

January 12, 2014

## You Get What You Expect - Walking Out The Vision #2

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Last week we were encouraged to write down things that we would like to see changed for the new upcoming year. We may not be able to read this on a daily basis, but at least a couple times a week to remind ourselves. If we keep ourselves in remembrance we will pursue the visions that we have for our lives. Habakkuk tells us that "the vision is for an appointed time and that it would not tarry, but would come."

Hab 2:3-4 "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." KJV

Paul is teaching us in Philippians about working out our salvation, remembering that God loves us so very much, regardless of what we have done and who we are. Being conformed or predestined to His image, taking on His characteristics. This sometimes becomes a challenge to us in working out our salvation or walking the pathway that God has chosen for us. It is God that is in us by His Spirit, empowering us to carry out that desire that has put on the inside of us and begin to take on His image and likeness.

Phil 2:12-13 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." KJV

Phil 2:12-13 "Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show] in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence *and* awe and trembling (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ). 13 [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight " AMP

Romans 8:29 " For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" KJV

The political correctness that we hear all around us is influencing the church in what is being said in order not to offend anyone. But God puts people in the body of Christ to declare His plan and purpose. If we allow this correctness to intimidate us, we will never speak out against the consequences that come from breaking or defying God's laws. We do not speak out in anger, but in love, warning those around us of things to come. Sin brings consequences; we will reap adverse consequences down the road.

Warning people in love to pursue the ways of God. This is what working out our salvation

involves, born again and complete in Him, renewing our minds, allowing us to be molded to the image of Jesus and it is a lifelong process.

In Deuteronomy we are told of how God has prepared the "promised land" for the children of Israel, a place of favor for them. God's plan for them was blessings, but the choice was theirs, either blessings or cursings. Life is always about choices.

Deut 30:15-20 "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 16 In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20 That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them" KJV

Ezekiel and Jeremiah prophecies that God is going to give us a new heart. Prophesying about the new birth that is to come when Jesus' work is finished, taking out the old, stony heart, giving us a new heart. Jesus taught that He wanted us to love Him with all our hearts.

Jesus wants our whole heart, not one area that might have darkness, following after the flesh, but all our heart. What happens when we don't allow God to have our whole heart? Paul teaches us in Galatians and Romans what happens, what the consequences are when we begin to walk after the flesh and not the spirit.

Ronald Reagan once said that we should be careful about saying "that God is on our side but the importance is that we should be on God's side". God has a plan and it is important that we discern what it is and get there and stay there.

How do we guard or watch over our heart after God has given us that new heart through the new birth? One way that this is possible is found in Proverbs 4.

Pro 4:20-23 "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." KJV

Pro 4:23 "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." NLT

Jesus teaching in Mark 4, Luke 8 and Matthew 13 about the seed sown, what happens as it is planted and how the enemy comes to steal it. Jesus taught that our hearts were like a field and would grow anything that is planted, but if we don't understand this principle we will never understand kingdom ways. Bad things that are planted in the soil will rob from the good things planted, Jesus likened our hearts to the soil, whatever is planted, good or bad, will grow and produce a harvest, unless it is taken care of. Doubt and unbelief will rob our heart, for out of the heart are the issues of life. \_

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Jesus wanting our whole heart has looked

ahead and sees the provision, all the blessings that God has planned for us. Choose life! This is the answer, it is life, it has the favor of God on it.

Jesus is teaching us the importance of planting the Word of God into our hearts, our minds, will and emotions, because what is planted there will grow and produce the harvest, it will be life or health to our flesh. We must learn to guard our hearts with diligence, meaning a firm steady effort to accomplish what has been undertaken.

The children of Israel did not guard their hearts as seen in the following scriptures.

Psa 78: 8 "And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God." KJV

Psa 78:41 "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." KJV

Psa 78:37 "For their heart was not right with him, neither were they steadfast in his covenant." KJV

We must learn to guard our hearts with maintenance, by the renewing of our minds with the word, or our spiritual eyesight becomes blurred, but God will clear them. Sinning or missing the mark will not stop God from loving us or speaking to us. Our conscience will begin to speak to us when we need to pray, but we will think we are not worthy. Without maintenance on our hearts, we will begin to limit or tempt God, our hearts are not right and we are not steadfast in our covenant we have with Him.

We still love God, but our intimate relationship with Him is affected. We have to make right choices to experience God's goodness and fullness. God's grace does not eliminate walking in the ways of God; it empowers us to walk in His grace.

Prayer is an important part of doing maintenance on our hearts. It is a tuning up of our spirit. Our hearts will grow whatever is planted in it.

Luke 18:1 "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" KJV

Remembering things spoken in prophecies are a part of the maintenance on our hearts, remembering the good things God has done write them down and share with others. We must listen to our conscience as a part of the maintenance of our hearts. Our conscience will either accuse us or excuse us. Our conscience can be overridden, it is our choice.

1 Tim 1:18-19 "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:" KJV

1 Tim 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" KJV

If a conscience is not seared, it is always a safe direction for a believer regardless, of where they are in their growth, it is a safe guard.

Paul is making correction with a group of believers who having found freedom, began to walk after the flesh. Sowing to the flesh will bring corruption. We guard our hearts by not yielding to the flesh. When the heart is condemning us, we usually have no faith to ask.

Gal 6:7-9 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." KJV

Guard your hearts, God looks at the heart, He doesn't look like man does, man looks on the outside, but God looks inside the heart even our thoughts and intentions sometimes. Guard your heart, this will keep us in alignment to enjoy the outward manifestations.