

Dependence On Christ



I hope this article helps to encourage you to keep you in these uncertain times. You can download it here ----

I guess everyone would agree that our world is in a state of major changes, Floods, cyclones, earthquakes, economic woes, financial stresses, and the list goes on. Now there are plenty of theories as to the problem and not too many have solutions, but I believe the solution, on a personal level, is really quite easy. We may not be able to change the disasters around us, but we sure can change how they affect us and how we come through each situation.

Many use words to try and steer people into something that ultimately they benefit from, but I believe in these days of turmoil there really is only one answer, and that is not a religious system or a knowledge of God, but rather it is a personal relationship with Jesus that brings about total dependence on God. A total dependence that brings assurance that there will be food on your table when everything around you fails. A total dependence that assures you that there will always be a safe place to sleep and the bills will be paid. A total dependence that says Jesus walks with me no matter what I face and I know that what comes out the other side will be only that which Jesus wants in my life.

Unfortunately, in trying to serve Jesus or find His will, many fall prey to what the Bible calls "the sins of presumption". David the Psalmist says in *Psalm 19:12-14*, *"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer"*.

Presumptuous sins are bought about when we PRESUME we are doing what God wants, but really have not taken the time to find out for sure. When we fall prey to presumptuous sins, we deviate from God's perfect plan and take a path of our own that ultimately is a path of rebellion and destruction. God may have pointed us in a direction, and we run ahead presuming He is with us all the way. After all, didn't He start us on this path that we are on? Presumption is a dangerous sin that causes us to become self-sufficient rather than God-sufficient.

We often PRESUME God will "follow us" as we are doing things that are good and may even be doing something wonderful, but if we have presumed that God is with us, there is a problem. Such work is based

in OUR desires not the Father's will. An easy-to-make mistake is to think that God "follows" what we do. Instead, we should follow Him. If we are truthful with ourselves, we can probably all think of a time we ran ahead of God and found out we missed His perfect plan. God's timing differs from ours, and for us to presume God is in what we do, can be a huge mistake.

Our idea can seem so right. People can be lining up telling you how wonderful it would be. However, at the end of the day, *"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it"*. A presumptuous sin is based in pride with us leaning more on man or our own ways than God's ways. When this happens, men of God become fund raisers rather than faith raisers. The problem with working your own solutions is that ultimately you destroy your own faith or trust in God. You also destroy the opportunity for increase, and all your works remain on a natural carnal level with mediocre results. Oh, sure you may seem to have huge results, but deep inside you know spiritually you are stunted, and it has been brought about by your wonderful business skills or cunning. Many a work has been established this way on the premise and presumption that good results mean God is in it all the way. Looks are often deceiving.

Sins of presumption are faith destroyers because, if WE are THE source, our life will ultimately become hard work. For example, you could say, "God wanted me to have the new car". If that is the case, why did it become such a struggle? The Bible tells us when God blesses that He adds no sorrow to it. Many times, presumption causes us to wonder where God is in all the situations around us.

If God is IN something, it will have a life of its own. It will increase the more we decrease. Because the Bible teaches us that He is faithful even when we remain faithless. When you don't feel like there is an answer, rest in the assurance that you never ran ahead of God, but that you have settled into His arms for your comfort and joy. As you stare into the eyes of Jesus, you will not see the destruction that threatens around you. Of course, you are not in denial, you are aware it is there. However, a peace rises from the tangle of life, and you rest in that peace. For example, there was a time my family desperately needed firewood. It was a cold New England winter, and our wood supply was down to a few sticks. We had been burning some lumber and furniture that was not needed and burnable. In the middle of this we rested in the fact that when the last stick of wood went into the fire, God would be there with an answer. Our prayer was this: "Jesus we refuse to worry, as we know you have us covered.

Please bring some firewood from somewhere close-by as we do not have the ability to get it from far away." The day before we would have run out, the phone rang, and it was our answer for firewood. A man was awakened early in the morning by God telling him to buy us firewood. God proceeded to tell him make sure it is from somewhere close-by. God had provided because our dependency was on Him.

As troubles, persecutions and disasters arise, we must be totally based in Jesus with total dependency on Him. There is no formula to follow, no short-cut to relationship with Him. True people of faith understand everything comes from relationship with Jesus. If their church, if their friend, if their house or life disappears around them, they are sad, but can increase in strength as their all is based in a dependency on Jesus. Can we trust and know that our next meal will always be there because Jesus provides it?

The current times we live in demand a genuine dependence on Christ. We can no longer PRESUME He is attached to our lives. We must know He IS our life, and there is no life outside of Him. I spend a good part of my time encouraging people from all over the world to transition into total dependence on Christ. I don't know that anyone can ever say they have arrived in that transition, but to be on the path is a privilege and a wonderful thing. The hardest part is the transition time from a self-sufficient life to a God-sufficient life. Because we have so many preconceived ideas of what a life of faith consists of, many never start on that path for fear of what to expect, or they quit because they fail to understand how to base themselves in a true solid faith. Many become professional "fundraisers", and that is a tiresome path to be on.

We always know when we are self-sufficient because our life does not look much different than the people who live around us, and our life patterns appear much the same as the neighbors, workmates, or friends. Sure we usually put ourselves on a higher moral plain than them, but in reality our lives are serving the same purposes as theirs. That purpose is to please myself.

When we are God-sufficient there are many differences, and to the outside observer, many changes can be seen. You see God is colorful in what He does for us. I mean there is wonderful variety in the ways He takes care of us. When one is God-sufficient, our needs are met in usual ways, through unusual means by amazing ways. It is not that we ever become accustomed to living by such miracles, but one thing that does happen is a security arises in us and a comfort in knowing Jesus has us in His hand for good.

When one is God-sufficient, presumption gets less and less in his/her life. Such a one cannot afford the delays and pressure a good idea, instead of a God idea, can bring. Being God-sufficient, you will end up in unusual places to complete or make amazing "Divine appointments". I think of a man we met many years ago and have seen our faith paths cross and intertwine many times since. Even though we are from very different paths in life, God brought us together in His special way. He was in a hotel where he should not have been, and got out of the elevator on the wrong floor. My family was in the same hotel where we should have been weeks earlier, but were "delayed" until that time. Needless to say, we met each other, and there was an immediate bond in the Spirit of God. A bond that even when we have not talked for months, we immediately flow together in God. It's funny when you meet someone you hardly know and you feel as if God has had you together for a long time. A bond of the Spirit that comes from being God-dependant in your relationships. These relationships last for a lifetime and many purposes of God are fulfilled through such a relationship.

Let God create His purposes around your life. Let Him create the appointments you make, the places you go, and who you associate with. With the uncertainty of tomorrow, instead many lean harder on today. They begin to make changes to their "now" in such a way that they believe it will secure their "tomorrow". But the person who is God-dependant will make changes in their life in order to become more intimate with God. They will lean on Jesus and seek His purposes in all things.

There will still be fear no matter where you have your dependency, but when it is based in Jesus, you choose not to let fear dictate your future. You push past the fear and sing praises to the Lover of your soul. Remember this: miracle situations will generate stress to your life. Think about it! If you need a miracle, there is a problem and a result, stress. Maybe you need firewood in a cold winter. Maybe sickness threatens to overwhelm you. Miracles have stress, but as you keep your eyes on Jesus and allow Him to be your dependency, miracles will happen and you will not act presumptuously.

Today many have their relationships controlled by feelings or lust, as the world teaches lust and has no understanding of pure love. People know how to have lust for a woman or man, but many have never experienced true love. Hence, so many relationships END as the feelings, and sometimes lust, dissipates. In church circles, there is a trend to follow the feelings of the soul with wonderful music or a clever orator. This creates a dependence on a

system, a feeling or emotion but not on Jesus. Sure the words can be about Jesus and the teaching wonderfully from the Bible, but unless one walks an unusual path of dependence on Christ, there will be real trouble. Ask yourself this question: "Does what I am doing make me dependant on Jesus or dependant on Jesus through what is around me?"

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