Good Company

Are you aware of the company you keep?

Sometimes we can surround ourselves with bad company. Either out of love or respect we surround ourselves with those who are not walking the same path as we are. So many times in the moment of trying to fit in or even trying to get along with others we may find ourselves engaging in ungodly conversations, ungodly actions, which can sometimes lead to ungodly thoughts without even realizing what we are doing. We can even find ourselves in relationships where both are not walking the same path and are not equally matched. You can have one person who is in the gospel and one who is completely out leading to sometimes a very uncompromising situation. Although we may love that person and would be willing to do any and everything to make that person happy we will find ourselves trying to compromise but in a ungodly manner. I have witnessed instances where one person has been saved and has completely given themselves to Christ and yet the other party is unwilling to change certain behaviors, actions, or even their thought process.

*Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.*

For the word of God says that light must not be entangled with darkness nor should be unequally yoked. (2 Corinthians 6:14) Lets first examine what it means to be unequally yoked. The words “yoke” means a device that would go around the neck of animals so that they could equally pull their weight to help accomplish the same goal. In the biblical sense when God says do not be unequally yoked He is referring to two people who cannot walk together or carry the same weight. For, if the two are not equally matched or synced the load becomes unbalanced and therefore the job at hand becomes more difficult and challenging to complete. What God is requiring is for two or more individuals of like mind, spirit, will, and determination to help carry out the job at hand.

Even in our friendships with others we can sometimes find ourselves in compromising situations because we are trying to fit in or get along with these individuals for the sake of not being left out. But, we need to understand that when we allow ourselves to engage in these relationships we are easily influenced to steer away from the path that God has chosen for us. What this means is that if we say we are truly God fearing that we must demonstrate our fear of what is not of him. No good can ever come out of trying to fit in or being someone you are not. Learn to set yourself apart from those who are still of the world but still learn to show love to those who are in this world. (Romans 12:2) How we can begin to demonstrate our love to those of the world is by continuing to mentor them by spreading the word of God at the same time remaining obedient to Christ through demonstration (walking the path of righteousness).

Allow others to see the light that has been bestowed upon you which is the light that was so graciously given to you by the one who made the ultimate sacrifice for you and I. Jesus said “follow me” not I will follow you so by allowing others to see his light shine through you, then others will want to follow. It is no longer important to fit in with what society has deemed as natural and acceptable but realize the importance of what is presentable and acceptable to God. Every day we must present ourselves as a living sacrifice unwilling to compromise, resistant to follow the crowd, and mindful of those we surround ourselves with.

It is so easy to get caught up in worldly actions because there are so many around us that is not willing to exercise the same level of control or obedience as we are. I’ve seen so many who have allowed these ungodly spirits to enter their lives which has created so much chaos and confusion. For we know that God is not the author of confusion and only the truth so we must arm ourselves with His daily bread, put on the mind of Christ and do everything possible to avoid these compromising situations. Even when we are engaging in physical activity with another human being it is very easy to take on the spirit of those you get physically involved with. Those who you allow to come into your home can easily bring in ungodly spirits that can potentially cause disruption if you are not properly equipped.

The word of God says “put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to withstand the wiles of the devil.” For we know that the devil’s schemes and form of trickery have become more powerful and cunning in these last days. These schemes have come from false prophets, false doctrines, and false teachings that have left so many Christians stranded in the wilderness with the feeling of nowhere to turn. But, if we continue to seek the truth through the seeking of His face and the reading of His word daily then we know where to turn. God says it is ok to separate yourself from divisive people and encourages us to avoid them. There is such a thing as loving from a distance and must be willing to exercise this practice on a regular basis throughout our lives. We can continue to pray for those who do not believe so that they will be enlightened, encouraged, uplifted and will start to hunger for change.

There were periods in our lives when we always didn’t do the right thing. There were times in our lives when we chose the word over the gospel simply because it was the cool thing to do at the time. It doesn’t mean that we were bad people, we were just simply lost. We may still have friends who still enjoy the club or bar scene, we may still have friends that are involved in illegal activities, we may still have friends who like to talk about others but we must remind ourselves daily that we are new creation now that we are living for Him and no longer living to satisfy fleshly urges which is considered to be living for ourselves. This will create separation between you and those who continue to exhibit these types of behaviors but it is important that we stand alone and that we continue to stand for what it is considered to be an acceptable service unto Christ.

In time, these individuals will become tired of the lifestyle they are living because we will all come face to face with a time of emptiness or less fulfillment. It is at the time these individuals will begin to thirst and hunger more for what God has to offer and that will allow us the opportunity to reach out and minister to those in need of the truth. We cannot change anyone’s perception, way of thinking, or even their choice of lifestyle but we can provide them with the alternative which is a Christ filled life. For God wants us to love all but it does not mean we have to associate ourselves with all especially if they are not willing to change right away. We have to give them that opportunity to want to change and in return we can teach them how to be saved.

Those you distance yourself from, pray for them even harder for it is God who said that there is no hand too far out of reach that he cannot save but we must willing to give it over to Him. Continue to do your part as a soldier for Christ, continue striving for perfection, continue being mindful of the company you keep, continue to ask for discernment.

May God continue to bless you and keep you….

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