

Vol 6, Day 9: I'm A Christian, but I Have My Rights

No one is ever intimate with Jesus Christ until he is willing to let go of not sin only, but his whole way of seeing and doing things. Being born from above of the Spirit of God means that we must let go of self before we lay hold of God. In the first stages it is the relinquishing of all pretense. What God wants us to present to Him is not goodness, nor honesty, nor endeavor, but real solid sin; that is all He can take from us. And what does He give in exchange for our sin? Real solid righteousness. But we must stop pretending that we possess good character, all claim of being worthy of God's consideration.

Once we submit everything we are and have to God, or at least what we think is all, the Spirit of God will show us what more there is to relinquish. I must renounce all claims to my right to myself in every particular. Am I willing to release my grip on all I possess, my obsessions of my affections, my propensities regarding everything personal, and to be, as it were, crucified to death as Jesus was with His death on the cross?

There is always a sharp painful disillusionment to go through before we do relinquish. When a man really sees himself as the Lord sees him, it is not the abominable sins of the flesh that shock him, but the awful nature of the pride of his own good works and accomplishments for God that strike at the heart of Jesus Christ. When he sees himself in the light of the enormous love of God, the shame and the horror and the desperate conviction come over him.

When you are faced with the question of relinquishing all of your own agenda, goals and pursuits, rise to the challenge of this crisis. Let go of everything that is not God in you and God will make you fit for all that He asks or expects of you.

My Confirming Scriptures: "I am crucified with Christ."
Galatians 2:20

Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan