

## ***Bling! Bling!***

***1 Corinthians 13:13 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) 13 So these three things continue: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.***

There is a popular saying, everything that glitters ain't gold. In today's society consumerism bullies us into chasing after every glittery thing they advertise. If we are not careful we will live a life of chasing after the bling bling. In the book of 1st Corinthians, Paul is writing to the church he established. He laid a foundation for the Corinthians and now he finds them getting off course. Instead of impacting their community the community was infecting the church. They found themselves desiring to be liked which was guiding their decision making. In his letter, Paul was instructing them to get back on the path God had laid out for them. It's time to stop chasing the bling bling and it's time to follow God!

### **Know When God Speaks!**

It's easy to get off God's course for your life. The world makes everything so appealing to your five senses. We have become so addicted and desensitized to the impact the world has on us that like the church at Corinth we desire our church experience to appeal to our five senses. Our goal when we attend church should be to get into His presence, not for entertainment. When we seek Him we have obtained a heart of worship and God will show up because He inhabits our praises. **(See Psalm 22:3)**

### **Ease Into Change**

Letting go of old habits and mindsets is not always an easy thing to do. Often we say to through our actions, "God, I don't want to change just come in and fix this \_\_\_\_\_." It's important to ease into change. In **Romans 10:17**, we are told that our faith grows when we hear the Word of God. What feeds you will lead you. In God's economy faith is the currency for change. He expects us to believe first and then receive. The world's

standard says you can only believe in what you see. God wants to give us more. He will only give according to the measure of faith we have. As we grow in faith, managing well what we have then the increase will come.

**(See Luke 16:10)**

### **Increase Your Faith!**

There are some steps we can take to increase our faith. We must learn how to operate within our own limitations. Then allow God to operate outside of our limitations. Now we are headed in the right direction. God will glorify Himself through us! We must be willing and available.

God may require you to first, extend. When you extend you will lend your thinking to God. He will take you beyond your own thinking. **(See Ephesians 3:20-21)**

You will also be required to contend. Anytime God is using you opposition will come. The devil does not want God receiving the glory nor does he want you to win. You will have to fight off the opposition. You will have to fight off some negative thoughts, emotions, and situations. **(See Ephesians 6: 10-21)** Be courageous in spite of the fear you feel. Continue to move forward in the presence of fear. Allow your failures to teach you because eventually if you don't quit success is just around the corner.

God wants you to be willing to amend. Living a life led by His Spirit you must always be willing to make changes. Allow Him to conform you into His way of being. Accept who God says you are and be willing to modify who you say you are.

God is leading you higher and wants you to transcend. He will lead you to rise above your challenges. God doesn't always remove the challenge. He knows that in your challenge He is creating strength in you. In the challenges, you learn how to fight God's way. **(See Philippians 4:8)**

Lastly, God wants you to defend. Protect your position! Whatever God has delivered you from. Whatever promise He has made. Satan wants to rob you of it. God needs you to defend that place of blessing and favor. Stay where His provision is. If you have left your place of blessing, get back to what was working.

If you are willing to extend your thinking, contend for God's property, be willing to amend your ways, allow God to transcend above your challenges

and defend your blessed position then God will be able to glorify Himself in you and through you! Get your eyes off the bling, bling. For these things are fleeting. What will remain are the things of God which are faith, hope, and love.