

Walking Before Running

In God's plan, we need ability to walk before we can run, and we need to have good aim as the Apostle Paul describes in the following verses: 1Cor 9:24-27. All Spiritual Agility comes to us only through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and not from ourselves Zech 4:6; 1Cor 2:4; Eph 2:8-9. Some Spiritual gifts will immediately function at the point of faith in Christ; other Spiritual gifts require preparation and/or development. Whether a Spiritual gift functions immediately or not, we need the continual watering from God. This process takes place while among other believers for the common benefit of various Church groups. Without this regular watering, we will suffer various forms of Spiritual anorexia: Psa 119:81-82. We all start out on milk from God's Word: 1P 2:2, and need to progress to the meat of His Word that has been prepared for us by God: Heb 5:14; subsequently enabling our Spiritual life with Him to take on its fuller function; a function that pleases and Glorifies Him, brings us to a point where we can have a fuller and more complete appreciation for Him. This is the point in our lives where despite any sufferings or affliction we develop a keen awareness that we have a small part to play in God's plan. If we are willing to go the distance with God then He has greater roles in store for us in heaven; these rulership positions are for those who endure. In the second half of 2Tim 2:12 we see the alternative to faithfulness in God's plan for our lives; this being denied the greater blessings He had in mind for us. Verse thirteen demonstrates that despite the inevitable failures and lacking of faithfulness of some, God can't deny who He is, i.e. the Savior.

Some teachers want to imply that the second half of 2Tim 2:12 is implying that some are to lose their salvation if failure is present on their part. Those who take this stand must consider the fact that the Apostle Peter denied our Lord in His greatest hour and was not to suffer the loss of salvation: Mt 26:33-35, 69-75; Jhn 21:15-19. Also the denial regarding Peter is denial that he knew the Lord at all; which was a lie; whereas the denial in second Timothy is General in nature; reflecting any type of sin: the idea is that any time we sin we have denied the Lord and His plan for our lives; and until we confess these sins we remain outside the sphere of blessing and faith that God requires of those who have believed in His Son. The Apostle John makes it very clear in 1John 1:8 saying: "If WE say that WE have no sin, WE are deceiving OURSELVES and the truth is not in US." True faith and worship requires that we confess our sins in order to be restored to fellowship and true faith in God: 1Jn 1:9. Prolonged carnality will insure discipline to the extent that we will be denied on earth and in heaven the full measure of blessings that God had intended for us: 1Cor 3:12-15. The Apostle Paul also in the present tense made it clear that while we remain in the flesh we will be in a struggle with sin: Rom 7:22-23. He also makes it clear that we are only obligated to serve one master i.e. God and not the sin nature: Ro 6:12-13. If we remain in prolonged carnality we will be subjected to premature death: 1Cor 11:30-32 and the loss of some rewards in Heaven 1Cor 3:15. The principle at hand is that we can only move forward in God's plan in the filling of the Holy Spirit.

God graciously provides the provision of 1 John 1:9 so that when we sin we can confess it and continue our advance in His plan. While on earth we remain in a body of corruption; until we are taken home to be with the Lord we are required to confess our sins and forsake them: Psa 32:1-5; Pro 3:7-8 or suffer the parental discipline that the scripture states we will all receive: Pro 3:11-12; and if we were not receiving this discipline it is indicative that there is in fact not a relationship with God: Heb 12:5-8. The idea is that God wants us to spend a maximum amount of time in fellowship with His Spirit and a minimum amount of time in carnality. Because of the flesh, the world, and the Devil it is inevitable that even the most mature believer will succumb to sin from time to time. The Apostle James also admits that WE all fail in many ways: Jam 3:2; therefore indicating that even maturity has an on going process of sanctification until the point of the evaluation of all Christians before the Lord where any and all of the unacceptable works that we did after salvation will be burned up making us completely free from any defilement and ready for eternity with God being made completely acceptable to His nature. The greatest challenge for those who are mature will be maintaining an attitude free from self-righteous arrogance i.e. not regarding with contempt those who are involved in more obvious sinning: Ro 14:4, 10-13; 1Cor 4:6-7, not forgetting that God is still in the process of cleansing the sins of the mature also: Jhn 13:14; 2Cor 7:1; Gal 5:26-6:3; Rev 2:1-5.