

SOLD OUT FOR CHRIST?

“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14). This scripture is often spoken of by our pastors around the 4th of July timeframe, from a “national” platform (or government) perspective but I believe it is a Word that applies first to you and me on an individual level.

Blatant sin has (and continues to) become largely acceptable in U.S. culture today, where behaviors, interests and activities that was once considered unacceptable and wrong is now considered OK. To be so direct, this is twisted; perverted thinking that comes straight from satan and his demons. Scripture warns us of this fact; that this will occur (just like “in the days of Noah”).

The Holy Spirit has been speaking to me for quite some time (years now) about my being a genuine, real Christian, on a daily basis, in every aspect of my life. How can I be a light to the world (as scripture instructs me to be) if my walk does not line up with my talk on Monday as it did on Sunday (in church) or when I’m at work and/or around non-believers? True believers/followers and non-believers (especially) can spot a phony or “counterfeit Christian” (that’s actually an oxymoron) and then my testimony is at least tarnished, if not ruined with such relationships.

You and I are not perfect (stating the obvious) and I/we won’t be as we’re God’s handiwork-in-progress until He calls us home but that does not excuse the fact that He expects us to live out a purposely, sinless life under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. It’s a tall order and not something we can do on our own. Such living absolutely requires the Holy Spirit operating in our lives and a oneness with God the Father through His Son, Jesus. When I/we do sin, I/we repent of it swiftly and turn from it (180 degrees). Flirting with sin is like playing with fire; you/I will eventually get burned.

I know every part of my being must be sold out and subjected to the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit or I run the risk of being stained by the world and of no count and value to the world, as the Lord would have me. On a daily basis, the Holy Spirit living with me asked me what will (or does) my eyes behold; is it pleasing to the Lord or to Satan? What about my hearing, my thoughts, my plans?

I’ve learned (and will always be learning until our Lord returns) that living a *no compromise* lifestyle requires pruning, with the old things passed away (meaning, they’re history) and all things new (2 Cor, 5:17), and that means my old life or anything that is not of Him is crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20) daily.

If you and I don’t stand for Christ in these last days, then we’ll likely fall for anything. The world will say that’s very narrow-minded and judgmental of me. Then I can count this all joy as

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you and I would be counted in the ranks of Jesus Christ Himself for His very words and the manner in which He lived optimized a narrow-minded lifestyle; one that I'm expected to emulate/mimic as a Christian (follower of Christ).

I say all this because there is a persecution on the horizon for the outspoken, light-bearing Christians who will stand firm to what is right and what is wrong in accordance to the Word of God. I love you – in Christ – and tasked you too, to hold strong to your active, profession of faith, 24 x 7.

I close with this scripture, *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer” (Ps. 19:14).*

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