

praise!

Accept No Substitute for the Overflow of Love

As God fills us to overflowing with Himself, that overflow will bring blessing and help to those around us. This results in Christians' lives being changed as they, too, are drawn to the Lord.

Eventually it will result in those who do not know the Lord coming to Him. Be willing to be His vessel, empty for His filling, prepared that from you He may flow into other lives.

Don't Allow Yourself to Blame or Question God

The basis of your relationship with anyone is trust. So it is with your relationship with God. To question why is very often to subtly question God's motives. Your God is absolutely trustworthy, so yield to His will rather than question it.

Don't Assume All Praise Is Necessarily True Worship

Public praise may be mostly the noisy excitement of the flesh. Private praise may be terribly self-centered. True worship focuses on the Lord in all His majesty, beauty, and infinite perfection. The thanksgiving of a grateful heart is simply the expression of gratitude for the God you trust and appreciate. It terminates the murmuring and complaining that blame God for our temporary discomfort.

Don't Fall Prey to Preacher's Pride

As surely as you develop a desire to walk more closely with the Lord, the flesh will erupt in preaching. Often the preaching will be full of condemnation of everything and everyone else. You will cause offense that is entirely unnecessary and never to be confused with "the offense of the cross" (Galatians 5:11). The offense of the cross is occasioned by its affront to sin. The offense of this prideful preaching is occasioned by its own sin of self-conceit.

This preaching is not the overflow of love, but of pride. Ask the Lord to show this to you and teach you to silence it. Ask Him to teach you the stillness

of meekness, gentleness, humility, contentment and peace.

Don't Fail to Discern Works of the Flesh

The flesh can think on the Lord, even meditate on Him, or say words of love to Him. But, while it may make a pretense of it, it cannot genuinely look to Him or love Him. Only the Spirit can work that within. The redeemed, new man of the spirit knows the difference.

Let's make it our priority every day to look to the Lord in all the ways the Spirit will teach us, beginning in the daily quiet time. Let's make it our practice as often as possible to stay there in rest until His quietness, rest, and peace come into our spirits, whether this takes a minute or hours. If we must prematurely leave, let us return there as soon and as often as we can. Should any feeling of peace refuse to come, rest that, too, with the Lord, and remain content in Him, feelings notwithstanding.

Be Careful of Going to Extremes

The only extreme in which we can never go too far is in our responsiveness to the working of almighty God in our lives. We can never love Him, seek Him, look to Him, come to Him, trust Him, or please Him too much. In anything else we must be careful of extremes. Nothing is lopsided about our God. We should not approve of anything lopsided about us.

Listen to Him. Let Him reveal to us the balance that reflects His infinite perfection.

Never, Never, Never Give Up

Hang in there. The God whom you seek loves you and has promised He can be found by you. In actuality, He is seeking you, drawing you, holding you, and loving you. When you stop your supposed methods of trying to reach Him, you will discover Him right where He found you.

Write to us and request more copies to share.

Transformed Living Messages by Pastor Marr
ChristLife
PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Ph: (716) 622-7320
E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net
Visit us at www.Christ-like.net



By: Pastor Ron Marr

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world [world order], and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." Colossians 2:8-10

The previous chapter was a summary of some of the responses to the Lord that He may use to draw us to Himself in love. This is a summary of the dangers that, if not guarded against, may hinder His drawing us to Himself or may cause us to slide away from Him.

My greatest fear for every child of God who starts down the long road of seeking to know the Lord in the intimacy of love is that something might thwart or impede him. Renew your vow to seek all your life to make Him your one object and passion. Do it often. Let nothing deter you, not even the sometimes seeming hopelessness of your seeking.

Block the Blockages to Spending Time Alone with the Lord

You may feel all your devotional time and energy is being wasted. You may think you are going backward, away from the Lord. You may seem to be overcome by sin, failure, and weakness. You may know there is no use.

Don't believe these lies of the devil. Believe the Lord's promise: "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). He never yet told a lie! So never quit giving Him your time and heart's attention. Let it grow.

Don't Be Misled by Men

WARNING FLAGS

Every Christian leader who fails to point people primarily to the Lord Himself is to that extent a false teacher. Some, claiming the Word of God for their authority, point people to some substitute. Many lift isolated passages from their entire biblical context and give them inaccurate meanings. Others simply know nothing of the depths of Jesus Christ. Much of their teaching is a form of religious humanism. Be careful, certainly, not to let your pride mislead you to set yourself up against your teachers. But in this day too many of the Lord's people are being misled by shallow, carnal, or heretical leaders.

Don't Let Anything Replace the Authority of the Word

Constantly search the Scriptures to see "whether these things are so" (Acts 17:11). Submit everything to the Word. Heed the direction and correction found there.

Don't Let Anything Substitute for the Triune God

Nothing in your affections, attention, thoughts, or doctrine should be allowed to usurp God's place in your life, not any desire of the flesh, not anything of the world, no possession, no hope, no religious concept, nothing else. The greatest, most constant danger is that we'll not put God first and keep Him first.

Don't Make the Christian Life Complex

In fact, the Christian life is the essence of simplicity. Sin has given us such a frustratingly complex world, full of so many unanswerable questions. God is infinite and eternal, without limitation except the moral limitations imposed by infinite perfection. But He is not the author of confusion. He is the essence of simplicity and so is His truth. Only our unwillingness to fully receive Him with His truth in our hearts and spirits breeds the frustrating confusion that overwhelms us with such complexity.

Get to the heart of God. In peace accept "the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). With Him

and His simplicity at the heart of everything you think, say, and do, find the confusion subside and His peace reign within.

Never Consider Yourself Beyond Any Sin or Failure

Be always on your guard. Even after the most wonderful time of prayer communion with your Lord, you may be lifted up in self-confidence that you mistake for the joy of the Lord. The evil one may come in to devour and destroy right at that point.

Don't Be Devastated by Your Sin

Don't, no matter how awful it may be. Worse than the sin itself is your prideful unwillingness to face the Lord, humbly agreeing with His painful assessment of your failure as sin against Him. Just acknowledge that any moment you aren't living content in Him, you are to that extent living in sinful failure.

Ask for His mercy. Thank Him for it. Ask Him for grace to live at rest in Him.

Don't Be Confused about Who Is Working

Our work is, after all, only our response to His work. As our response to His work, it's only an extension and continuation of His working. Let us view it as such, and give Him the credit.

Let us mourn when we prevent His working from achieving its goals in us by our failure to respond receptively to it. From failure, learn to lean more heavily and trustingly on Him.

Don't Resent Suffering

Accept sacrifice and suffering as from the hand of your loving Father God, who is working every bit of it together for your good. Accepting it is essential to permitting God to draw you to Himself. Guard against allowing a root of bitterness to develop in your heart.

Don't Expect an Easy Life

Circumstances may get easier. But chances are they'll seem externally to get more difficult. The Word is full of the sacrifice and suffering of the Christian life. When writ-

ing on the subject of suffering, I was amazed at the number of passages that emphasize the place of sacrifice and suffering in the Christian life, and their value in Christian development.

Don't Live to Please Men

You are to look to God, not to men. Look to the Lord for everything. He is your righteousness, your wisdom, your redemption, your sanctification, your life, your light, your hope, your peace, your way, your truth. He is your well, you fill in the rest.

Seek to please Him only. Then, without being at all callous of others' feelings, let the chips fall where they may. You'll wonder at the number of times that, even to your short-sighted gaze, they fall where they should to the eternal blessing of all concerned.

Don't Let Yourself Be Deprived of Your Rest & Peace in the Lord

If anything seems difficult to maintain, it's rest in the Lord, peace, and meekness and quietness of spirit. We are accustomed to living hurried, harried lives. We are unused to really believing that God is in charge of everything for our good. We're naturally anxious, worried, fearful. We don't find it easy to trust the Lord with and for everything. We just can't let go of the "have-to's" of life. We want to maintain control rather than let Him be in charge.

Regardless of the reason for your loss of peace, pause. Turn inward, away from everything else to Him. There rest quietly in your spirit with Him. Lay yourself quietly, safely down in His arms. Accept His comfort and protection. Let go of everything into His capable hands and caring heart. Do it often.

If you cannot find His peace without getting physically alone with Him, do that as soon and often as possible. Use the washroom if you have no better place, but do it.

Accept His love. It is yours. Live content in Him and His love. The idea that I really can live in quiet contentment in Him in a world of such sinfulness and insecurity has become a great boon to this striving, struggling sinner. How I thank Him and give Him