

BACK TO THE BASICS OF FAITH

The Glorious, Amazingly Remarkable Nine: Part 1

Kim made an amazing statement in her blog entitled "Don't Let Fear Take Advantage". She wrote *"Fear is a spirit, and spirits can live in you just like sickness and disease. God gave us a spirit of power, love, and sound mind. So if He didn't give us the spirit of fear, who do you think did? The spirit of fear comes from the enemy, and we need to make sure he gets it back."* From the giddy up God made a precise distinction so razor sharp that it separates the eternal destiny of a soul lived well from one lived badly. He tells us very succinctly in His Word, *"Listen, there's some stuff that I gave you. These are the things I gave Adam way back in the day. When he sinned some bad stuff came into his existence and it ended up cutting him off from my glory. Don't let that same bad stuff abide in you."*

To further my point here, I'd like to pull a reference from one my books, "Reversing the Negative Cycle". In it I wrote, "God is a supreme being, all-powerful, omniscient, majestic, and awesome. His magnificence exceeds our grandest expectation. Check out what Revelations reveals about His throne:

Revelations 4:3-5 NLT

3 The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones-jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. 4 Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. 5 And from the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder.

This is our creator! God is the highest; you cannot get any higher than Him. As we examine the biblical references to His throne, we must conclude that its majesty is inexpressible. Our understanding cannot fathom the glory of it, and none of our colors or imaginations could capture the spectrum of its dynamic activity. Nothing about God or His creation is stagnant or uninspiring, and He didn't intend our lives to be either. He designed them to be dynamic, ever changing with elevations and promotions, always moving towards higher heights, and packed to capacity with blessings."

My point is this, metaphorically speaking, God travels down a road that is nothing short of fabulous, and He wants to bring us along, but we can't travel with Heavenly Father any ol' way we please. If that were the case, Adam would have been able to maintain his fellowship with God regardless of the fact that he had sinned; however, we know that wasn't the case. God set up the universe to positively respond to our obedience of His laws. This means that everything

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in the earth is friendly towards us whenever we are in alignment with those laws. When we fall out of alignment with them, we cease to be in fellowship with God, and we therefore reap the consequences of our negative actions.

Adam's and Eve's sin separated them from Heavenly Father; it separated them from His holiness and they could no longer enjoy all the goodies that stem from walking as holy and righteous individuals. Jesus Christ came into the earth and restored every single thing that was lost as a result of Adam's and Eve's mess-up. Now, Adam takes a lot of heat for his colossal faux pas, but we needn't fool ourselves. Given the same set of circumstances—all of us probably would have messed up too. We can't keep our eyes focused upon Adam's mistake. Our eyes must be locked upon the grace of God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, God made it possible for us to have His spirit abiding within us. Most folks who are born-again understand this miraculous spiritual awakening. They are awesomely thankful to be one of God's called-out ones, but there's a mistake that we continue to make. We continue to neglect that our every thought, deed, behavior, and attitude is under constant scrutiny. We fail to acknowledge the fact that whenever there is a glitch in our lives, it is often connected to thoughts, deeds, behaviors, and attitudes that are not in keeping with the example of Christ.

Job 1:7 (NLT)

"Where have you come from?" the LORD asked Satan. And Satan answered the LORD, "I have been going back and forth across the earth, watching everything that's going on."

In this verse, God asked Satan a simple question. Now, if we're not careful, we might be tempted to think that God asked Satan this question because He, God, didn't know the answer. Well we know that God is omniscient. He knows everything. So we must deduce that this dialogue was written totally for our benefit. It was written so that we would know a thing or two about how Satan operates. He and his spirits roam the earth, watching EVERYTHING that is going on. The devil isn't checking out the scenery. The beautiful skies and views of God's masterful earth doesn't interest him. He is looking at you and I, and all the other sons and daughters of Zion. Now, why do you suppose he's doing that? He's watching us so that he can find an entrance into our lives. He wants to stop us from moving God's agenda forward.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (The Message)

⁸⁻⁹Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith.

The devil has no entrance lest we provide it, this is why God warns us countless times in His Word to *"keep your guard up...be watchful...be careful....stay alert!"* If you are spiritually on point and you watch what you do, think, and say all the time, then you'll make it exceedingly difficult

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for satan to find an entrance to come in and attack you. Remember, Adam had to sin before the devil could gain access to his authority and dominion. It is the violation of God's laws that allows satan entrance into our lives.

Now let me get down to the nitty gritty here: Listen, you can't afford to be intimidated by the spiritual forces that are against you. They have been around a lot longer than you, and it doesn't make any sense for you to waste your energy wondering about their plots. What does make sense is for you to understand that there's a tremendous amount of spiritual activity going on behind the scenes, and God has made it possible for you to stay on His side, where blessings and abundance abound.

You see, the devil isn't just looking to cause a ruckus externally, he wants to gain access to your soul. He wants you to allow one of his spirits to come into your being. Those spirits are doubt, fear, self-pity, rage, insecurity, vengeance, jealousy, selfishness, and pride—I call them the "*bad nine*". Once you react to a situation by behaving negatively, you will have given him a way to get at you. That's when the enemy makes progress. Then, he will continue to prick and prick, and use these same tactics. He will do this because he's discovered that these are the things that cause you to stop traveling with God and start running on his side. Allowing these spirits in your soul even for a moment can cause you to miss out on an extraordinary opportunity. So don't waste a single second on the devil's non-sense.

James 4:7 KJV

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7 tells us to resist the devil and he'll flee. Well, how do you resist? You resist by not reacting in anger; don't react with a vengeful heart. Don't let negativity rule your soul, because it's harmful to your relationship with God. Instead let faith rule the day. Trust in God's glorious, amazingly remarkable nine, and drench your every thought in those spiritual fruits morning, noon, day, and night. What are they? They are the direct opposite of the bad nine.

"God is good all the time and all the time God is good!" This is a mantra folks use repeatedly, yet so many have little or no concept of what it really means. The BIG picture view of what it means is this, *"All goodness, every morsel and every drop, comes from God. He is ALL good without exception."* This is the one thing you must accept with every fiber of your being...that all goodness, every good thing, comes from God, our Heavenly Father. There is no goodness that comes from the devil at all. He can counterfeit goodness and make it look like the real thing, but it will ultimately be a trap.

Look at these verses:

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

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God's way of goodness always, always, always travels with the companions of love, joy, peace, patience(longsuffering), gentleness, faith, kindness, humility, and self control. The only way to get blessed with something good is to do it by tapping into one of these glorious, amazingly remarkable nine.

Every person who has any ounce of goodness in their lives-- experiences that goodness as a direct result of cultivating their harvest through one of these Godly qualities. If you dabble in anything outside of the qualities that stem from God's glorious, amazingly remarkable nine, you're going to take a hit from the devil, no questions about it. Stay tuned for more....

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