

Pay Attention to the Details

I want to tell you something that might come as a bit of a surprise. Life is designed to flow with simplicity and ease. Yes, it really is, because God set it up this way. Throughout the bible you will find scriptures that speak to this truth. 1John 4:18 NIV tells us very plainly that *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."* God intended us to walk in His perfect love. If we did this the way He intended us to, we could walk without fear of any kind. We would not fear retribution or punishment, because, like Jesus Christ, we would never do anything to warrant them.

Just as a tree is known by the fruit it bears, a person will be judged by the decisions he or she makes. Every day we choose a path that will either ensure we're living a life of blessings or a life filled with negative consequences. That's why it's so critically important to watch and pay attention to the details of your own life, but often times we don't pay attention. We become so overwhelmed with the complexities of life that we lose focus and direction, which in turn causes us to lose time, momentum and stamina on our spiritual journeys.

I have noticed that whenever I get off track with God's plan and purpose for my life, I begin to feel lost or confused about what direction my life is taking. It's like getting lost while you are driving. One of the most frustrating and scary things in the world is to not know where you are going. A person could very well have directions or a map, and still not have a clue which way to go. But oh boy, what a sense of relief to finally find your way.

God doesn't want us to get lost in life. He doesn't want us to lose time, momentum, or stamina,. He wants us to win, and in order to win we have to be spiritually aware of how we are responding to what is around us. Proverbs 5:1 and 21 NKJV says; *"My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, 21; For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths."* See, if we try to figure life out on our own, without using God's roadmap, we are bound to get lost, but through the Word of God we can follow His directives and stay on the right track all the time.

Our Heavenly Father instructs us to pay attention for a reason. Stuff is happening all around us, and whether you know it or not, the most unlikely folks are eyeing you, watching how you behave. When you proclaim that you're a Christian, you are going to draw attention. You will be

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stamped with a seal of “*do-rightness*”, so to speak, because people will expect you to have a higher standard of morality and judgment.

You don't get a day off from the job. You must be dutiful and watchful all the time, not allowing the details of godliness and righteousness to slip by your conscious mind. God has a way of getting your attention when you are on the verge of a slipup. When situations get a little sticky or troublesome, the Father will tell you, *"Wake up! You're getting off track. Your heart and mind are moving further away from My Word and your circumstances are evidence of that. You are not doing what I called you to do. So pay attention, and get back in focus."*

Psalms 119:113 NIV says *"Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."* This has to be our prayer every day. We ought to pray that God will direct our footsteps and keep us from falling. We ought to pray that He heightens our sense of awareness so that we don't become neglectful in our daily walk with Him. And then, we ought to recognize that when the hiccups of life come our way, it isn't because God wanted us to experience discomfort. It's because we left off a piece of His armor. We got busy tending to the world and forgot to stay focused on His Word.

You don't ever want to be in a position where sin has entered your life to such a degree that you lose sight of what is right and wrong. You want God to reign you in before that happens. So instead of worrying about what is happening in your circumstances, pay closer attention to the details of godliness. Watch how people respond to you—how you treat others—how you speak to others. Take an inventory of the love that you put out, because if it isn't coming back to you in abundance, then you are not putting it out in abundance.

Truly it is a privilege to live with purpose. Some people say that being a Christian is too heavy a load to carry, or that they can't live up to God's expectations. These are individuals who do not understand why they were placed on this earth. We were put here to have fellowship with God, and to follow the example of His son, Jesus Christ. If you lack the will to be diligent and tenacious about these two very important details, then you won't be vigilant with other details of your life either. You are a child of God. Your steps are already ordered, so don't get caught up in the details of difficulties, but see them as a wake-up call, and pay attention to the life you were called to live. ●

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