

The Importance of Spending Time in Prayer

Satan comes to all of us. He came to Jesus in Luke 4:1-13 and talked to Him, and tried to get Jesus to do things that were very tempting to do. He came to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7. Satan comes after God's elite and very elect. The first ones he went to of God's were Adam and Eve, whom he persuaded to eat from the forbidden fruit. He came to King David about Bathsheba; he came to Samson about Delilah; he came to Judas over money; he came to Gehazi over gifts and money; and he came to Ananias and Sapphira right in church - and they all fell the day they listened to the devil, and that was the day they went into captivity.

Many times in my Christian life, I've done things that I later realized were not of God, but of the devil. Had it not been for the prayers of others, and for me knowing in my heart that something was wrong and I needed to spend extra time in prayer, and if it hadn't been for the compassion and mercy of God - I, too, would have been shipwrecked today in faith.

I've done a lot of foolish things in my Christian life because they seemed good, or like a good idea, or because of the thought that if everyone is doing it, why shouldn't I? But in times of prayer and reading the Word, the Lord would begin to show me I was wrong, and that I needed to repent and judge myself (1 Corinthians 11:31 & 1 John 1:9). One of the reasons I teach so strongly on prayer and hearing and doing the Word is because in prayer, I've always found out where I missed God. What I should've done from the beginning was to pray and ask the Lord if this was what He wanted me to do. At the time, flesh doesn't want to seek God because of its arrogance and pride. Flesh thinks it can handle everything.

The devil comes to all of us to lure us away so he can either destroy our lives and/or destroy our testimony. Whatever you laid down on the altar of God because you knew it was a distraction from the things of the Lord is going to be what Satan will try to get you to pick up again. Old habits and sins always come back around, and the devil will do all that he can to destroy your Christian testimony.

We've got to be very careful with the things of the world, as we read in Hebrews 12:1&2, **Therefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Something may not be a sin, but it can be a weight. And either one will drag you back to the world. Your dedication to God is going to be tested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year, because Satan is never going to quit trying to entice you to go back to the world. He lost you the day you were born-again, and he's bound and determined to get you back. And, far greater men and women of God than I, who were dedicated to God, serving God with all their hearts and seemingly loved God with all their might are no longer serving

God today the way they did at one time. How did this happen? The same way it happens to all of us: it begins the day we first listen to the devil and hearken to his suggestions. Then we begin to violate our convictions, our conscience, and our fear of God.

The only way that you and I as believers are going to be able to fulfill the call of God on our lives, (or fulfill the perfect will of God for our lives) is to every day, have a time of prayer. We need closet time, and not just a little quickie prayer on the way to work - as my mom would say, "Give it a lick and a promise." **NO!** That's not going to cut it.

We have to put in the quality time every day in prayer, because as soon as we start slacking off in prayer, **you can mark it on your calendar** : that's the **day**, that's the **moment**, that's the **time** that you begin to yield to the flesh (Matthew 26:41). It's then that you begin to get cold on God, and you become more worldly and carnal minded. That's why Jesus stated it so strongly when He said in Luke 18:1 that men ought always to pray, and not faint.

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow. Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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