



Sunday, July 22, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

John 15:4-5 Abide in **Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in **Me**. ⁵ **I AM** the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in **Me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without **Me** ye can do nothing.

I. Jesus’ PARABLE of Abiding (John 15:1-8)

A. The PROVIDENCE of Fruit-bearing (1-3)

Fruit in the believer’s life can be defined as those “good works” which are motivated by the glory of God.

B. The _____ of Fruit-Bearing (2)

1. Introduction—My Story of Purging

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed *be* **God**, even the **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, the **Father** of mercies, and the **God** of all comfort; **4** Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of **God**.

a. GOD _____ ME

“GOD WHISPERS TO US IN OUR PLEASURES, SPEAKS IN OUR CONSCIENCE, BUT SHOUTS IN OUR PAIN: IT IS HIS MEGAPHONE TO ROUSE A DEAF WORLD.”—C. S. LEWIS

b. GOD _____ ME

c. GOD _____ ME

God, in His amazing grace and mercy, *softened* me, *sobered* me and through His megaphone of pain, He *sifted* me bringing me to the place of *surrender*.

EMBRACE THE TRIAL—THAT I MAY KNOW HIM
AND GLORIFY HIM

2. Embracing “_____” I am going through this

“GOD NEVER WASTES THE SUFFERINGS
OF HIS SAINTS.”—WARREN WIERSBE

When we see our trial from God’s perspective we will see the value of the trial and in turn gain from it God’s best for us.

a. Understand what’s wrong with asking the “why” of the
_____ PROCESS

i. The wrong perspective

ii. The wrong theology

- b. Understand the Biblical answer to “why” which is the _____ PURPOSE
i. For the _____ of Christlikeness
-
-

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.

GOD'S GOAL FOR ME IN THE PURGING PROCESS



- ii. For the _____ of Christlikeness
-
-

“Maintaining a **right perspective**, based upon a **right theology** is vital to **OVERCOMING THE STRUGGLE** against **embracing the trial.**”

3. Embracing _____ is carrying me through this
-
-

The right perspective comes from a proper understanding of Who God is—**He is the Divine Refiner skillfully purifying His children like gold.**



The path to fruitfulness is a journey in which our gracious heavenly Father, divinely orchestrates the necessary pain to get our attention in order to see His praiseworthy purpose. Determine to *embrace the trial*, surrendering the “why” question and learn to embrace the One who has ordained your trial and will sustain you through.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: *Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!*