

Why Christians Suffer - Part 3

Must Christians Suffer?

Question:

What's in Your Wallet?

By now just about everyone has seen one at least of the TV commercials promoting the Capital One Credit Card. One such commercial starts with an innocent young couple on the verge of using their credit card to make a purchase. Suddenly a fierce hoard of barbarians descends upon them with the obvious intention of doing what barbarians do: harm them.

Fortunately the young couple is able to thwart the barbarian hoard's evil intentions by using their trusty Capital One credit card. The barbarians retreat, but during their retreat, one of the barbarians asks the viewer: What's in your wallet?

The point of the commercial is this: Don't be duped into making the wrong choice - it can destroy you.

Unfortunately many Christians make the WRONG choice day-after-day, over and over again. They do the same thing - in the same way - time and time again - always HOPING for DIFFERENT results - but NEVER seeing them.

An Ongoing Problem:

I talk to Christians regularly who continue living their lives in the same way they did the year before - never making any progress - always 'believing' for the blessings of God - but never quite able to obtain them in their fullest. Sure, there are occasional spurts of miraculous intervention - usually because its the only way God can get thru to them.

I compare this to a person who VISITS the Promised Land - but never actually MOVES there.

Naturally, these dear Christians have a million reasons as to WHY they experience the failures that they do.

But despite the fact that they fail time and time again - and despite the fact that their prayer results are "hit-and-miss" at best - and despite the fact that they are no closer today than they were yesterday to GETTING results - they keep on doing what they do in the same way day after day.

Do you know someone like that?

Do you know what the Scriptures say about this type of Christian?

The Bible says that this type of Christian 'opposes themselves' and that they have been deceived by the devil and have been taken captive by the devil at his will [2Tm:2:25-26].

Did you notice that the word does NOT say that it is the DEVIL's fault? Nope! For this type of Christian - it is they who oppose themselves!

Yes - believe it or not - the WORD states clearly that a Christian CAN be taken captive by the enemy - if they ALLOW it.

HOW does this happen?

Again - the Word provides a clear answer: Because they either have NO knowledge or because they continue to REJECT knowledge! [Hosea:4:6]

Simply put - They are their own worst enemy!

I know that in this age of 'religious tolerance' that this sounds harsh - but the WORD commands us to "SPEAK THE TRUTH in love [Eph:4:15] - and the truth is that NOTHING will change for this type of Christian - EVER!

They can 'believe God' all they want - but it will do no good. They can 'hope for the best' until the cows come home - but it will do no good.... Nothing will CHANGE until THEY do.

Brothers and Sisters, if this reminds you of yourself, or if you are one of those dear Christians who just don't seem to have any POWER, and your prayers just seem to hit the ceiling and bounce back - then consider this: There is an answer.

Continued...

The answer is found in Romans Chapter 12 verse 2:

"...Be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Basically, this scripture tell us that things CAN change - they CAN improve - but the responsibility lies directly with us.

It is only when WE change the way we THINK - that everything else will change. When we RENEW our mind and bring our thoughts into line with the Word - then things will begin to change (be transformed).

Why is this so?

Because once we change the way we think - then we will also change the way we DEAL with things.

The world does NOT esteem the WORD of God.

Whether it be the 'written' word, or that which is spoken directly to individuals by the SPIRIT of GOD, they ignore it - and by ignoring it they experience the consequences.

When we stop approaching the WORD of God in the same way that the WORLD does - and submit ourselves to the WORD and the VOICE of the SPIRIT - then we will have the RESULTS that the WORD promises.

Do you want change? The ONLY answer is in your obtaining KNOWLEDGE and being careful NOT to IGNORE (reject) it.

How important is this?

Proverbs 4:7 states: Wisdom (Knowledge of the WORD) is the principal (MOST important) thing - therefore GET wisdom - and with all of your might get understanding!

Begin to make it a PRIORITY to listen to - and be LED by the WORD of God. Don't allow anything to be more important than getting the knowledge that you NEED.

Once YOU begin to submit yourself to the Lord - obeying both the written word, AND the leading of the Spirit, you will be astonished at how easily the promises manifest themselves.

Be blessed

About the Author:

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