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Staying In His Will

There's an old church saying that's really important: "Bloom where you are planted." The principle is simple: wherever God places you, you should grow roots and produce fruit right there. It is a powerful truth that so many miss out on because they are bound with fear of God abandoning them. When things don't seem to work out the way they imagined, they feel that God has stranded them, and they change things.

There is a wonderful life of living in the will of God by growing up through every obstacle and every battle that comes to discourage you. In the same way, a tree grows through many seasons and storms, but in the end, it is still there. You can trust God through the good and hard times that He is still working His will in you. This lifestyle requires us to obey His voice and not be moved by circumstances. However, to have this life, you must first let go of your life as the Apostle Paul said, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* Galatians 2:20.

It's the kind of philosophy that seems lost from many in today's generation of believers. In today's fast pace of learning from ninety-second video clips and internet media preachers, it's no wonder that the church is losing its impact on the world. It seems to me that many Christians are living their life for what they can receive instead of what they can give, and truthfully my heart breaks for them.

A lifestyle of constantly seeking and searching for the fastest way to get blessed, anointed, and honored is short-sighted and will always lead to disappointment. They view life with God as the easiest path to success and happiness, and they are frustrated when He begins to expect depth and strength to grow in their life. This immature lifestyle robs a person of experiencing God's faithful provision day after day.

His heart is always for His children to mature and develop, which takes time and consistency. So many believers will spend their days running from place to place, searching for something special when they have the Holy Spirit available to them right where they are. I've heard it said that your view of Christianity is either one of a cruise ship or one of a battleship.

Let me tell you a story of the restless hungry believer who desires to participate in the kingdom of God more than anything. I've lived this story with people more times than I want to say. It always starts with the same problem, "Pastor Alan, I do not see the results I'm after. I feel that I should see more fruit by now, and I don't see anything changing. I should be more blessed and anointed by now, but I'm not even being used in my calling yet. I think I'm going to try another path".

I always pray for them and release them from any expectations, but in my younger years as a minister, I would argue with them to try and rescue them from a life of wandering from

place to place. I would try to explain the battles of overcoming immaturity and self-preservation, only for them to perceive my motives as wrong. I would try to explain that what they are searching for only comes from maturity and that there are no shortcuts. Most of the time, it was too late to change their minds.

An example could be as simple as a person requesting prayer for a new job. They might say, "my boss is mean and only promotes his unsaved friends and makes fun of me. I do not see the financial blessings that I deserve." My answer is, "I will not pray for a new job, but I can pray for God's perfect will to come to pass. It might be God's will for you to stay where you are." Too many believers are chasing success instead of obeying God. They want obedience to bring instant gratification, and when they don't see it, they start looking for another path. If you press hard enough, you will find yourself on the wrong path, and you'll find someone to agree with you.

Our walk must be led by the direction of God and not by opportunities or frustration. Paul described the mindset of a faithful believer in 2 Timothy 2:3-4, *"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."*

The truth: if you desire to be involved in the work of the Lord, then you'll need to die to yourself and live for Him. To ever be a partner within the Body of Christ, we must hear God well enough to allow Him to place us where He thinks is best for us and then remain until He speaks otherwise. True growth occurs within those difficult times when you find yourself desperately holding on to His Word. In the midst of a storm is not the time to run but to stand firm.

Will you endure those hard seasons and remain faithful to the post he has placed you, or will you lose faith in His orders and find your own way? It is easy to serve God when it's easy, but can you continue staying in place when it's not? Always remember the safe place to be is in His perfect will. God is not intimidated by circumstances, and neither should we. We are not moved by what we see or feel but only by His words. Let us walk as good soldiers and watch Him change the world.

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