

When Your Way is Not the Right Way!

Are you getting in your own way? Who are we kidding...hardly anyone answers that question honestly. That's the trouble with getting in your own way; most of the time you don't realize you're doing it until it's too late. Discovering that YOU are the reason that you are not where God desires you to be can be a devastating blow to the ol' ego, especially if you are accustomed to getting what you want, no matter the cost.

Old habits are hard to break, and one of the biggest habits is letting pride drive our desires. Our pride can easily get in the way of attaining the "true" blessings of God. What do we mean by "true" blessings? Keep reading. The first order of business, though, is to understand how destructive pride can be. It hinders our spiritual development and distorts our ability to discern what things are from God and what things are gotten purely out of a lustful heart.

A lot of us take the attitude that if our way has gotten us to where we are today, then everything is gravy. This is where we have to be careful, especially if things are crumbling all around us and we refuse to acknowledge it.

Society's rampant obsession with materiality has gotten us in a world of trouble. We've put ourselves in debt trying to front massive *bling*; being car rich and house poor, as it were, and we think that just because we look the part we can get away with it. The fact of the matter is that it has caught up with us big time, but somehow the acknowledgement to ourselves and to God that our way is not the right way hasn't made it to the surface of our consciousness.

Many of us are in denial about our circumstances, refusing to believe that the credit card slickness that got us the goodies in the past has made its final curtain call. Some of us think that it will manifest in a different, perhaps better form, and allow us to continue the masquerade. It ain't happening. The season of careless spending is over; it was never meant to last, but it WAS meant to teach us a lesson.

Most of us can remember throwing a temper tantrum or two as a child. We thought that if we *acted out* we would get what we wanted, but some of us ended up wishing we had never thrown that tizzy fit. As adults, we continue those tantrums, only in different ways. We neglect to nurture our spiritual growth and to concentrate on our relationship with God. Instead we mask our spiritual hunger with a lust for thrills and materiality.

Matthew 6:19 NKJV

19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

God has allowed us to indulge ourselves, but it is now time to learn yet another spiritual lesson from it, one that will better prepare us for the "true" blessings, the treasures that we can lay up in a place where moth and rust won't destroy them, and where thieves cannot steal them.

It isn't that God doesn't want us to have beautiful, expensive, and fine things. He does. He wants us to have the absolute best. But there's an important balance that must not be missed. There's a balance to the universe that allows it to thrive and flourish. And there's also a balance to the Christian life that we must endeavor to achieve. It will allow us to grow and thrive as well.

Whenever the scale is tipped too far to one side or the other side, we will experience a disharmony that causes stress and strife. Things will begin to escalate out of control at a rate too fast to track. Our own inability to value the spiritual more than the material is the culprit, and if we refuse to admit that and take responsibility for it, we are in denial about what we have to face.

You cannot conquer what you refuse to confront. It's natural for someone who is experiencing hardship to want to run away from their situation. Some of us run by swapping our addiction to things for one of another kind. Others try to skip town altogether. You probably know of people who are at this very moment readying themselves to get out of dodge and leave their problems behind. They can't acknowledge that their way of handling things hasn't worked, so instead they'd rather haul their baggage to a different state, where they will make the same or greater mistakes there as well.

Wherever you go, you will take YOU with you. You can't run from yourself, and putting a temporary band-aid on a long term wound only leads to more pain. Sooner rather than later that wound will leave an ugly scar and you will have to come face to face with your reality. By then things will have gotten ridiculously out of whack and you may have spiraled into a really deep hole.

The solution is always to throw pride to the wind, move out of the way and allow Jesus Christ the room to get in the driver's seat of your life. His redemptive work has made it possible for us to ask God for forgiveness with confidence, but we can't ask and run. Sometimes we have to just be still, face what is before us, and know that He is with us every step of the way.

So to answer the question, "*are we standing in the way of our blessings?*" You doggone skippy we are, and God knew that we would do that. We owe it to Him and to ourselves to

learn to move according to His plan and purpose. He cannot be manipulated and neither can His plan for our lives. That plan is to teach us how to move in a way that ensures we learn lessons of patience, endurance, and faith; only then can we appreciate the spiritual and true blessings of His kingdom.