



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 77

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

We mustn't get bogged down by traditions of the way we worship God and walk in the Spirit but rather allow freedom for the Holy Spirit to move in our lives. It has been in my experience that when we reduce this Christian walk to a set of traditions that we actually restrict the Holy Spirit from working in our lives. Don't get me wrong there is nothing wrong with biblical types of traditions that are there to help us grow in the faith, however, they are not in and of themselves a means to an end. For a simpler explanation of traditions, I mean something that becomes a vain repetition in our lives. With that in mind, we must remember, however, that prayer, Bible study, communion, fellowship, and the like are not in the category of tradition that I am referring to. Instead, I am referring to those areas of growth in our lives and practice that have more to do with personal holiness as well as obedience to an overall purpose and calling of God and also the order of church worship. These things usually do not remain a constant practice and as such are continually growing.

With that being said, I would like to encourage you to grow with me in the adventure of faith, hope, and love by the direction of Jesus Christ through His Spirit.

When we read the Bible we see a great many examples of people who were led by the Lord and did not necessarily have a complete roadmap of how their lives would work out. Let me explain, some who received directions from the Lord at times received specific instructions for a particular time. When this transaction took place it would eventually lead to a greater plan. Another group of people who received instructions from the Lord in the Bible experienced dreams and visions of their destiny and God's will for their lives yet did not receive those smaller instructions that when added together over a period of time would lead them to the overall purpose of God. What I am saying is that I have never seen a character in the Bible who had every answer and direction for their lives. Instead, it took complete trust in the Lord to either be led by Him moment by moment into the

greater purpose or to receive revelation on what would ultimately happen and then to just have faith that God would work all things together for the good of that overall purpose.

Today, however, I have seen the people of God practice an overly traditional way of worship where everything is always the same week after week where there is rarely a deviation from it. Let me delve further by saying if I can know every week what will be taught and how it will be taught, where is the faith in God. If I can only rely on a script, where is my trust in the promise of the Holy Spirit? And if I am the type of person who needs everything spelled out before I can move forward with God's will, what faith is that?

I am sharing this insight because I believe we should desire a deeper faith and trust in Christ in His church and as His people who are supposed to be able to hear Him when He calls. But if I have to have it all scripted and spelled out, I will most likely miss His voice when He actually speaks because it was not in the traditional way of doing things.

Let me break it down from my perspective as a teacher of God's Word. If I, week after week follow a script in my teaching and you know exactly where I will teach from next week and the week after, am I not merely following a set pattern?

Furthermore, if you always know what to expect, does that line up with God's actual character? Lastly, I would like to add that, if you look at the way Jesus led His disciples, did He ever teach or lead them in the manner described above? I would have to answer no. I say this because the disciples trusted in the Lord and followed Him day by day and moment by moment. While yes, there were times that Jesus revealed great things about the fulfillment of all things, He never showed when they would take place. You see, there has to be some sort of mystery so to speak in the life of a believer where one must trust God and have faith in Him. We must grow up into maturity in this. If we had everything scripted out and followed that instead of following the leading of the Lord by His Spirit wouldn't we be following our own reasoning rather than the Lord's? I would have to say after a survey of the Scriptures that the answer would be a great resounding yes.

God's very written word explains this truth in Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

You see, they did not have powerful flashlights in biblical times. Instead, they used torches or oil lamps and the fire was the light. You know that fire when used for light only exposes so much if you were to walk down a dark path. In order to

illuminate more of the path, one would need to take a few more steps. So it is when we walk in the fire and light of the Holy Spirit. It is by a continual walk of faith step by step by the leading of the Lord that will bring us into the purpose of God. I tell you we need more of this today brothers and sisters.

Another interesting perspective is that we can relate this same truth to the work of sanctification whereby the Holy Spirit begins a promising work of transformation. God does not immediately when we come to Him lay upon us a long list of do nots. Rather, from the inside out by the power of his Spirit, He begins to show us step by step how to follow Him into all righteousness and godliness. While we are following Him in obedience He is at work perfecting us on the inside so that from the inside out we overflow that perfect work. But again, this is not some playbook we can read from that is systematically set up, rather we must like children simply trust in the Lord with all of our hearts. While we are trusting in Him and leaning not on our own understanding, yet in all of our ways acknowledging Him, He will just direct our steps.

Hallelujah! I am so encouraged by the simplicity of faith and trust in God and we hope you are too. The Lord sincerely and powerfully magnify His grace to you as you humble yourselves under His mighty hand and allow Him to work that perfect work in and through your lives, in Jesus name. We love you all!

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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