

Stewards of Grace Ministries Monthly Newsletter for June 2017



There would be no sense in saying you trusted Jesus
if you would not take His advice

Jesus told the people who had faith in him,
"If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are
my disciples. You will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

If you live in me and what I say lives in you, then ask
for anything you want, and it will be yours.

You give glory to my Father when you produce a lot of
fruit and therefore show that you are my disciples.

John 15:7-8

Walking in the spirit. How do you know? Last month I asked a question: "How do you know....?" Just HOW do we REALLY know anything? Have you ever sat down and put down on paper the things you believe about God, yourself and the world around you? **Have you ever written down your goals, hopes and aspirations?** This is the basis of your mindset: your belief system. Have you examined your mindset? A mindset is a collection of thoughts and behaviors that we have chosen and learned that help us go into the direction that we desire. Now, if you do not have a "Godly" mindset, you will not move in the direction that God has purposed for your life. If you have a "self" or "worldly" mindset you will be constantly choosing options and measuring your life and the resulting choices according to the world's system of importance, desirability, pleasure and success. If you think that you are a Christian, but are constantly being drawn toward a worldly or selfish decision or path, I would look twice at my mindset... it needs to be given over into God's

hands so that He can give you the needed strength to make the righteous decisions that line up with His will for you. Why does this matter? Imagine yourself buying a ticket to Paris, and then getting in the line going to Australia; would you end up in Paris or Australia, or would you end up going nowhere at all? Do you think they would allow you on a plane without a ticket for that plane's destination? Or would you be escorted off? Just like airlines have rules and regulations regarding passenger boarding, so does God. Yet it appears that so many people think that merely acknowledging God – calling themselves "Christians" is sufficient to gain entrance into the heavenly realm; they have the mindset that **they already have "what it takes"** to get to the destination they desire. But just like you have to "pass" all of the requirements to reach your chosen destination on an airline – with the appropriate certification and vouchers, so too, our God requires us to follow His rules to get to our desired end in Him. Our God is a loving and merciful God and accepts those who turn to Him, but at the same time, He is JUST and those who reject Him will receive what they deserve in the spiritual realm. **Rom 2:4** *Do you have contempt for God, who is very kind to you, puts up with you, and deals patiently with you? **Don't you realize that it is God's kindness that is trying to lead you to Him and change the way you think and act?*** 5 *Since you are stubborn and don't want to change... you are adding to the anger that God will have against you on that day when God vents his anger. At that time God will reveal that his decisions are fair.* 6 *He will pay all people back for what they have done.* 7 *He will give everlasting life to those who search for glory, honor, and immortality by persisting in doing what is good. But he will bring 8 anger and fury on those who, in selfish pride, refuse to believe the truth and who follow what is wrong.* So you see, it is really necessary - no matter where you are in your life's journey - to stop and take stock of where you are and where you are headed. We only have this one life - there are no "do-overs" and God expects us to seek Him when we don't have the answers... in fact He WANTS us to come to Him with every little problem: **Hosea 10:11...Break up your fallow**

ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you. **13 You have plowed wickedness; you have reaped iniquity. You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way.. Acts 17:26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **27 so that they should seek the Lord,** in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **28 for in Him we live and move and have our being.** Also, don't think that you can "hoodwink" God... He knows the far recesses of your heart, better than you do! You cannot hide anything or pretend with God, so the best way to deal with God is to be honest - even if your honesty is negative toward Him, He will understand; He would rather you be hot or cold instead of pretending to be something you're not. **Matt 21:28...**A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. **30** Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. **31** Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him "The first." Jesus said to them, Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots will enter the kingdom of God before you. **32** For... tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him." **How do you do this?** **[Experiencing God: Henry Blackby:] Ps 50:15**"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." Did you know that you bring glory to God by calling upon Him when you are in distress? **God promised He would deliver you if you turned to Him.** You deny the Lord honor that is rightfully His every time you find yourself in difficulty and you fail to call upon Him for help! There may be times when God allows you to reach a point of need so that you can call upon Him, and thus let Him demonstrate to a watching world the difference He makes in the lives of His children. If God never allowed you to experience need, people around you might never have the opportunity to witness God's provision in the life of a Christian. If you never faced a shortfall, you might be tempted to feel self-sufficient and without any need of God in your daily life. **Pride will tempt you to think that you do not need to seek God's assistance. Self-regard will seek to convince you that you can handle your dilemma through your own wisdom, resources, and hard work.** Pride will also rob glory from God and seek to give it to you. Don't allow your pride to take what rightfully belongs to the Lord. Call upon your Lord and wait exclusively upon Him to rescue you. Then give Him the glory that He deserves. **Self-sufficiency can greatly hinder your ability to experience God** and bring Him honor. The next time you are in distress, turn to Him! Does God call people to follow Him without giving them all the details up front? Many times, as with Abram, God called people just to follow Him. **He is more likely to call you to follow one day at a time than He is to spell out all the details before you begin to obey Him.** In some cases God gave more details than in others. We will look at Moses' call and discover that God gave him a bigger picture of the assignment than He usually gave. In every case, however, the individuals had to stay close to God for daily guidance. For Moses and the children of Israel, God provided daily guidance through the cloud by day and the fire by night. For Peter, Andrew, James, John (**Mt 4:18–20, 21–22**), Matthew (**Mt 9:9**), and Paul (**Acts 9:1–20**), God gave very little detail about their assignment. He basically said, "Just follow me, and I will show you." What He wants of you is this: **"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (**Mt 6:33–34**). So if we continually remind ourselves that **our life is Christ's and not our own, 1 Cor 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?** **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God... We will find it much easier to do those things we feel God is leading us into. We will also find it much easier - less stressful - to constantly rely on our Loving Father to guide us; He knows what is around every "corner" in our

life and He has everything under control. Just BELIEVE: **Heb 11:6** *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe** that He is, that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* **Quit GOING to church & start BEING the Church!**