

Sacrifice and Passion

Wednesday Word: September 21, 2016

I have had this subject in the back of my mind for a few weeks now. Throughout the weeks it has made its way to the front of my mind. I want to talk about it if that's ok with you all. I pray God's purposes are fulfilled through this for each and every one of us that this reaches.

I have a multitude of desires and passions; some of which have existed since my elementary school days. It seems that some fade away yet others grow throughout the course of time. Some of these have grown and evolved which is why I was thinking on the subject of sacrifice and passion. Another reason this subject has been on my mind is because of events that have been unfolding in the past weeks and months in my life and in the world.

I have come to the realization (an understanding to a certain level) that for any passion to be fulfilled there MUST be sacrifice. How much one is willing to sacrifice is dependent on how big the dream/desire/passion is. There are certain entertainers that I have followed and admired throughout my lifetime. Their talents were used in various ways throughout different periods of my life. Ultimately, I know it is always God who has my back and lifts me up. However, He uses different means to get a message to any one of us.

If we think of some of the greatest entertainers, activists, scientists, etc., we can see how they have made sacrifices to achieve the desired goal. When we think of Jesus Christ Himself, The Ultimate Sacrifice, we see how He has sacrificed every part of His life including His life for His deepest passion. His deepest passion was loving the Father and us, for us to be fully restored and reconciled to God the Father, and for us to have everlasting life. The sacrifice doesn't get any deeper than that.

There is a correct and incorrect way to make sacrifices. The key is having our passions line up with the will and passions of our Lord. If they line up and we believe in the Lord and allow Him to lead us then the end will be within the purposes of God. Again I say, the Lord can use any avenue He chooses to bring each of us to that point. He does require action from us and He wants us to achieve and receive our desires.

Sometimes the sacrifices we need to make are small ones such as doing something outside of our normal routine for a small amount of time each day. Other times, the sacrifices include doing something that we really don't want to do because of our flesh. Both instances are only for a brief moment. Eventually they will begin to be something enjoyable because of the passion from and for our Lord. God will NEVER ask you to compromise. Compromise is not sacrifice. If our passion is to write a book He has given us then the sacrifice is spending time doing the research and writing. To gain that time, the sacrifice may be not being able to watch your favorite weekly show or to turn off the TV altogether. If our passion is to be a worldwide musician then our sacrifice is spending money and time to perfect our craft. With any passion, if we have a family, then the sacrifice is the desire itself. If it is something God has put in us (and chances are it is), the sacrifice is trusting Him to complete it in His timing and not sacrificing something else that He has not called to be sacrificed.

I know this is for myself and sense it is for someone else as well. I pray this message goes forth and the full purposes of God are fulfilled.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psalm 37:3-4 - Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Mark 9:23 (AMP) - Jesus said to him, "[You say to Me,] 'If You can?' All things are possible for the one who believes and trusts [in Me]!"

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

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