

Judgment Begins in GOD's House

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For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of God: and if it begin first at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God? (1 Pet. 4:17) ASV

God is Deadly serious about good leadership and obedience! As a missionary Bible teacher I have had the privilege of visiting many Churches. Although I have seen many good ones, I hate to report that I also have seen a lot of bad ones. The Judgment seat of Christ is going to be extremely disappointing to some, when God applies Holy Spirit fire to their works and they go up in flames with little to nothing left to enter Heaven (1 Cor. 3:12-15). The reason being they were never called by God for that particular service, they called themselves or were deceived by some famous ministry personality that laid hands on them and told them they were an "Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor or Teacher" (Eph. 4:11,12): Friend, only God can do the calling, no man can promote you or give you an anointing and ministry! Only GOD has the Authority to do that! You can have a pastor lay hands on you and anoint you with oil until it flows down all over your body but it will not make a difference. You will be as dead in ministry as you were before.

And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

(Heb. 5:4,5)

Everyone is Called for a Specific Purpose

God cannot make a mistake, He is Perfection manifested. When God calls you to a ministry He will anoint you (give you power) to fulfill that call. You are not alone, God is in you to help you fulfill it! Everyone has a purpose and calling.

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." (Deut. 31:8) ESV

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: (Phil. 1:6)

We Are Responsible for Growing Up in Christ

If you are not growing (maturing) in Christ don't blame anyone but yourself!

We must put forth great effort in reading and meditating on the Word. We must put forth great effort in praising and worshipping the Lord, and we must put forth great effort in learning how to pray correctly. It is imperative that we learn to do these things correctly.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

(Hos. 4:6)

Most people just want to hear a motivational message that makes them feel good in Church and then go home without any foundational instruction on what it means to be a Christian. We will never mature if you don't take the scriptures seriously. It takes hard work to study and understand what God is saying. Most pray for 5 minutes and are satisfied with what they did, then read the Bible for 15 minutes and are satisfied at what they learned. No wonder they haven't grown up and are still babies in Christ.

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (Heb. 5:12-14) ESV

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? (1 Cor. 3:1-3)

Maturity means we are consistent in the Word even if we are persecuted and made fun of for righteousness sake. If you don't spend quality time with the Lord and wrestle with Him for wisdom and understanding how do you expect to grow?

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.** (Phil. 2:12,13)

Work out your salvation means to take it very serious and persevere to see it's fulfillment. We can't just sit on the fence and wait for it to happen by chance. God expects us to grow by exercising (working out) His Word. James tell's us "Faith with out works is dead." (Jam. 2:20):

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Rom. 1:17)

"The Just Shall Live By FAITH"

Notice what God has said; "The Just shall live by faith!" to live by faith means that is where your heart permanently dwells consistently. You dwell in it everyday, you don't just vacation there on Sundays.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (Jam. 1:22-25) ESV

Saved by the Grace of God; Through Faith

*The most important word in our walk with God is Faith. People don't really understand how important faith is, nor do they give it the respect it deserves! What about Grace? That's God's part and it's engraved in stone for God cannot lie. But the important word for us is **Faith**, because although God's Grace can never fail, our Faith can fail and send us to an eternal Hell. Faith is responsible for our eternal life and is also responsible for doing God's will in our life. Faith is also responsible for answering our prayers. God will only respond to our Faith!*

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
(Heb. 11:1)

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb. 11:6)

People use the word faith very loosely, God's definition of faith is often very different than the faith most Church folk might have. Just read Hebrews chapter 11 and see for yourself. Next time someone begins to brag on their faith just ask them for their tithing and offering record! That will quickly shut their mouth.

Let's Look Deeper Into this Word Called FAITH

*We will see that Patience and Hope are a part of Faith. All three work together as One. **Patience is constant Faith over a long period of time. And Hope is the future tense of Faith.** Hope is future Faith. A perfect example would be prayer and tithing. Most people if after a long time don't see the results of their prayer or giving to God's work, will quit saying; well that doesn't work. They forget God cannot lie, and everything in the Bible is True! (Gal. 6:9) "**And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**"*

God Tries Your Faith with Patience

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (Jam. 1:3)

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Heb. 6:12)

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

(Heb. 10:35-39)

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (Jam. 1:4)

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. (Jam. 5:10,11)

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. (Rev. 14:12)

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Matt. 24:13)

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Mark 13:13)

But Christ as a son over his own house; **whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.** (Heb. 3:6)

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end: (Heb. 3:14)

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: (Rev. 2:26)