

SPIRITUALITY: THE FOUNDATION FOR DILIGENCE

A Message Delivered By Pastor Abraham Ojemeh on Thursday Chapel Service, September 4, 2014

Diligence is a spiritual virtue and can only be appropriated on a spiritual platform. There is a spiritual backup that is required for diligence to deliver maximally or it may lead to frustration. Zechariah 4:6, "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, 'This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying; Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.'"

If there is no spiritual backup for diligence, no matter how hard you work, no matter how committed you are, it will lead to futility. Zechariah 4:7, "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it."

Life is full of paradoxes. And if you lack spiritual understanding, you will find yourself overwhelmed by the questions of life. The purpose of the questions of life is to push you to the point of exasperation, despair and depression.

I have heard people ask, "Why do good people suffer? How come the God that is merciful allows so much evil to happen on the earth here?" The problem is lack of spiritual understanding. There would be so many questions of life overwhelming you until you become a question mark. That was what happened to Asaph in Psalm 73:1-28. I call that mentality the 'Asaph Philosophy.' Asaph was overwhelmed with the paradox of life. He wanted to know why the foolish and the unrighteous prosper. Psalm 73:12

It is a pity that there are many Christians that the world is evangelizing due to depression and discouragement caused by lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." But Psalm 73:2 says, "But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well-nigh slipped." And then in some verses later, you see the answer. That is where spiritual understanding gets you and the questions of life can no longer intimidate you, Psalm 73:17-18, "Until

I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.”

When you read that, you now realise how short sighted you have been. You are no more envious of the people that are cutting corners. You are no more envious of those who seem to be prospering in sin. You now understand that their end is destruction. That is what spirituality does. It enhances your longterm orientation and facilitates your diligence. This is why spirituality is more important in your journey to diligence, commitment, etc. Those are good, but whatever a Christian does outside the spiritual platform will never deliver. It may look like it, but in the end, the mask will be taken off.

Romans 8:6, “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

What Is Spirituality?

Spirituality is using God as your standard in all things. Spirituality is absolute not subjective. For a Christian, spirituality is absolute. You must come to the appoint where God is tangible to you. You must come to a point where you know God and who He is to you. Where you understand God’s standard in all things and stand by it.

Enoch was a good example of sound spirituality. In the midst of the highest levels of depravity and sin, the man walked with God consistently for 300 years! Genesis 5:24, “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”

Daniel also drew a line for a walk with God. Daniel 1:8, “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

The three Hebrew boys, Daniel 3:17-18, “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Apostle Paul also drew a line of walk with God, Philippians 1:21, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

And Jesus said in John 8:29, “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”

What Is The Acid Test For Spirituality?

The Love For God

The love for God becomes the influencer of your walk with God. Service without the love of God is servitude. Romans 5:5, “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

The indicators of the love for God are:

- a) If you love God, you will love His Word.
- b) If you love God, you will love fellowship. Psalm 122:1
- c) If you love God, you will love His people. Mathew 22:36-40
- d) If you love God, it must affect your associations and your relationships.

In conclusion, diligence must first be invested towards God, before it can deliver in the life of a believer. Mathew 6:33

