



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 30

## **Keeping in Step with the New**

Mark 2:18-22 (ESV),

*Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."*

I just love the idea that Jesus pointed out regarding new wine and new wineskins. Or better yet, how one cannot put an old piece of cloth on a new garment. So it is with the Old and New Covenants. One is a shadow and the other is the substance that cast that shadow (Colossians 2:16-19). One without the other is doomed to fail, or like the idea of an old piece of cloth on a new garment, the place where that old cloth is placed will cause a worse tear in the new garment. Essentially, Jesus is saying that the Old has to be made New. Or in Him, all things are made new. The old is not taken out of the way but is rather made new or fulfilled.

Therefore, what manner of people ought we to be in regards to this. Paul rebuked the church at Galatia for being deceived into a false gospel where they were arguing about being circumcised (Galatians 3:1-6). This argument was rebutted with what Paul said here, "*Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*" (Galatians 3:3 (ESV)). The idea being examined here is that we cannot serve in both the old way of the letter and in the new way of the Spirit, the end is not good.

I am convinced through the Scriptures and in the life of Christ that no good can

come apart from God. In other words, no human being, no matter how good has anything beneficial to bring to the table apart from the Spirit of God working on the inside. To clarify this point, I must realize that if I endeavor to keep the Word of God apart from the Spirit of God that this is not true faith but rather works much like the Judaizers compelling the Gentile believers that they must be circumcised in order for their conversion to be true. On the contrary, Paul explains to them that they were made right with God and are being made right by God through hearing God and believing what they heard. Praise the Lord!

Last week we talked about the simplicity in believing like father Abraham. This week we talk more in-depth of moving further in transformation in that same faith that has heard what God said. Along with this, we are contrasting this with what Jesus Himself meant by talking about the old and the new with the illustration of the garment.

For this very reason, we too should be found diligent in keeping in step with the Spirit. After all, it is only the power of God that can truly make one new as well as bring one into perfection and holiness. No amount of works will perfect us, we must never forget this one fact (although works are necessary and indeed flow out of the new creation they do not make the new creation), that it is the branch that is connected to the vine that will bear fruit. We cannot bear fruit by working the Word of God out in our own strength. It comes from hearing God and allowing Him free reign in our hearts and lives.

Is the fruit we bear an appearance of godliness or the product of Christ in us?

O blessed Savior, sanctify us by Your redeeming blood. Let nothing else take Your place. Perfect us by Your Spirit blessed redeemer and make us more like You in Jesus name. Amen.

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Chris and Jeanne  
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