

"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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“ONE THING IS NEEDED!”

***“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village;
and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.
And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and
heard His word.*”**

***But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached
Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to
serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me.”*”**

***And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried
and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary
has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”*”
(Luke 10:38 – 42) Emphasis Added**

One sister chose the “Best Thing”, that Jesus had to offer --- The “One thing” that would not be taken away from her; while the other sister was distracted from the most important thing that our Lord desires to give each of His disciples; not only that, but Jesus lightly rebuked Martha for her choice of serving, which led to her being distracted from the “One thing needed” --- His word. That distraction caused Martha to become worried and troubled; Martha’s choice resulted in the loss of her peace. Had Martha chosen the One thing --- the good part --- she would not have found herself worried and troubled. Father had spoken and promised Martha perfect Peace, but she could not hear Him because of the choice that she had made. Listen to our Father’s voice:

“I will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Me.” (Isaiah 26:3)

Father says that He will keep us in perfect peace, if we choose to keep our mind on Him. This is a covenant promise that God has made with each of His sons and daughters; so certain is this covenant promise that it has become a spiritual law that cannot be abolished anymore than one can abolish God.

**“I am the Lord. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass;”
(Ezekiel 12:25)**

Why are so many professing Christians worried, troubled, and lacking perfect peace today? We tend to blame anyone but ourselves for our state of spiritual immaturity; when all the while, we have chosen, as an act of our own free will, not to believe our Father, and to turn away from the "One thing" that cannot be taken away from us ---- His word. Father will not "choose" for me or for you, dear reader. We have no excuse for our failure to choose God's word rather than follow our own heart – no excuse what so ever! Paris Reidhead, in his book titled, *Evidences of Eternal Life*, put it this way: "*It is your choice. The Lord is talking about something we must consciously do for ourselves. It is the responsibility of the believer to abide --- to live --- in Him.*"

Now saints, I do not know about you, but for me the "choosing" God's way is the easy part; it is the "doing" that presents the problem. Professing my faith in God through Jesus Christ and my belief in His word as absolute Truth; and then walking it out in agreement with Him is something altogether different. My dear brother Wayne B. Smith has declared on many occasions that --- "It is one thing to pledge allegiance to the Flag; and another to join the Army." How true that is. It is one thing to profess a belief in Jesus Christ and another to obey Him.

Talk is cheap, and the modern day church is full of voices proudly confessing their faith in Jesus Christ and His word, while never having surrendered to Him as Lord! It is a spiritual truth, that if Jesus Christ is not one's Lord, He will never be that one's savior. When Jesus Christ is allowed to take His rightful place as Lord and rule and reign over our lives, we become separated "of heart" from the world, and all other creatures take second place to Him; this includes parent, children, and every other human being on earth. Our Lord is very demanding (Matthew 10:37-39), and He is exceedingly jealous (Exodus 34:14) when it comes to His relationship with the one that He would allow to dwell and abide with Him --- not in word only – But in actuality. Sadly, the vast majority of professing Christians today have a terribly distorted view of God and His relationship with His people. It is a view that runs contrary to the Biblical view, and one that I believe will lead a vast number of souls into the horror of hell. Evidently, I am not the first person to receive revelation of this spiritual virus that has infected the modern day church. Listen to A. W. Tozer --- a quote taken from his book titled, *The Knowledge of the Holy*: "*It is my opinion that the Christian conception of God current during these years is so decadent as to be utterly beneath the dignity of the Most High God and actually to constitute for professed believers something amounting to a moral calamity.*"

When God's people fail to choose the "One thing needed, the good part, that cannot be taken away from them" ---- The Word of God ---- they are certain to enter a season of spiritual decline, that if not checked, will eventually lead them into the realm of spiritual darkness and finally to eternal destruction. Sadly, the vast majority who go this way do so believing that they are following the Light of Christ, when in fact, the light they are following is darkness. Listen to Truth ----

**"If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"
(Matthew 6:23b)**

"And no wonder! For Satan transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness----." (2 Corinthians 11:14 & 15)

For years, I have warned my readers about the very real and very present danger of "deception". Jesus, Himself warned us of this danger (Matthew 24:1-28) prior to His departure.

Deception is my own greatest concern as I continue my journey through life. Daily, I ask Father to protect me from all forms of deception, including my own affections (see 2 Corinthians 6:12). I realize that if Father does not protect me from this deadly spirit, I am certain to be deceived; and so are you dear reader --- and so are you!

God's people are not helpless in their battle against deception, except when they fail to choose the One Thing, the Good Part, that cannot be taken from them. That One Thing is the Truth --- God's word; and each of us has been given the freedom of choice. We can choose to believe Jesus in this matter, or we can choose to believe what someone else says, including "self"; either way, each of us is free to choose. Our choice will determine whether we receive Life or Death; whether we live life here on earth, as Father intended that we live it, or as the rest of the world lives it. Then, when our race is run, our spiritual choices on earth will determine our eternal future. Life, both now and in the eternal future will be determined by God's word and our response to His word. I simply cannot put into words the absolute certainty of this Truth.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) Emphasis Added

For a man or woman to rely on what another man or woman or institution says about God and His word; rather than searching out the matter for themselves, when so much is at stake, is the very height of folly; and yet, I find that that is what most of us do. So strong is man's tendency to follow man and man's institution that it becomes almost cultish. Lest one think that using the term "cultish" to describe the present state of many who profess Christianity, let's look at Webster's English definition of "cult": *"A formal religious system; its adherents, faddish devotion, a group of persons sharing such devotion."*

When a man or woman, as an act of their own free will, chooses to devote themselves and yield their heart to any other human being or institution, other than to Jesus Christ alone, they are flirting with a cultish spirit if not committing spiritual adultery.

It is written: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) Emphasis Added

**"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)**

"So Likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:33)

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to Him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." (John 14:23 & 24)

"He who says, "I know Him", and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him." (1 John 2:4)

"For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14)

Listen to our Lord's words as recorded by Matthew: "Many" of you are called, but only a "few" of you will be chosen. These are sobering words. They are not my words, nor any other man's; these are God's words. I might add that this is not the only time that our Lord warned us using the words "many" and "few". In Matthew chapter seven, as our Lord concluded His sermon on the mount, He warned us that "many" would attempt to enter into Life according to man's reasoning --- according to his own heart, rather than according to God's every word. Then our Lord said:

"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are "few" who find it." (Vs. 14 Emphasis Added)

God's word is crystal clear; there are many out of the whole of humanity who are called, wooed and drawn to Christ and Life; but out of the "many" called, only a "few" will be chosen. Dear reader, I don't know about you, but our Lord's words cause me to tremble inside; they cause me to walk in a constant state of repentance; they crush any tendency to allow religious pride to dwell in my heart. Our Lord's words cause me to turn away from anything and everything, but the "One" thing ---- the "Good Part" --- which cannot be taken from me. How about you, dear reader? What say you, concerning the Living Word of a Holy God? Where is your allegiance? Is it to a man, to an institution, to a denomination, to a ministry? Where lies your loyalty, dear reader ---- to God or to man? Of whom are you the most afraid ---- God or man? Who is your first love, dear reader ---- God or man? What makes up the abundance of your heart ---- that which you speak the most about? (Matthew 12:34) ---- Is it sports, your hobby, your family, politics, your bridge club, your business, your church ---- or is it the One Thing, The Good Part -- That which is Living and Powerful and cannot be taken from you --- The Word of God? Before God, I challenge you to answer these questions honestly. You may fool me and everyone else around you, including your pew partners, but you cannot fool God. Now is the time, this is the hour to stop playing religious games with God and come clean before Him. He stands at the door of your heart and knocks! He longs to set you free from your religious bondage (John 8:36). His greatest desire is to set us free to love Him and to follow Him alone. He is calling and many of us have heard His call ---- the knock at the door; but who will He choose? Who will He look upon favorably? There are many clues to be found in the Word of God. Listen to but one of those clues:

"On this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word." (Isaiah 66:2b) Emphasis Added

I find no encouragement in Father's word, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, that any one of us who fails to fear God and choose to believe Him, apart from all other issues of life, can expect to receive His favor ---- none whatsoever. However, I find great encouragement in His word for those of us who simply "choose" the One Thing that cannot be taken from us. Never forget, it is not our perfection in relationship to His commandments, but rather our "choosing" His word and our love of His word, and our desire to obey His word. Once we choose, as Mary chose, which each of us has the ability to do, then Father "does", by His Spirit, in us, what we cannot do alone.

"Without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:b)

"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" (Philippians 1:6)

Mary and Martha each had a free will. Martha chose something "other" than the "One Thing", and in so doing, she confirmed God's word; as it is written:

**"The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."
(Mark 4:19)**

Martha, as a result of her choice, lost her peace, as God's word became unfruitful in her ---- it became a dead word, an unproductive word in her, rather than a life giving word.

On the other hand, Mary chose the Better Thing, the One Thing ---- God's word; and in so doing she also confirmed His word through her obedience; as it is written:

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:1 & 2)

Mary and Martha were each in His presence. Mary and Martha both heard His words. They both saw Him with their own eyes. Our Lord loved Mary and Martha equally. What He desired for one, He desired for the other.

"God shows personal favoritism to no man." (Galatians 2:6)

Mary and Martha were on level ground before God, and each was given a free will with which they could choose ---- The One Thing. Each made their choice, and each received their just reward.

Dear reader, you and I are exactly where Mary and Martha were. Each of us will make a choice concerning the "One Thing" needed. I have made mine, and by His grace, I will follow Mary's example. Now, you choose.

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Your Brother,

Tom

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)