

Thinking Beyond Yourself

Rachael Martin 9,2,2016

I once watched a video about the occult and one of the leaders said something about their religion being easy because it's self-focus. If all you think about is yourself then there is little time for the cares and concerns of others. Even in doing good, the motivation could be that you are gaining SOMETHING for it. I've been observing this past week different things, my family, my friends via Facebook, complete strangers in the store and in movies... and reminding myself to look at the motive.

- 1.) I'm already going that way so I will pick them up.
- 2.) I'm hungry too so I'll buy them a sandwich while I'm at it
- 3.) I need to break this \$20 anyway so I can have 1's for tip or lunch so I'll throw some change in that homeless mans cup.
- 4.) I want coffee so I'll get everyone coffee.

The list goes on, the things we do because we gain something from it and they aren't ill-intended, but they are lacking in sacrifice....in putting ourselves out of the equation in operating in a greater love. What does self-less love look like?

Using the examples I just wrote about above, if you can put yourself out of the picture what would it look like? Random acts of kindness happen all of the time....it's the ones that have no personal gain that grab my attention. I want to do for someone and get to that point where I don't desire anything in return and quite frankly I don't remember it because it wasn't doing it out of personal motivation. I'm guilty.... I'm wondering right now if I never kept another receipt for things I've given, would it matter come tax time and could we live with it? This is just my personal thought out loud.

A grocery store gives out free bread to a local shelter, but is it because if they do, they get kickbacks for something? It's a "win-win" situation.... Well what if you never got anything in return – ever? I've also known the Lord to ask me before – If I never did another thing for you, would you still worship Me?

Friends the Bible says that Gods unfailing love FILLS the earth... so where is it? In you and me? Lord help us to look past ourselves today – this weekend – may we start to operate in a greater love and think about others feelings, or situations before we speak or act. Lord help us to think beyond ourselves and our current moment and move in a selfless love as we grow in You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Psalm 119:64 - O Lord, your unfailing love fills the earth; teach me your decrees.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - 13 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;[a] but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

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