

Following God's Will, No Matter What

Dear Daily Devotional Partner,

Some people fail to follow God's call on their life because of the people they hang around with. Often the people they spend the most time with and consider their best friends will attack or persecute them. The friend, or friends will say or do something (*in many instances out of envy or jealousy because of their dedication to the Lord*) that will contribute to this person not completely fulfilling the call of God on their life.

If the people you hang around with and/or those you consider to be your friends are worldly minded, and are not totally committed to God, the kind of spirit that they have will get off on you. The proof that they are influencing you, instead of you influencing them, is that you begin to become more worldly, and carnal minded. When you do these things all under the heading of "*...but they're my friends,*" it's a sure sign that you are losing your first love, which is your relationship with the Lord. Anyone who hinders us from following the Lord and obeying Him is not a friend. The best friend we could ever have is our Lord, Jesus Christ. When you become more interested in pleasing your friends than doing God's will, know for sure that you will end up compromising your convictions.

Emotional and social ties are extremely persuasive, very dangerous and detrimental to walking in the perfect will of God. These ties blind the individual from seeing the vision that the Lord has for them and destroys their pursuit of the ways of the Lord. Denominationalism is notorious for this. There is a delusion of the safety in numbers, and in longing for the recognition and approval from the people we love, appreciate and esteem.

We need ministers today who have one thing in mind, and one thing only, and that is total surrender and obedience to God. We don't need any more copycats in the body of Christ! Instead, we need servants of God who only want to serve God, build His kingdom and please Him and Him only. We, as the body of Christ, should have the utmost respect for the individual who is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in giving up their will and doing the will of the Lord, no matter how great the sacrifice may be for them. It is far better that we please God, and be persecuted and ridiculed by our brothers and sisters in the Lord, than to please those we love, and displease the Lord.

Another reason that people do not step out to follow and obey God is fear. They fear what will happen to them, what others will think of them, or they fear being put out of the church. One scriptural example of this is found in John 9:20-23: **His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.**

Fear of what others will say and do has spiritually crippled and paralyzed many of those who seemed to have had some of the greatest potential in preaching the gospel. Too many God-gifted and talented people have never reached their full potential in being used by God because they spent all their time and endeavors operating in the religious and political systems. They seem to lack the courage and faith to do what they know they have to do in their heart. What holds them back most of all is fear of rejection by their fellow religious peers.

When you step out totally for God, you become an oddity in the body of Christ. You will be ridiculed and called names, and many will stop fellowshiping with you and accuse you of being rebellious, or accuse you of being a maverick, and accuse you of not cooperating with other ministers. I have never quite understood why people have felt this way. I have always believed that if a minister is not of God, and if they are rebellious and building their own kingdom, eventually their ministry (*or whatever you choose to call it*) will fail and fold up.

The best thing you can do for yourself, your loved ones, your church, the world, and for God, is to obey God and fully serve Him. Face your fears *now*, while there is still time to obey God. Don't let fear or the rejection of others control you. Just keep in mind what God's Word says about you, for He said, **Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.** Isaiah 41:10,11

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1John 4:4

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Romans 8:31,37

All you have to get settled in your heart is that this is the direction and the step that God wants you to take. Even if the whole world threatens to come against you, all you have to know is that God is with you and He will get you over and through any situation, and Satan and all of hell cannot stop you when you are walking with and trusting the Lord. Because of influences brought about by spirits of control and manipulation and fear, many ministries have gone unfilled, and the kingdom of God has suffered.

As soon as you begin to sense the call of God on your life, the devil seems to go on full alert, and starts to raise up all the opposition he can. He does this through persecution, discouragement, control, manipulation, and compromise. We should always be aware of what the devil is trying to do to hold us back and hinder us from following God.

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11

Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us. 1 Thessalonians 2:18

He'll do all that he can to keep you from following God, just as he did with Joseph, David, Paul, and others. Today, sadly, the devil will even use some of your Christian friends, your brothers and sisters in the Lord, to control you and to keep you from obeying the call of God. It's very difficult to please others, especially those you love, and at the same time please the Lord. It is very important that you come to the place that you become confident that you have heard the voice of God. This will only come about through much time spent in your prayer closet. No one can do this for you; you have got to do it on your own. You must

have the revelation in your heart that you don't need anyone to get you into the ministry, nor do you need anyone's permission. If you are called by God into the ministry, you don't need a Bible school, a church, a denomination, a minister, priest or pastor, or the approval of anyone. God may, in some instances, use these avenues, but the most important thing to remember is all you need is God!

If you sense the call of God on your life, spend time daily praying, and fasting. Spend time alone with God and no one else. Get your instructions from the Lord, He will tell you what to do. Until He speaks to you, in your heart, just keep doing what the Bible says to do, such as tithing, giving, forgiving others, walking in love, and developing your spirit man to hear the voice of the Lord.

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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