In other words, your Lord and Example doesn’t want you to be focused on and examining the lives others but fail to focus on and examine yourself. Because if you continue to do this, it’s going to cause you to be critical, which what is referred to as having a critical spirit and this will not be your best self. The Lord continues to make it clear that you have to choose to be willing to work on your best self. He gives another analogy of this in AMPC Matthew 7:13-14; Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious and broad is the way that leads away to destruction, and many are those entering through it. But the gate is narrow (contracted by pressure) and the way is straitened and compressed that leads away to Life and few are those who find it.

Entering into the wide and spacious gateway is entering into a place of not taking responsibility for your life. And choosing not to work on your best self each day and this the way that leads to death. However, the narrow gate that is contracted by pressure is the place of taking personal responsibility for yourself. It’s not an easy life of constantly working on your best self. But our Lord says, this is the way that leads to life. Who would know this better than our Lord and Example. It was said of Jesus in MSG Luke 2:52; Jesus lived obediently with His parents, and He matured, growing up in both Body and Spirit. In other words, Jesus lived working on His Best Self.

The Lord our Teacher, would use natural things or science to explain spiritual things. Science is defined as the study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. It makes sense that Jesus would teach this way. He is the Good Teacher or Good Shepherd that wants His disciples or students to get understanding. MSG Matthew 9:36; When He looked out over the crowds, His Heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd.

The Lord Jesus teaches you how to be your best self by teaching Mind-management. And as His normal formality, He is using the natural or science to teach this lesson. This lesson or parable is entitled: The Parable of the Sower. Jesus began this lesson with a powerful and direct statement! Mark 4:3; A Sower went out to sow seed. A Sower is singular and refers to one person and that person is you! You are the Sower in this lesson. Jesus is explaining you are the one who sows into your own heart. The seed is the Word of God! You are supposed to sow the Word of God into your own heart. You are to do your own mind-management.

This lesson or parable is the process of mind-management explained. The first example is the Sower attempting to sow but the seed fell by the road and the birds came and ate it up. This is the first stage of mind-management. First things have to be first. The natural or scientific explanation for Jesus choosing to use the word road or wayside in the Greek it is metaphoric for a course of conduct, a way or manner of thinking, feeling, or deciding. Jesus also mentions the devil in this lesson. He says, the devil comes immediately for the word sown. In this first stage of mind-management, the devil will try to convince you to stick with your old way of thinking and manner life. Instead of receiving the Word of God you just sowed into your mind or heart you disregard it and don’t give it any more of your focus or attention. Then the devil will have successfully taken away the Word of God sown.

This is why the first thing you must do is decide to receive and believe the Word of God you are sowing into your own heart and begin to give it your full attention. No one else can sow the Word of God into your heart, because only you can decide to believe and receive the Word of God into your mind or heart. The next stage in the mind-management process; seed falling on rocks where there was not much soil; immediately a plant sprang up because the soil had no depth. And when the sun came up, the plant was scorched; because it had no root, it dried up and withered away. Becoming our best self requires a valiant effort each day and it's not for the faint-hearted. And this what Jesus is explaining in this next stage. You can’t be a superficial sower. The word superficial is defined in the dictionary as; concerned with only comprehending what is on the surface, shallow not profound or thorough. Even though you could receive the Word of God with joy and enjoy hearing it, there’s just no real commitment to walk out the Word of God in your everyday life. So, as Jesus stated, only endure for a while until trouble or persecution comes on account of the Word you have been hearing.

Remember the devil, whose still after the Word of God, the only thing that can defeat him in your life. This is why you are having the trouble and persecution in your life the devil is trying to get you to let go of what he knows will absolutely defeat him! And will absolutely change you and your life for the better. Do you know how you know the devil has successfully got you to let go? You become offended with the person who shares the Word of God and with the situation you are facing. Then next, you stumble and fall away. All of sudden you have more important things to do than read and study your bible or go to the group you belong to or church services.

This is why you must decide to be a serious and committed student of the Word of God enrolled in the School of the Holy Ghost. We have been told in God’s Word that this is the Holy Spirit’s Role in your life as a spirit-filled believer. AMP John 14:26; But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name (in My Place, to represent Me and act on My Behalf), He will teach you all things. The Holy Spirit will teach you ALL THINGS! But you have to choose to enroll yourself as a student in The School of the Holy Ghost!

The next stage of the mind-management process is seed that fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Jesus warns here about the stressed life! Here’s where you have to make the decision to stretch instead of stress. Because the cares and difficulties are going to always exist in the world in some shape or form. However, you don’t have allow them in your mind or heart. There will always be things there to compete for your attention and focus, remember the devil is still trying to get the Word of God out of your view and on the things that he knows will steal your focus if you allow it! This why we have been instructed to cast our cares. AMP 1 Peter 5:7; Casting all your cares (all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all) on Him, for He cares about you (with deepest affection, and watches over you carefully).

This is why you must learn to humble yourself and progressively increase in your determination to stay in faith by continuing to stand on the Word of God no matter what is going in your life and this crazy world. Choosing to let your perspective be to stretch and not stress. To count or consider things all joy because of what you will continue to learn as you grow and become your best self.

In this stage of the mind-management process is where you begin to go from spiritual immaturity to spiritual maturity and you begin to operate in your best self. You have to understand your best self is important to God. It’s the complete package; it has to be you, your eye color, hair color, height, weight, voice all things that make you your best self! AMP Jeremiah 1:5; Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you (and approved of you as My chosen instrument), And before you were born, I consecrated you) to Myself as My Own.

Seed fell into good soil, and as the plants grew and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times (as much as had been sown). Now you have learned how to proficiently sow the Word of God into your own mind or heart. The Lord your Example and Teacher is continually reminding you that you are the sower! You and not anyone else is in control of your destiny or where you end up! You can’t blame anyone else because as you think so are you! And you alone are in control of your thinking! So, only you can decide whether you will allow the Holy Spirit to help you become your best self.

As you can see in this illustration the progression from 30 to 100. You need to progress until you are 100% salvaged or salvation. Hundred percent is the universal sign for completion. The Word of God explains that Jesus Who is the Word of God made Flesh. AMP John 1:14; And the Word (Christ) became Flesh and lived among us. And He makes everything complete. AMPC Ephesians 1:23; Who makes everything complete and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself. I like the explanation the Lord used to explain mind-management to our sister Joyce Meyer. She was moping around the house one day choosing to be frustrated with Dave because he was refusing to be controlled by her. And the Lord spoke up in her spirit and said, “Joyce you can be either pitiful or powerful, but you can’t be both!”

Again, He was informing Joyce it’s your choice because you are the sower who sows the Word of God into your mind or heart that will salvage you. AMP James 1:21; So, get rid of all uncleanness and all that remains of wickedness, and with a humble spirit receive the Word of God which implanted (actually rooted in your heart), which has the power to save your souls. You have to do get rid of all the uncleanness and wickedness in your own life. God won’t do it for you, but He will help you through His Word and His Spirit once you decide!

In conclusion, make the decision today to get rid of the critical spirit Jesus warned you about that just judges others and doesn’t become aware of its own shortcomings! And choose to begin to work on each day being YOUR BEST SELF!