

DECEMBER 2008 Week 2 TEACHING

Don't Be Fooled by A Bargain

A wise Christian woman once told me *“honey, you can't bargain with God, so don't even try it...”* I heard her loud and clear, but I still tried. *“God, if you will just give me this thing, I promise I'll be so faithful to You, and You know that little secret sin of mine, well I won't do that any more either.”* All of us, at one time or another, will promise God that we will be so careful to give Him the glory if He'll just cause the thing we want most to land in our laps.

God has made covenants and promises with His people because....well... He can do that! He is 100% faithful and He will always back His Word. Promises that are made by me and you in an attempt to petition God for His goodies feel very much like we're bargaining with Him for what we want. They feel that way because we're never in a position to hold up our side of things. Tomorrow isn't promised and none of us are ever really sure what we'll do under adverse circumstances. So I've learned, the hard way I might add, that there is a better way to prove our faithfulness and to tap into the abundance that Jesus Christ made available.

That *“better way”* involves a few things that must be understood mentally, dealt with emotionally, and carried out physically. The things that we must understand are not clandestine. God is not keeping them a secret. He has revealed them to me and I talk about them with every opportunity I receive. These jewels of understanding are in the bible and most of us know them, but with all the stuff that is going on in our world today—the mind can become insanely cluttered. Quite frankly, we sometimes forget pieces of information that are essential to maintaining our walk with Christ.

The mind will always revert back to what it is used to if it is not stimulated to do otherwise. Our minds are used to that *“old man”* way of thinking; it is the way we thought before we stepped into the light of Christ. As a result of thinking the same way for years, neural pathways were established in our brains. Those pathways have to be broken and replaced with new ones. In order to do that a constant screening of our thoughts is required to bring those *“old man”* thoughts under subjection. Then we can change them to fall in alignment with what the Word says.

You may be thinking *“That's too hard. There is no way I can immediately summon a catalog of the entire bible every time I need to make a decision.”* You must remember what God has told us. He admonishes us in Proverbs 3:5, 6 (NKJV) *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”* This verse contains one of those jewels I was talking

about. You see, you do not have the answers. You do not know as much as you think you know. And the older you become, the more you will realize that you do not even know what you thought you knew. God has the answers to your life's puzzle. Yes, you can have the kind of life you desire. You CAN be God's best and you CAN be the "you" you've always dreamed of being, but you can't get there leaning solely on your own mental prowess. We are spiritual beings and spiritual information is unequivocally necessary. We must tap into an understanding that comes from loving God and learning His Word.

The Word of God is foundational. One truth builds upon another—and it does take time for us to get it. That's why God's mercy and grace is so wonderful. He is very patient with us, and waits as we wade through the mistakes and missteps that come along with getting anchored in His Word.

No, in and of yourself, you cannot summon the entire Word of God at a moment's notice, but never doubt that God has equipped you with a brain that is more than capable of summoning exactly what you need-when you need it. And He has given you the indwelling Holy Spirit to gently, and sometimes not so gently, guide you towards the lightening bolt revelation that will cut through years of confusion and strife.

The other diamond that will set your brain cells on fire is the fact that the big bang...the gigantic, gi-normous breakthrough that you're waiting on...it's waiting on you too. There is some piece of God's Word that is incredibly integral to your purpose and continued spiritual elevation. God is waiting on you to GET it. And when you do, you will have to deal with it emotionally, and then figure out how it will enhance the work that He has purposed you to do for His Kingdom.

We made a commitment through salvation to make our relationship with God our first priority. We obligated ourselves to put on the mind of Christ by studying God's Word, and to allow Him to direct our paths. That is how we please our Heavenly Father. So don't be fooled into thinking that you can bargain with God. He doesn't require us to do anything other than what we were put on this earth to do.

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