

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Disillusioned?

Introduction

At some time or another we have all been disillusioned with something in our life. Most times these were minor failings on the part of others or of our own desires. However, it becomes a major problem when we become disillusioned in spiritual matters. When Churches or spiritual movements or fellowship groups or other similar situations fall apart or crumble we become disillusioned in our walk with all of the attendant complications. Many times we have invested time, effort and life in the endeavor only to be left with nothing. We become bitter, resentful, confused, and skeptical of anything that is similar to what caused our disillusionment.

We try to understand what went wrong but have little true perspective on the matter. The sad thing is that we can find very little help from others who simply pass along cliches or phony words of hype. This Teaching Letter will attempt to lay a foundation of understanding about these things.

I heard a teacher say one time that if you have become 'disillusioned' it is because that you were living in an 'illusion' to begin with. When you think about this for a moment you realize how true it is. There is something wrong with what you have given yourself to and when it crumbles you are disillusioned. The question is what brings us into the "illusion"? How did we get there and how did we get so invested in it?

Causes

None of us are prepared for spiritual reality. We walk in the natural and when we are introduced to spiritual things it is sometimes confusing to us. We become like children in a playground, running to and fro as different things gain our attention. However, the Lord intends that we become stable in our walk in the Spirit and that spiritual reality would become supernaturally natural for us.

We all have dreams, desires, goals that we pursue. Some of these are good, even godly. Many are from the world's lusts and are, at worst, evil or, at best, self serving distractions from the purpose of God. Some are simply worldly ambitions dressed up in spiritual words and concepts. All of these that are not rooted in the plans and purposes of God for us will eventually lead to disillusionment on our part.

There are three basic areas that will give rise to circumstances that will result in disillusionment.

1. False or cracked foundations in our life;
2. False or faulty premises in our life; and
3. False expectations that we harbor.

We all probably have at least one of these basic issues operating in our spiritual circumstances.

Cracked Foundations

We must build our life on a foundation which is strong enough to support it. This should be the Lord and His word but instead may be our own dreams. We don't know if the foundation is strong enough until it is checked for strength. The question is which dreams will stand under the stress of the times?

We cannot avoid the times of stress. They are part of God's purifying process. Stress separates the real from the illusion. We don't know what is real in our life until it is put to the test. When Peter told Jesus that he would follow Him and die for Him, he thought what he had said was true—that it was real. However, just like us, Peter didn't know his own heart. But Jesus did. He told Peter that before the rooster would crow he would deny Him three times. [*John 13:37-38*] Peter didn't understand the trouble that was coming nor the pressure that was about to be applied to his convictions. Peter's beliefs and his dreams of the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel with Jesus as King were about to fail the stress test and crumble.

This reveals that the foundation of our convictions and beliefs are the key to our dreams standing in the times of stress. Toward the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke clearly of this.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall." (*Matthew 7:24-27 NASB*)

The foundation is His Word and our obedience to it. The stress test in these verses is the storm which was the same for both houses: the wind, rain, and flood. One house crumbled because it had a faulty foundation. The Lord in His mercy will put us to the stress test before our dreams consume us. If we build our spiritual life on a faulty foundation we can never enter into the fullness of what God has for us. He cannot permit it because the foundation will crumble.

False Premises

Premises are rooted in what we believe to be true. These may come from our traditions that we have inherited. They can also come from our reasonings or our imaginations. For example, if you believe that God is holding a hammer poised above your head and waiting for you to just slip up one time so that He can pound you, then you have a false view of God. If you believe that God is a Big Daddy in the sky who provides your slightest whim or indulgence for your comfort, then you have a false view of God. Without belaboring the point you get the idea.

False premises affect our understanding of the ways of God causing us to interact with Him in a manner inconsistent with His nature. [*For more along this line see last month's issue: "[Come to Terms](#)"*] The Lord has to show us and teach us who He is and because of that He cannot allow any of our misconceptions about Him to remain.

False Expectations

To me it is false expectations that are the hardest to deal with because “expectation” is a primary component of faith. We are to expect God to do things, to provide, to guide, and a multitude of other things that a loving Father would do. However, when God is moving it is easy to allow expectations to enter in that are rooted in our own heart and desires rather than God's Word.

A good example of false expectations is presented by the Children of Israel when Moses spoke to them about God delivering them from Egypt and taking them to a promised land. They rejoiced greatly when they left Egypt by the mighty hand of God but it didn't take long before they were grumbling, complaining and desiring to return to Egypt. Why? Because they knew about the caravan route to Canaan. They knew it was about a two week journey. Their expectation was that their journey would only be a matter of a couple of weeks at the most and they expected there to be no problems in getting there. We know from the written record that their expectations were false and that they had difficulty in coming to terms with reality and what God expected of them.

For us false expectations often arise when God begins to fulfill His promises to us. God promised the Israelites that He would deliver them from Egypt and take them to Canaan. God did this; but, He didn't do it according to their expectations. We must be careful when God begins to fulfill His word toward us that we don't jump to conclusions and false expectations like they did.

“In Him we live and move and have our being.” [*Acts 17:28*] Jesus is Truth. He is Reality. If we are going to live and move and have our being in Him then there is no room for illusions. The Lord must remove from us all of our illusions. So, if we are currently “disillusioned” then we need to get over it and return to true Reality.

For further study along these lines see “[Faulty Foundations and Fuzzy Patterns](#)” on my website.

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