



B3-C05-S03

**Simplicity Undivided Devotion to God**

**Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry**



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# Simplicity

To be simple is to be single-minded, to have one aim, no hidden agendas, and no selfish ambition. Simplicity is another word for “pure devotion,” and it is evidenced by a fear of YHWH in all of life.

True simplicity is not a lack of intelligence or awareness, but the presence of one undivided purpose. A person who walks with a single eye fixed on God lives free from inner conflict. Scripture calls this the “singleness of heart.” James wrote, “**A double minded man is unstable in all his ways**” (**James 1:8**). Christ said, “**If your eye be single, your whole body shall be full of light**” (**Matthew 6:22**). The heart that is united in its devotion to YHWH becomes a vessel of light, not confusion. “**Unite my heart to fear Thy name**” (**Psalms 86:11**). The apostle Paul pressed toward one goal, “**forgetting those things which are behind**” (**Philippians 3:13-14**). The opposite is the divided heart of Laodicea, warm yet cold, rich yet blind (**Revelation 3:15-17**). Simplicity protects us from that lukewarm condition by keeping Christ alone at the center.

*2 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV) But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

*Colossians 3:22 (KJV) Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing YHWH:*

Simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle. Both the inward and outward aspects of simplicity are essential. We deceive ourselves if we believe we can possess the inward reality without it having a profound effect on how we live. To attempt to arrange an outward lifestyle of simplicity without the inward reality leads to deadly legalism (dependence on moral law rather than on personal faith and full obedience).

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Simplicity begins in inward focus and unity. Experiencing the inward reality liberates us outwardly. Speech becomes truthful and honest. The lust for status and position is gone because we no longer need status and position. We cease from showy extravagance, not on the grounds of being unable to afford it, but on the grounds of principle. Our goods become available to others.

Every age has its idols, and in ours they are called possessions, success, and comfort. The Word of God exposes this clearly: “**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world**” (1 John 2:15). Paul warned that covetousness itself is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). The rich young ruler walked away sorrowful not because he owned too much, but because what he owned had begun to own him (Matthew 19:21-22). Simplicity dismantles idolatry by restoring everything to its rightful order; God upon the throne, and things beneath His feet. It is not poverty that pleases YHWH, but freedom from the tyranny of ownership. When the heart treasures God above all, everything else finds its rightful place.

Contemporary culture lacks both the inward reality and the outward lifestyle of simplicity.

Inwardly modern man is fractured and fragmented. He is trapped in a maze of competing attachments. One moment he makes decisions on the basis of sound reason and the next moment out of fear of what others will think of him. He has no unity or focus around which life is orientated.

Because we lack a divine Center our need for security has led us into an insane attachment to things. We must clearly understand that the lust for wealth in modern society is psychotic.

It is psychotic because it has completely lost touch with reality. We crave things we neither need nor enjoy. We buy things we want to impress people we do not even like.

The Son of God walked this earth in complete simplicity. “**Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head**” (Luke 9:58). Yet His life carried the full authority of heaven. He trusted the Father for every need and taught His followers to do the same. Paul followed this pattern, laboring with his own hands and saying, “**I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content**” (Philippians 4:11-13; Acts 20:34). True discipleship

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imitates both Christ's dependence and Paul's contentment. Simplicity therefore is not weakness; it is spiritual power that flows from trust, not from possession.

Where planned uselessness leaves off, psychological uselessness takes over. We are made to feel ashamed to wear clothes or drive cars until they are worn out. The mass media have convinced us that to be out of step with fashion is to be out of step with reality.

It is time we awaken to the fact that conformity to a sick society is to be sick. Until we see how unbalanced our culture has become at this point, we will not be able to deal with the mammon spirit within ourselves nor will we desire Godly simplicity."

The world multiplies distractions and calls them progress. Yet the more complicated our desires become, the more anxious our souls grow. "Take heed and beware of covetousness," said Christ, "for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Paul added, "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6-10). The pursuit of wealth has never produced peace; it has only deepened restlessness. Solomon wrote, "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver" (Ecclesiastes 5:10). Christ's answer was not withdrawal from life but inward order, "Seek ye first the kingdom of YHWH." Simplicity restores that divine order and dissolves anxiety because trust replaces striving (Matthew 6:25-34).

*Romans 12:2 (KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of YHWH.*

We need to be careful so as to not let the world around us squeeze us into it's mold. Keeping focused upon one thing, YHWH, will help us live simple lives vs. lives caught up with things, money, and position.

*Matthew 6:33 (KJV) But seek ye first the kingdom of YHWH, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

**The blessedness of possessing nothing**

*Matthew 5:3 (KJV) "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

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Before our Heavenly Father made man upon the earth, He first prepared for him a world of useful and pleasant things for his sustenance and delight. In the Genesis account for the creation these are called simply “things.” They were made for man’s use, but they were meant always to be external to the man and subservient to him. In the deep heart of the man was a shrine where none but YHWH was worthy to come. Within him was YHWH; without, a thousand gifts which He had showered upon him.

But sin has introduced complications and has made those very gifts of YHWH a potential source of ruin to the soul.

Our woes began when YHWH was forced out of His central shrine and things were allowed to enter. Within the human heart things have taken over. Men have now by nature no peace within their hearts, for YHWH is crowned there no longer, but there in the moral dusk stubborn and aggressive usurpers fight among them-selves for first place on the throne.

### **The tyranny of things.**

Our Lord referred to this tyranny of things when He said to His disciples, ***“Take Up the Cross and Follow me”*** *Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV)* *Then said “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

Breaking this truth into fragments for our better understanding, it would seem that there is within us an enemy which we tolerate at our risk. “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) called it “life” and “self,” or as we would say, the self-life. Its chief characteristic is its progressiveness: the words gain and profit suggest this. To allow this enemy to live is in the end, to lose everything. To not accept it and give up all for Christ’s sake is to lose nothing at last, but to preserve everything unto eternal life. And possibly also a hint is given here as to the only effective way to destroy this enemy: it is by the cross. ***“let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”***

When the inner shrine is cleansed of self, the life begins to bear new fruit. Words become simple, honest, and free of manipulation (**Matthew 5:37**). Generosity flows without calculation (**2 Corinthians 9:7-8**). Contentment replaces comparison (**Hebrews 13:5**). Simplicity is not a call to poverty but to stewardship, for ***“the earth is YHWH’s, and the fullness thereof”*** (**Psalm 24:1**). The one who walks in

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simplicity knows that nothing is his, yet all things are his in Christ. This is the freedom of those who have laid every crown at His feet.

The greatest commandment has always been simple: “Thou shalt love YHWH thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (**Deuteronomy 6:5**). Christ confirmed it as the first and greatest commandment (**Matthew 22:37**). Every form of complexity and confusion arises when this center is lost. To recover simplicity is to restore love to its rightful throne. Every ambition, decision, and pursuit must be tested by one question: *Does this keep my heart single toward God, or divide it?*

Paul feared that the serpent’s subtlety would corrupt believers from “the simplicity that is in Christ” (**2 Corinthians 11:3**). That warning still stands. The only safe heart is the undivided heart, wholly devoted to God.

*2 Corinthians 1:12 (KJV) For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of YHWH, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.*

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