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OAK HILL
2115 Graefenburg Rd.
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU!

The natural tendency of we humans who have been given the privilege of living and experiencing what we call life, is to live in a world where everything is about us, about you and about me. After all we have jobs, we have children, spouses and close friends. We have hobbies, likes and dislikes. Some of us have a ministry that we have devoted ourselves to. And all of FATHER'S children have one or more spiritual gifts that He has given us. Then there are our needs. Some of us need more money; some need a physical or emotional healing, while others need a job or a car. Of course we also have our "wants". Most of us want "more" of what we consider to be good and what we think will make us happy and life more pleasant. All of these things and more are a part of our life's experience. For most, the individual becomes the center of his or her universe. Life is about me, about you — about my feelings — about your feelings — my opinions and your opinions, — my likes and my dislikes, your likes and your dislikes. Life for the majority, is lived out for "self". Most of our physical energy, our mental energy, our money and our spiritual energy is devoted to and exhausted for — "self". We may claim otherwise, but the fact remains that it is a rare soul who has taken JESUS seriously and died to self. All of this self centered living leads to spiritual death and there are no exceptions. Self-centered living and self-centered religion are one and the same, and they choke the living Word of God, and by God's standard that is not good. JESUS warned us clearly in Mark 4:19, when He said;

**"The cares of this world, the
Deceitfulness of riches, and the
Desires for other things entering
In choke the word, and it becomes
Unfruitful."**

Our Lord is teaching us that when we are consumed with the cares of the world, when we are caught up in the pursuit of riches and the desire for other things, that His word is choked and becomes unfruitful. We can parrot His word all we want, but that word will bear absolutely no fruit whatsoever as long as any one of these three things is being manifested in our lives.

You see my friends; GOD'S word is alive, literally alive. This is one of the mysteries of GOD. The author of Hebrews declared that "the word of God is living and powerful". (See Hebrews 4:12) His word in us is alive, and that word will reproduce through us after its own kind. In other words, FATHER'S word of salvation, deliverance, or healing, will reproduce through His sons and daughters salvation, deliverance and healing. His living word of peace or joy in you will reproduce in and through you peace or joy. This is a spiritual law and it never fails. Our problem is that we get caught up in our "self" in our own little world and FATHER'S living word cannot — cannot produce the fruit for which it was intended. The end result of this "self life" that most of us are living is that we have become spiritual Eunuchs. We have no ability, nor power to reproduce spiritually. We cannot produce the fruit of the living Word because it is choked in us. The Greek dictionary defines the meaning of "choke" as follows: "to strangle completely". The English dictionary defines the word "choke" as follows: "to strangle, to check the growth or action of, to obstruct".

Now most of us, myself included, have good intentions as Christian men and women about our approach to life in general. However, we are easily caught up in the real life situations that cause us to become focused on those situations, and before you know it, our thoughts and actions are the fruit of our cares and worries. It might be a business problem, a financial problem, a problem with our children or our grandchildren. It could be any number of things, but the outcome is always the same. The living word of a holy God is choked in us and becomes unfruitful. Not only that, but our spiritual growth is seriously impaired if not stopped altogether. When this happens, as it so often does, there is great loss both to the individual and all of those around them. This is clearly a scheme of Lucifer himself, where he gets our eyes, our ears, and then our hearts set on a child or grandchild, spouse, job, hobby, etc. etc. and off JESUS CHRIST. He even tells us that we are just doing what we need to do and that JESUS understands. May God have mercy.

My brothers and sisters may I suggest that our biggest problem and greatest enemy is looking back at us in the bathroom mirror. “Self”, the flesh of man, is bent toward the world and away from God. For many of us our children and grandchildren have become our idols. For others, our job or profession has become our idol. Still others have let their ministry become their idol. Our “first” love is not our GOD; it is our self interests — our feelings and our emotions. Is it any wonder that the church is in the condition that she is now in? We would not be surprised my friends, if we believed GOD.

Today our problems are increasing on all fronts. Sickness and disease are sweeping the earth. Wars and rumors of wars are on the increase. The morality of man now resembles that of alley cats rather than that of sons and daughters of GOD. The fear of GOD, even among the religious, is for the most part gone, and we now openly mock GOD by denying His word. If there ever was a time to wake up and turn back to JESUS CHRIST as our only hope, it is now. Life is not about us! It is not about you, nor is it about me. Life is not about church, nor is it about ministry. Life is not about our plans, our dreams, our family or our works. No! No! No! “Life” is all about JESUS CHRIST. Life is about His Kingdom, His government, His likes, His dislikes and His word being fulfilled! And as hard as it may be for us to believe, He does not need one single thing from any one of us! Not — One — thing! However, while He does not “need” anything from us. There is one thing that He does desire from us. Listen —

**“You shall love the Lord, your
God with all your heart, with all
Your soul, and with all your strength.”
(Deuteronomy 6:5)**

In Matthew 22:37 our Lord JESUS quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 and declared it to be the “great commandment“. “Love” is what our God desires of us — to love Him above all else, and then to love each other. Everything in life hinges on love and the love that leads to life is the love of God. For He alone is worthy of our total love and devotion.

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

(Colossians 1: 16-18)

“Life” is all about JESUS CHRIST! All things created by Him were for Him — not for you — not for me. You and I were not created for ourselves, for our spouse, our children, our grandchildren. We were not created for good works and we were not created to add numbers to a church body. While all of these things may make up a part of life’s experience, they are in no way the reason that we are here. You and I were formed in the womb by Him

(See Jeremiah 1:5) brought forth in His perfect timing, (See Ecclesiastes 3:1,2) and because of His grace alone, you and I are alive today. The whole purpose of human life is to provide love and companionship for GOD. Above all things He desires our intimacy, our fellowship and our friendship. I believe that this spiritual truth is one of the hardest things for man to accept. But until we do accept this truth, and walk in it as a little child, we are in a clear and present danger of being cast outside the presence of God for all eternity.

**“Assuredly, I say to you,
Whoever does not receive the
Kingdom of God as a little
Child will by no means enter
It. (Jesus speaking in Luke 18:17)**

We may think we are going to enter the Kingdom of heaven on some basis other than as a little child, but before God, I tell you that that will not happen. FATHER said it, and for the one with child like faith, that settles it.

When I was a little child, there was a time when I believed everything that my father told me. Not only that, but I would have believed anything that he told me. He was my father and I knew by his actions that he loved me. I trusted him with my life, and the thought that he might lie to me never entered my mind. This is the kind of childlike faith that our heavenly FATHER expects us to have. When we fail to take FATHER at His word, we show a lack of trust in Him, and that lack of trust demonstrates a lack of respect for Him. Once we make the decision to question God’s word, rather than accepting it at face value, from that point on we quickly lose all fear, respect and reverence for God Himself. Once this process is complete and we move from accepting God’s word just as a little child does, to questioning the validity of His word, we then find ourselves with a “form” of Christianity as a religion, but with no power. This was one of the signs of the “latter days” that Paul wrote about in his second letter to Timothy. (See 2 Timothy 3: 1-5) Are we there now? If so, is it not time that we acknowledge our sin, repent and seek FATHER’S help in returning to that place of simple childlike faith in every word that FATHER has shared with us? That process starts with you and with me, and it starts now!

If we want to live life as FATHER desires that we do — If we want to enjoy all of the blessings of our God that include peace, inexpressible joy, a sound mind, good health and spiritual prosperity, then we need to live life as if life is all about GOD and only about GOD. Our life should be about our reflecting His likeness and His image to a lost and doomed world. Our life should be about Him getting His way, rather than about us getting our way. We are His offspring (See Acts 17:28,29) and we carry the very breath of God in us.

**“God created man in His own
Image; in the image of God He created
Him; male and female He created them.”
(Genesis 1:27)**

**“And the Lord God formed man of
The dust of the ground, and breathed
Into his nostrils the breath of life;
And man became a living being.”
(Genesis 2:7)**

In Job the thirty third chapter, the fourth verse, we hear Elihu declare the following; “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

None of us would exist if it were not for our God. Apart from Him life has no meaning. Apart from Him, there is no hope in life. Everything that exists hinges on God the Father, and God the Son JESUS CHRIST, and God the Holy Spirit. Everything depends on our FATHER’S plan for us as revealed in His word. Our God is going to have His way whether we like it or not or whether we agree with it or not. Sooner or later each of us is going to find out that

life is in fact, all about God.

When man loses sight of the spiritual truth that God alone is worthy of our praise, our worship, our service, our loyalty, our friendship, even our life — when this happens, man will always sink to a lower spiritual level. Not only that, but man will progressively become more and more like the world. He will always think more highly of himself than he ought, which is a deadly form of spiritual pride and is forbidden by God. (See Romans 12:3) The loss of reverential fear and respect for God is another outgrowth of our having lost our heavenly vision of God. Failure to believe that we can only live life, as FATHER intended for us to live it, by every word that proceeds from His mouth, (See Matthew 4:4) leads to a walk of disobedience. This mocking of His word is also the result of our having lost our heavenly vision. When those of us, who are called by His name begin to set our eyes on ourselves, our good works, our ministry, our church, our theology, our doctrine, our denomination — our — our — our, we then begin to take on the form of what we call Christianity, but with no power. This has happened to God's people over and over again down through time. JESUS, as well as Paul, warned us that it would happen again in the latter days.

Well, my friends, you and I are living witnesses of the fulfillment of this prophecy. For the most part we are just a people who are religious, full of spiritual pride, void of fear when it comes to God, consumed with the lust and love of the flesh, blind to the dangers of sin, without spiritual discernment, and so far away from the “order” of God for His people that it will now take the heavy hand of God to restore us to the place that He would have us be. I realize that these words are hard and difficult for some of you to hear and accept. However, I must tell you the truth.

My friends, we have not gotten into this spiritual mess overnight. It has taken some time to fall as far as we have fallen. I believe we have been digressing for several generations, maybe for many generations. FATHER'S word clearly warns us that when the priest and prophet fail to uncover the iniquity of the people, we always arrive where we are today. There are no exceptions. This spiritual truth is dealt with in detail in the books of Jeremiah, Lamentation and Ezekiel. The bottom line is, we have not been warned by most of those who have been, and are today in places of leadership. FATHER'S conditions for living a full life and His conditions for spending eternity with Him have, for the most part, not been taught, and the result for many is a life of defeat, suffering, and the result of sin that always robs us of FATHER'S fullest blessing. But the worst result of the failure of the priest and prophet to warn us are the untold millions of souls that died thinking that they were saved only to find themselves in hell. Can you imagine? Just the thought of this makes me sick in my spirit.

It is my personal opinion that one of our greatest sins today is that of walking in spiritual pride. Further, I believe that this work of the devil is most evident in those of us that have been given the most - spiritually speaking. I have recognized this spirit in my own life and believe that I have been delivered from it. However, I find it a daily battle to not think more highly of myself than I ought. Spiritual pride is well entrenched in the church today. God hates it and in the end, God will destroy it. I now speak a word of warning to all who will hear and especially to those of you in places of leadership:

**“ If anyone thinks that he knows
Anything, he knows nothing yet
As he ought to know.” (I Corinthians 8:2)**

**“For if anyone thinks himself to be
Something, when he is nothing, he
Deceives himself.” (Galatians 6:3)**

**“All nations before Him are as
Nothing, and they are counted by**

Him less than nothing and worthless.”
(Isaiah 40:17)

**“For My people are foolish, they
Have not known Me. They are silly
Children, and they have no understanding.
They are wise to do evil, but to
Do good they have no knowledge.”**
(Jeremiah 4:22)

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit
For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.”**
(JESUS speaking Matthew 5:3)

**“Many will say to Me in that day,
Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in
Your name, cast out demons in Your
Name, and done many wonders in
Your name?”**
**“And then I will declare to them,
I never knew you; depart from
Me, you who practice lawlessness!”**
(Matthew 7:22,23)

Now is the time for the true believer, the true sons and daughters of God, to repent, not in word only, but in deed. Now is the time to acknowledge our spiritual failure and our failure to take FATHER’S word seriously. Now is the time to stop all boasting, all railing against the devil and acknowledge that we have become a prideful people. Now is the time for those in leadership to speak the oracles of God or to shut up. This is neither the time nor the season for the religious ones to strut about like a proud peacock spewing out words that cause the people to be lulled into a false sense of security, thereby making them an easy target for Lucifer. This is not a time for those in leadership to promote their hidden agendas. I do not care how good and right those agendas may seem to be. This is not a time nor season for you or I to promote ourselves, our ministry, our church, or “our” anything else. We have proven for all the world to see that good intentions carried out in our flesh, results in failure and our bringing shame and reproach on His name. We are guilty as charged. Before God, we stand guilty!

**“Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman stays awake
In vain.” (Psalm 127:1)**

**“--- For without Me you can
Do nothing.” (John 15:5)**

**‘So then neither he who plants is
Anything, nor he who waters, but God
Who gives the increase.” (1 Corinthians 3:7)**

My brothers and sisters, when all is said and done, and we have completed our journey of life here on the earth, we will discover that the entire process from start to finish was and will still be all about God! We will

discover that for the most part, what we spent much of our life doing and working for had no real life or eternal value in it. I am also persuaded that we will also be made aware of “what could have been” had we only lived our lives as FATHER ordained that they should be lived. One thing is for sure; in “that day”, there will be no place for self-centeredness. There will be no place for our denominations. There will be no place for our religious pride and spiritual arrogance. And I promise you here and now, that we will learn what spiritual poverty is all about, as we get our first glance of Almighty God in all of His glory! I believe our first words will be — My God, My God, have mercy on me! And my brothers and sisters, if our God does not have mercy on us and extend to us a full measure of His grace — then we are doomed! We may refer to a lifetime of good religious works — we may claim the baptism of the Holy Spirit and even speak in tongues — we may plead the Blood of JESUS — we may point to our years of faithfulness to the church and be able to recite much of God’s word by chapter and verse — we may point to a lifetime spent on the mission field or to all of the souls that we believe that we led to the Lord — but I can tell you before God, that even the best of us, even the most spiritually mature of us, will be doomed to the fires of hell — unless God grants us mercy! That fact alone should cause us to wipe the self-righteous religious smile off our faces and drive us to our knees in agonizing repentance. Oh God have mercy, have mercy, have mercy on us!

**“For by grace you have been saved
Through faith, and that not of yourselves;
It is the gift of God, not of works,
Lest anyone should boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8,9)**

I close by urging you to take the time to reflect on your life and your attitude toward God. Is your life all about God? Do you love God with all of your heart, soul and strength? Do you place God first in your life, before all other things? Do you have a greater allegiance to your church than you do to God? When I ask myself these same questions, I come up wanting or short. However, I am at the same time greatly encouraged. I am encouraged because FATHER is waking us up to the reality of His holiness, and just as He has always had a remnant of believers that hear and respond to Him, He has now a remnant in place. Pray that you will be found worthy to be counted among those who bring Him pleasure as they openly acknowledge that all things past, present and future are about JESUS CHRIST and Him alone. Remember, it is not about our performance, but rather our heart’s attitude. That puts us all on level ground before our God.

My prayer for you and for me is that we will be given the grace to first hear, and then to walk out what we hear. Only FATHER can bring about this transformation in us.

It is all about God!

God Bless

Tom