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Most of us want to "make it on our own" and take pride in calling ourselves strong men and women. "We can handle it..." Maybe we can endure great pain even... But the pain of losing our soul is not one anyone has to face. Jesus died so no one would have to face the fire of Gehenna. He is the Savior of the world. No one can save himself. It doesn't matter how much you think you are "wise" or a "good person", you need Jesus to save you. If you know that you need deliverance, call upon Jesus to deliver you. He will reward you for seeking Him in faith. The blind man would have never been healed if he wanted to be the strong blind man who handles his blindness on his own "like a man". Don't feed your ego with the lies of Satan. YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT ALL, like no child can handle it all. Be that child and in God you will find a Father.

(Matthew 18:2-4

2. And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3. And said, Truly I say unto you, Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, that one is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.)

There is no glory in feeding yourself lies, only shame that will be revealed no matter how you think you can manage your denial of the truth. Humble yourself before God and seek his ways that lead to everlasting life.

Matthew 20:30-34

30. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, you Son of David. 31. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, you Son of David. 32. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What do you desire that I do for you? 33. They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. 34. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

ASK. SEEK. KNOCK.

Luke 11:5-13

5. And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6. For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7. And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you. 8. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needs. 9. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10. For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. 11. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he asks a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12. Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13. If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for the one who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Jeremiah 29:13

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jesus said "Come to Me!", He did not say "Go to church!" (There is a difference!) Wherever you do go, make sure you answer Jesus' call to come to Him so you can learn from Him!

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Many of us go about "finding ourselves"... That's a sure sign of being lost. That very thinking cannot be that of someone who is in Christ and has had his/her mind renewed. Unless Jesus and a relationship with Him have been misrepresented to you, when you find Him, you find eternal life and know there is no greater treasure (Matthew 13:44)! How would you then go after any passing thing of lesser value? If you understand what you found, you count all things as rubbish (Philippians 3:8). That's just reality, unless unfortunately, you reject the gift of eternal life and want to cling to sin and a passing life in this passing world (Mark 8:34-37). We need to seek and find Jesus, if we are so minded – not ourselves. Think about it for a minute. Could we be lost? Of course we can be. Could we be deceived? Of course. Dead? Absolutely. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me". If we are not in Him, we are lost (not on the way to the Father), deceived (don't know the truth or walk in it) and dead (don't have the life which is the gift of God through faith in Jesus, that is, eternal life). Now do we even believe that? Are you a believer "for real" (serious question)? When God looks at you and how you live, does He see a believer ready to hear and obey his Father's word or someone who says he/she believes in God and loves Him even, but follows his/her heart on things and does not live according to the word of God to do the will of God.

John 8:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (from bondage to sin)."

John 13:35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Do you see yourself as a disciple of Jesus? It's more than the first twelve! Yes, everyone who has followed Jesus is his disciple. How can you be anyone's disciple? Let's say you are taking some class (e.g. carpentry, swimming, painting, etc.) You are a disciple of the one instructing you by doing what he/she says. Why should that be different when we call ourselves disciples of Jesus (aka Christians), and are only happy to do weekly appearances somewhere to hear what someone else has heard and was led to share? Jesus rightly asks: "And why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? " (Luke 6:46) We sing "He is risen" at that time of the year, but do we believe He is alive? Did we die with Him to be

resurrected with Him? (Romans 6:4) That's the real life to be celebrated: the new life in Him. Do you have that life? Or are you clinging to the earthly "life" that is bound to perish and embellishing it and glorifying yourself in it?

We need to go to Jesus and He did not say to "find yourself". He said: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) <http://biblehub.com/luke/9-23.htm> Are these words familiar? Why wouldn't they be? It's like step 0! Make sure you understand Jesus' instruction and do not do something else by following a false gospel in this perilous time.

How do you "deny yourself"? Check your mind, your thoughts... If you still want to conquer the world and make a name for yourself in this world (Mark 8:36), or you are even entertained by things like 15 minutes of fame, even in the company of people who don't have God on their minds, you love the world and the things in the world; you are serving yourself, your mind is not on the things above and you do not have the love of the Father in you (1 John 2:15-17). If you would indulge in any sin(ful pleasure) and justify it with any reason, or you would be happy to live your life and not make sure you are walking in God's will in every aspect, that tells you who you are "serving" (Romans 6:16), who is the authority over your life. God is the authority over your life as long as you live your life in obedience to Him, not in doing what people said He said (while you never checked the scriptures).

You also can't go on cherishing ideals of the world like being "self-made"... Well, when you are self-made, you will give glory to yourself and not God. You will worship yourself in an act of self-idolatry. How can you even talk about being led by God, when you lift yourself up to be in competition with who He is? He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5). You should rather recognize the blessings you have and be grateful for them and give honor and glory to the name that is above every name (not yourself!) Too many have raised themselves up as their own idols. "Be you, do you"... all of these self-centered, self-worshipping thoughts do not go hand in hand with following God and his ways. May we learn to ask and to receive from the One who loves us and is the Father who knows best (Luke 11:9-13; James 1:17). May we learn to walk with peace and joy in the blessing of waiting on the Lord for his answers, maintain an intimate relationship with Him while being transformed according to his will and purpose and developing patience, perseverance, humility, compassion... things that are

all precious in God's sight! May we be grateful to Him and give Him glory for all things we have so received by grace, through faith.

God wants us to understand how our relationship with Him works. Our love towards Him is shown in our obedience to Him, not how we suppose we feel about Him or how many worship songs we can play or sing in a day. Jesus said: "If you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). We need to hear Him and have it in our hearts to obey Him. And that's what "following" means, even the following of commandments that lead to eternal life (John 6:63; John 12:50). But we live in wicked times and our minds aren't on God for the most part. We are being distracted/entertained to death and kept away from what matters.

Are we going with the flow or against it?

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, 4 traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!

Do you need to turn away from bad company, or do you yourself need to turn from those ways?

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Matthew 12:33

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

Follow what God's word says to check yourself; examine your fruit, not based on how you feel that you are being God's servant but based on the word of truth. In

Christ, there must be transformation of the mind and "life change" if our life is surrendered to his rule. It's all about authority. Who has authority over your life? It can only be two powers: light or darkness. And Jesus is that light of the world (John 8:12) who paid a price to buy you from the hopelessness of being deceived into doing the devil's will through sin (2 Timothy 2:26; Acts 26:18) and so be headed to destruction.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Have you ever heard and received these words in your heart as a believer?

Mark 8:34-38

"34 Summoning the crowd along with His disciples, He said to them, "If anyone wants to be My follower/disciple, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life (you're clinging to this earthly life) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (you forsake your attachment to your life in this passing world, aiming rather for eternal life) because of Me and the gospel will save it. 36 For what does it benefit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his life? 37 What can a man give in exchange for his life? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Again, do you have that life Jesus died so you could have? It's time for self-examination (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Colossians 3:1-2

3 So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth.

Respond to God's love in obedience to receive his promise of eternal life:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Do you understand the opposite of perishing? It's what salvation is about. And there are many false prophets in the world who will only speak certain things to you a certain way to get a certain result that may have nothing to do with God's work! As a believer you are to be watching and praying, not sleeping.

(Beware of false prophets - I

<https://www.facebook.com/yestothetruth/posts/992802594131997>

Beware of false prophets - II

<https://www.facebook.com/yestothetruth/posts/997188790360044>)

We speak of eternal life that we're supposed to have as believers and sing many songs with that theme, but if at the same time we will perpetuate satanic propaganda in our minds first of all, and in the minds of others, with mottos like "life is short" so be quick to enjoy it... we ought to ask... Is that the Good News? Have we come to know the truth (John 8:32; 1 Timothy 2:4)? What do we believe in again? What did Jesus die to give us? Do we have it? Are we just trusting that we do or do we know we have it (cf. 1 John 5:13; 1 John 4:13)? Have we become one spirit with the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17) through his Spirit He has given us (Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:13)?

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth.

Where your mind takes you or will keep you is vital to consider.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. 16 For everything that belongs to the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does God’s will remains forever.

John 3:36

The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who disobeys the Son won't see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Romans 5:8-9

8. But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9. Much more then, being now justified by his blood (made right with God), we shall be saved from wrath through him.

After you are made right with God, if you have tasted that the Lord is gracious indeed (1 Peter 2:3), you remain right with Him, you remain faithful, you don't go on sinning, being a transgressor of God's law again (1 John 3:4).

Repentance and faith are the way to being justified by his blood. Don't believe in fables. You take action today. You are called to obey the Son today and it's up to you to respond to that call. It was not answered for you on the cross. Your own walk you need to walk today was not done/finished for you on the cross. You are called to a life of obedience to the Son, apart from sin, today!

What will it be?

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel.”

If you think "accept Jesus" or "trust in the finished work on the cross" are a good enough alternative to Jesus' command and give you the gospel message while leaving you (at peace) to continue in your sins day to day so that grace may abound (Romans 6:1-2) you have received no good news at all. Watch testimonies

of salvation and I beg you, check the scriptures in your bible, and examine your own walk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE-7TsJrEoQ&list=PLQKBVZh0-tlLsSebgl9THMeiOpsvCvZeS>

Pray for wisdom and understanding (James 1:5; Job 28:28; Proverbs 9: 10).

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:32

And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

May Jesus bless you!

See also:

If you are in a big enough cage...

<https://www.facebook.com/yestothetruth/posts/1069340509811538>

"Coming as you are" to God does imply a changed heart

<https://www.facebook.com/yestothetruth/posts/1011564658922457>

Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness

<https://www.facebook.com/yestothetruth/posts/1058353070910282>

Love not the world

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQKBVZh0-tlKH-nXRkl9UnedHo1Fnjoxg>

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