

Pastor's Corner: 4-13-2019 – To Banish Unrest and Doubt

For the Pastor's Corner this week I am sharing an entry from a Daily Devotional from April 11. Ellen White is the author. I've underlined a few sections and added my own reflections here and there (my thoughts are in []).

“Christ came to this world to show that by receiving power from on high, man can live an unsullied life. With unwearied patience and sympathetic helpfulness He met men in their necessities. [This is one of the greatest lessons we need to learn and apply in our relationships with others. Too often we get focused on our own agenda instead of trying to discover what other people might need. I love the picture that Jesus was patient and sympathetic when he ministered to people. He began by saying, in essence, ‘what can I do for you? How can I help you?’ When was the last time you actively and intentionally asked someone how you can be of service to them? Try it out sometime and see what happens]. By the gentle touch of grace He banished from the soul unrest and doubt, changing enmity to love, and unbelief to confidence.

It is not wise to look to ourselves and study our emotions. If we do this, the enemy will present difficulties and temptations that weaken faith and destroy courage. [I believe this is a true statement. It is easy to become problem focused and to keep a constant eye on our doubts, struggles, and feelings. What we focus on has a tendency to expand. So, the more we focus on our doubt or pain, the bigger it becomes. Instead, we should focus on Jesus and let him loom large in our vision. It'll change our perspective and allow us to be solution focused instead of problem focused] Closely to study our emotions and give way to our feelings is to entertain doubt and entangle ourselves in perplexity. We are to look away from self to Jesus.

When temptations assail you, when care, perplexity, and darkness seem to surround your soul, look to the place where you last saw the light [Remember to revisit the things that brought you close to God in the past. If it worked before, chances are it will work again]. Rest in Christ's love and under His protecting care. When sin struggles for the mastery in the heart, when guilt oppresses the soul and burdens the conscience, when unbelief clouds the mind, remember that Christ's grace is sufficient to subdue sin and banish the darkness [It's all about Jesus and what he accomplished. Let his grace and victory become the focus of our full attention].

He will give you grace to be patient, he will give you grace to be trustful, He will give you grace to overcome restlessness, He will warm your heart with His own sweet Spirit. He will revive your soul in its weakness... Then stay your soul in confidence upon God. Roll all your burdens upon Him. [Every good and perfect gift comes from God. It all rests with Jesus. He's the one who will give us what we need]

The soul that loves God, rises above the fog of doubt; he gains a bright, broad, deep, living experience, and becomes meek and Christlike [The only way to gain victory and to become more like Christ is to truly love God and keep our eyes on the savior. When we do that, he can banish our failures, pain, doubts, and fears]. His soul is committed to God, his with Christ in God. He will be able to stand the test of neglect, of abuse and contempt, because his Saviour has suffered all this. He will not become fretful and discouraged when difficulties press him, because Jesus did not fail or become discouraged. Every true Christian will be strong, not in the strength and merit of his good works, but in the righteousness of Christ, which through faith is imputed unto him [Christ's righteousness becomes my righteousness. Good thing too, cause my righteousness is pretty pathetic]. It is a great thing to be meek and lowly in heart, to be pure and undefiled, as was the Prince of heaven when He walked among men.”

Have a happy Sabbath,
Pastor Tyler

