

## What Does God Expect of Us?

It has been a difficult week physically. Nothing traumatic, just difficult. And too often I tend to get up inside my head and beat myself up for not doing enough. If the truth would be known I think a lot of Christians have been told incessantly that they need to constantly strive for increased fruit, whether it be personal growth or increased fruit for the Kingdom. While these things are good in and of themselves, I don't believe our Father ever intended us to be driven by them.

When we come to Christ initially we are naturally excited emotionally, but that excitement can easily be turned to morbid introspection of past (and present) shortcomings and failures. The Accuser of the Brethren sees to this. Because we have come into the Light, our sins are more evident and the danger of self-condemnation increases. But listen to what Miles Stanford says about this;

“The guilt which the throne detects, the altar removes. If in the light of the throne one object is seen, namely, ruined, guilty, undone self; then, in the light of the altar, one object is seen, namely, a full, precious, all-sufficient Christ. The remedy reaches to the full extent of the ruin, and the same light that reveals the one reveals the other likewise. **This gives settled repose to the conscience. God Himself has provided a remedy for all ruin which the light of His throne has revealed.**”

*“If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).*

Stanford, M. J. (2002). Complete Works of Miles J. Stanford. Galaxie Software.

I am grateful this morning that my Father knows me intimately and makes allowances for my continual shortcomings and failures. As great as my shortcomings are, they are no greater than His mercies!

***He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*** (Psalms 103:10-14 NKJV)

And so rather than hit the ground running this morning like the Martha in me felt pressed to do, I chose to linger at the feet of the Savior a bit longer like Mary.

***But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:40-42 NKJV)***

As I did so the Spirit of God spoke these gentle words of encouragement into my heart and I opted to share them with you;

***"What can we bring to the LORD? What kind of offerings should we give Him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer Him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:6-8 NLT)***

Even on our worst day we can do that!

*Jim Freed*