

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.

YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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HAVING A PASSION FOR JESUS CHRIST

Dear saints, I begin this message by quoting Webster's English definition of the term "passion". According to Webster, "Passion" means: "*strong feeling, emotions as distinguished from reason, and love – an object of affection or enthusiasm.*" A word used in FATHER'S word that is similar in meaning is "ZEAL" which Webster defines as "*an eager and ardent interest in the pursuit of something (or someone).*"

Now let me ask you. Do you have a Passion for the person of JESUS CHRIST? Is your heart consumed with strong feelings and emotions for JESUS CHRIST? Is JESUS CHRIST the center of your affections? Is HE the driving force for your enthusiasm? I pray that He is, but I fear that He may not be. The evidence is overwhelming and undeniable. Passion, true passion for JESUS CHRIST, alone, is a rare quality that is seldom found in Christian circles today, in spite of that which JESUS declared to be the greatest commandment God has given to man.

JESUS said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Matthew 22: 37 & 38)

Please note the use of the word "all" in Matthew 22: 37 & 38. It is used three times for emphasis, and "*all*" means "all" (the whole of one's resources).

When a man or woman reaches a level of spiritual maturity so that he or she loves JESUS CHRIST with "all" of their heart, with "all" of their soul, and with "all" of their mind, then they will be filled with a passion and a zeal for Him that cannot be hidden. They will then begin to experience the reality of being "one with Him".

**"At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."
(John 14:20)**

In 1st Corinthians, chapter six, verse seventeen, Paul declared that **“He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”**

The Apostle John said in 1st John 2:6 –

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

My brothers and sisters, true spiritual maturity springs forth out of love, and that love is for JESUS CHRIST, alone. Please listen to me! If you do not hear anything else in this message, please hear this. The measure of your spiritual maturity in this life will be in direct proportion to your love and passion for the person of JESUS CHRIST! True spiritual maturity is nothing more than JESUS CHRIST expressing Himself through you in the person of His Spirit. Man’s highest calling is to become one with JESUS CHRIST. Man, outside of an intimate love relationship, will never experience this calling with JESUS. One’s passion and zeal for the Lord expresses this sort of relationship. It demonstrates the reality of the first and greatest commandment being fulfilled in the heart of man. This love relationship is stronger than all other relationships, including those of family, friends, and the Church. Until it is born in us, we are not worthy of Him.

“He who loves father or mother more than ME is not worthy of ME. And he who loves son or daughter more than ME is not worthy of ME.” (Matthew 10:37)

Luke quoted our Lord’s comment concerning our love relationship with Him in chapter fourteen of his book. Just prior to his quoting JESUS about our love for Him, he recorded the Lord’s comments about a Great Supper. This parable concerns the Kingdom of God. In the parable, JESUS gives several examples of the excuses man would use to be excused from the Master’s invitation. After all excuses were made, JESUS said:

“For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste My supper.” (Verse 24)

The clear warning to those of us who believe is that our excuses, regardless of how noble they may be, are not acceptable with GOD. We have no acceptable excuse for not pursuing an intimate love relationship with our Lord and our God, JESUS CHRIST. We have no excuse to turn a deaf ear to FATHER’S first and greatest commandment in favor of anything or anyone else. That includes religion - especially religion! You see, even the issue of man’s love relationship with GOD involves a struggle, and that struggle is the least recognized among believers. Spiritual life and death hang in the balance.

**“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
(Ephesians 6:12)**

Religious spirits are the most sinister, the most deceiving, and the deadliest of all the demonic spirits. They disguise themselves as light and righteousness (2nd Corinthians

11: 14 & 15) and use the name of JESUS very effectively. These agents of Lucifer are masters of twisting the word of God to achieve their goal of denying GOD His hearts desire to have intimacy with His sons and daughters. These religious spirits are found throughout what we refer to as the Church. They are the most effective among those of us who view ourselves as the more enlightened – the more gifted. These ancient foes of almighty God were victorious in the hearts of the religious ones when JESUS walked the earth. They were extremely effective in denying Him His hearts desire to be one with those who considered themselves to be sons and daughters of the One true God. In the end, these religious spirits drove those who called themselves God’s people, to cry out “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!”

It should be very sobering and spiritually frightening for each of us to know that those who cried out “crucify Him”, did so believing they were serving God. They were expressing their passion and religious zeal each time they cried out. The only problem was that they were not being led by the Spirit of God, but by the religious spirits of Hell. The very same spirits are fast at work at this time in history. I believe these spirits are much stronger today and have an even greater influence on those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus than ever before. They have become extremely confident that they will, in the end, prevail over JESUS. Their confidence is predicated on their current success. Even the pagan world can see the Christian House divided asunder, and they are confident of its imminent destruction. They are correct. Listen to JESUS –

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” (Matthew 12:25)

**“Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.”
(Matthew 15:13)**

History has always had a way of repeating itself. Our habits may change...our diet may change...we may dress differently...take up new hobbies and develop newer and more advanced ways to make life easier...we may expand our intellect and make great advancements in our worldly endeavors, but one thing never changes. The heart of man is bent toward deception. As his confidence increases, he becomes easier and easier to deceive. This is especially true in spiritual matters. Spiritual confidence will, for the vast majority of us, drive out spiritual meekness and humility. Once this process begins, religious spirits will implant spiritual pride into the believers’ heart, and from there, it is all downhill. This has always been the pattern for those of us who are considered God’s people. If you are a serious student of God’s word, then you know this to be an established fact. We are slow learners, indeed. The more light and revelation we seem to receive, the more prone we are to deception. The more confident we are of our position, our correctness, the greater is our potential for deception. In our spiritual pride and arrogance, we turn a deaf ear to the warning which JESUS gave to us.

“Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying I am the Christ, and will deceive many.”

“Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”

“False Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” (Matthew 24: 4,5,11 & 24)

As Paul was preparing to be executed for the Name of Christ, he wrote two letters to Timothy. In those letters he warned us of the deception which would flourish within those who called themselves followers of Christ.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to *deceiving spirits* and doctrines of demons,” (1st Timothy 4:1)

The fact is that many of us read these warnings and agree they are given to us by the Spirit of God. At the same time, we believe that we are not counted among the deceived, but that it is someone else – some other Church – that is deceived. This is proof enough that we are ensnared or are about to become ensnared in the trap of a religious spirit. Agents of Lucifer are holding many of us prisoner. We are so convinced of our spiritual correctness that we will persecute those who come to set us free, and we will do so in the name of JESUS. We are repeating the actions of those who cried out in the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to “crucify Him, crucify Him!” Of course, today, we are far too refined to cry out “crucify Him”. Today, we simply label the messenger as one of the deceived, a sorehead, unloving, and etcetera. We go right on allowing the spirits of deception to take us deeper and deeper into their realm of darkness, and never realize we are being led further and further away from JESUS, Himself. We never realize the deception because His name is always used and His word is always applied, just as in the garden on that day so long ago. That hiss of Hell which was so effective with Adam and Eve is no less effective now. The only difference now is the name of JESUS is invoked to ensnare us and to cause us to become prisoners of religious spirits. Again, JESUS warned us –

“All these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.” (John 15:21)

“And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake.” (Matthew 10:22)

Yes, dear saints, spiritual history as it relates to God’s people is repeating itself. You may not believe this, but never forget that on this day you were told the truth. Your prison door has been unlocked, but you will need to step across the threshold to receive your freedom. It may be one of the most difficult steps you will ever take. The enemy will oppose you and will do all he can do to maintain his control over you. I can assure you that once you determine to lay all of your religion aside and begin to pursue intimacy with Him, really meaning it, your freedom will then be guaranteed. In Luke, chapter four, verse eighteen, JESUS declared He was sent to proclaim liberty to the captives. John quoted our Lord in his book in chapter eight –

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

**“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (Verses 31,32, &36)**

FATHER’S desire for His sons and daughters from the very beginning, was that they enjoy intimacy and oneness with Him and His Son, JESUS CHRIST. This concept of oneness was not the idea of man. It was GOD’S! JESUS CHRIST, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells, (see Colossians 2:9) has as His heart’s desire to be one with you and with me. This is His greatest wish. He does not want anything between Himself and each of us – no other person, object, or organization. This relationship of *oneness* is true spiritual freedom, and only in that freedom are we *complete* in Him (see Colossians 2:10). Until the freedom of *oneness* is a reality in our lives, we are in bondage to one degree or another. We can call it whatever we may wish, defending our position or loyalty and passion for something other than Jesus, alone, or quote scripture. In the end, we sit, chained in a spiritual prison cell under the direct control of religious spirits who are determined to deny JESUS His heart’s desire.

Religious spirits are found throughout the world. They have but one mission, to deny JESUS CHRIST His hearts desire and to deny us our completeness in Him. Religious spirits are most effective in an organized setting, religious in nature. In the Christian world, these spirits thrive in an environment where they can control, dominate, and manipulate the individual believer. The end result is where we are, today. It is a form of religion abounding in a house split, divided, and certain of destruction. Religious spirits have mocked the very commands of JESUS recorded in chapter twenty-three and twenty-four of Matthew. These spirits have separated us into religious classes, and we are no longer considered to be brethren, all equal in one body. Please remember, just because we believe in JESUS, quote His word, and stamp His name over our Church door, does not mean that He sanctions what we do.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” (Galatians 6: 7 & 8)

The spiritual law, as outlined in Galatians 6: 7 & 8 cannot be denied. Religious spirits know that if they are to be successful they must also operate within GOD’S spiritual laws. They must influence us to turn away from GOD’S word, and to follow our own reasoning (*sow to our flesh*). They succeed and spiritual corruption springs forth.

Dear saints, this subject of loving GOD with all of our hearts, minds, and souls, becoming one with our Lord JESUS CHRIST, expressing that love and oneness through our passion and zeal for Him, should be the central focus of our Christian walk. There is nothing more important in life for you or me than pursuing this love relationship. When all is said and done, each of us will be judged on the basis of love. For love to produce any thing of eternal value, it *first* must spring from a love of JESUS CHRIST, alone. Out of that love will spring forth life in all of its fullness, as CHRIST expresses Himself through you. This is His heart’s desire. He will bring each of us into the fullness of that desire, but it will require something of us. We must decide He is more important to us

than anything else in life. Once that decision is made, we cry out to Him to grant us the grace to step out of our religious prison, and He will free us! FATHER will never deny a son or daughter who is willing to separate themselves wholly unto Him. He will never deny a son or daughter who chooses a love relationship with Him over a religious relationship. He will never deny a son or daughter who chooses His word with the simplicity of a child's heart over man's interpretation of that word. No, saints, FATHER will never deny us His hearts desire – Never! – so long as we choose Him, alone!

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1st John 5: 14 & 15)

**“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
(Numbers 23:19)**

May FATHER grant each of us our freedom from all religious spirits. May He grant us the grace to fulfill His heart's desire for us, as each of us reach our full potential in CHRIST. May our passion and zeal for Him light up the world around us, and may we finish our race in a blaze of His glory.

God Bless

Your brother, Tom