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Don't Let Religion Rob You

The enemy has used religion to rob believers of fulfilling God's will for their lives. The enemy's tactics have muted generation after generation, never truly seeing their full potential in Christ. The hungry ones all see and desire the promises of revival and power in the Word of God, but most everyone before us has missed it. It's not the passion or desire that is missing, but the path to get there is where the devil plays his masterful game.

Religion will show you a path of what you can do to change your circumstances and your life. As you pursue God's victory on this earth, you'll discover thousands of paths all claiming to be the way. Currently, there are over 45,000 Christian denominations worldwide, and they all believe their path is the best path. How is it possible for a person to know what the right way is? How can we expect anyone to know who to trust?

An older man of God gave me great advice when I was young, as he told me regarding teaching the word of God. "If you ever hear a preacher say, 'trust me' and 'trust my opinion,' run away." To be perfectly clear, it is you who are responsible for knowing the truth of God and the will of God for yourself. It reads in Romans 14:11-12, *For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*"

There will be a moment when each one of us will stand before Him alone, no parent, spouse, boss, or preacher will be with you. You will be asked to give an account of your life choices and not be able to blame any other person. The weight of following God's will for your life is completely on your shoulders with no excuses allowed. This realization woke me up many years ago.

"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. Religion has offered us a way to live by standards of holiness and activities as our guide to success. If you become a better person and give your time to good works, then you are fulfilling the will of God.

We know that God's design for each believer is a standard of holiness, but that is not the same as fulfilling His will as He directs your steps. It says in Psalms 37: 23-25, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread."*

The promise in these verses is to the one who follows the steps ordered of the Lord, not to the one who lives by His standards. The Hebrew word for ordered means to guide, direct, or make reliable. This is an important understanding that the Lord desires to direct your very steps in the same way He did for Jesus.

One of the greatest distractions taught for many years has been the purpose-driven lifestyle of believers. Those who follow this doctrine are in danger of living their whole lives serving God but never

accomplishing what He has assigned them to do. They are really serving their own desire to be needed. I lived this way for many years, numb to the fact that I was serving myself through serving the kingdom.

Religion offers this drug of purpose to many believers, and they don't even realize that they are addicted. Year after year, feeding their own desire to be valuable to God, we are not to be purpose-driven but to be led by the Spirit instead. As a recovering purpose addict, my heart breaks for the multitudes of young people seduced into chasing the power of God and attempting to find a mantle and anointing to become useful for God. It sounds good, but it's not scriptural.

We are to desire the gifts of the spirit, but we are told to pursue love. This is our main mission: not only to touch the world through outreach, but also to let them experience the very love of Christ from within us. That incredible "agape" Love is not found in our actions but is developed as we pursue Him. Many run into ministering to others and resist when the will of God leads us to seeking Him. They focus on hearing His leading throughout their day instead of growing up in the prayer closet.

How are we to know His steps? It is much deeper than hearing His voice; it is found in knowing Him. If I am going to give an account of myself obeying the very will of God, then please tell me how I can make sure I don't fail? How can I be positive that I can follow step by step and grow into His will?

Our answer is in Romans 8:26-27 *"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*

Pray in tongues!!!

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