

BACK TO THE BASICS OF FAITH

Strip it Off, Walk Away, and Then Run to Jesus

One of the reasons why folks have a great many troubles and tribulations on this Christian journey is because they don't know when and how to walk away from situations. They develop soul ties with the wrong people, and allow themselves to become too distracted and too easily attached to things, particularly when those things have clearly outlived their usefulness. Now, if you don't have a ready-made mind to go higher spiritually, then sameness may not bother you all that much, but if you are interested in answering the call of God, you'll have to settle a thing or two in your mind. One of those things is the fact that you must embrace change to go higher. Another is that there will be some people, habits, and situations that you simply must leave behind.

This isn't the first time you've heard that, and it sho'nuff won't be the last. For some of us it takes hearing it fifty million times, and then going a couple of rounds against troubling situations before we get it. But mark my words, we won't move one iota closer to the mark that the Father has placed before us until we realize that the load we're carrying is too heavy to move up, and after we realize it we must be willing to do something about it.

As you come to grips with the reality that you've got to unburden yourself to move ahead, you'll have to get brutally honest. We all have a little messiness in us, and truth be told there are some people in your life this very moment who make you comfortable in your mess. They don't want you to change your gossipy ways. They don't want you to stop that bad habit. They don't want to see you with a Mr. Wonderful, because seeing you live beneath your privilege makes them feel superior. They know that if you don't move any higher, then they don't have to get their stuff together and move higher either. And so even though you love them to pieces, and it seems as if they have the best intention in the world where you're concerned, the enemy continues to work through them to trick you into living beneath your privilege.

I'm not suggesting that you kick folks to the curb...that's not nice. There's a Godly art to walking away, and it's to do it with His grace and kindness. Through Christ, we can navigate through situations in such a way that people just tend to move away from our paths. This is exactly what will happen if you are serious about spiritual elevation. As long as you continue to be loving and refuse to partake in anything that doesn't add to your soul, you'll see folks just drop off, but again your intent must be to honor God. Your focus must be to walk away from the stuff that holds you back and embrace the stuff that lifts you up.

Often, the thought of walking away is so troubling for us because we don't realize that some very important prep work is required first. It's a mistake to think that you can walk away from a person, habit, or situation without replacing it with something more beneficial. You've got to

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understand what you're doing. You're preparing to move to the next level of spiritual growth and maturity. You're comprehending that you can't reach out and grab more without making room for it. You're getting ready to walk into your destiny, so you must prepare your mind, heart, and soul by accepting that something is going to vacate the premises, externally and internally. You may be losing something that you've counted on for a while. The person or thing is leaving your external environment, and the feelings of internal comfort that you associated with that person, habit, or situation may also be hitting the road as well. So there's a gap that you've got to reckon with.

The gap needs to be filled. God knows it. He planned for it. He knows what you're holding on to. He also knows you need to walk away from it to see the greatness of what He has in store for you. He knows how difficult it is to do, and that's why He has already provided help. "How?" you might ask, through this teaching, that's how. You've seen the signs. You've heard the prophecy. Now trust in the Savior and reach out to him. Open your eyes to see what he is showing you.

For years it's been so difficult for you to trust what the Lord is saying. You've been pretending that you do, but really you don't, because your actions don't convey that you really, really trust Him to make everything work out. The world is moving at such a fast pace and things around us are changing so quickly that we stick our heads in the sand and say *"It doesn't matter what I do, nothing in my life is gonna change."* We've convinced ourselves that immobility is safer than upward mobility. We're too afraid to reach any higher. We figure that everything we could possibly want in this world is corrupt and beyond repair, so we put off unloading unnecessary baggage. But think for a minute and realize that your treasure isn't here anyway; it never was. Matthew 6:20 KJV tells us very succinctly *"... lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"*

Our treasure is in Christ Jesus! This is what you have to trust. It's within the example that he left for us to follow. Did you get that? Let me repeat it again, because it's just that powerful!!! **"OUR TREASURE IS IN THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST!!!"** This is the reason why you've got to learn to walk away, and then run to him with due diligence. 1 Corinthians 9:24 (KJV) says *"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain."* You and I are not running for running's sake, we are running to win! We are running to obtain. Remember that, because it is awesomely important to any and everything that you do.

You are running to obtain the good stuff—the good stuff spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. God intends good stuff for you in every which way possible. He wants you to be deluged with blessings, coming from every direction. He wants you to be blessed coming in and blessed going out. His way is the way of increase. Now you have to ask yourself, *"How do I increase?"* Well, you certainly can't do it if you don't learn to walk away from the stuff that's holding you back.

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If you see yourself as living with the same set of circumstances day in and day out, without any chance of moving up, you will most certainly grow weary of the race. And this is where a lot of us are...weary, down trodden, desponded, and sad. If you feel this way, then you've got to realize that you've allowed the world to gobble up your will and undermine your good intentions. You've given away your joy and the only thing that's going to shock you back into enlightenment is for you to bust a serious move.

Life may have beat up on you so bad that you're saying *"I don't feel like running anybody's race...I'm just too tired."* Well if you've tricked yourself into thinking you're too tired to run, then odds are that you're not feeling as though you can muster the strength to walk away from anything either. Listen, this is the same trick the devil's been pulling on you for years. Put a stop to it!

Unload, get some of that junk out of your trunk. Walk away from the security blanket. God has some place for you to be, but you can't get there if your shoes aren't made for walking. Remember those wonderful scriptures about God's armor in Ephesians 6: Verse 15 (NLT) says *"For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared."* God isn't the one with the shoes, you are. He has no feet but our feet. If anyone is going to do the stepping it's you. God is telling you through this teaching to get your feet ready to walk away. Walk away from those folks who are holding you back. Walk away from the habit that is holding you back. Walk away from the situation that is holding you back.

Understand with crystal clarity that you're not running for yourself, you're running for Jesus! You're running because he said to do it. He has told us to keep running because he knows if we do--we'll reach the place of unspeakable blessings, and if we don't we'll never raise our sights to higher heights. He is telling you to keep running until you reach your prize, and you don't stop there. Still, you keep on running to the next mark.

God has told us in Hebrews 12:1 to strip off EVERY weight that slows us down and hinders our progress, so that we can run with endurance. Did you get that? This is the reason why we get tired...it's because we don't strip off the weight before we start running the race. Do you see that...no wonder we're huffing and puffing...getting exhausted from the troubles of life, because we're not doing what God said to do. Get your groove back! Get rid of the baggage. Strip it off, walk away, and then run to Jesus.

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