

Volume 6, Day 22: My Insignificance to Promote His Significance

Goodness and purity of love never do attract attention to themselves. They are magnets to draw people to Jesus Christ. If my holiness is not drawing others toward Him, it is not holiness of the right kind. Rather it is an influence that will awaken inordinate affection and lead souls away from God or into meaningless pursuits. A beautiful saint will actually be a hindrance if he does not present Jesus Christ in the fullness of His love but only what Christ has done for him. He will leave the impression, "What fine character that man has!" That is not being a true friend of the Bridegroom. I am increasing all the time, He is not. The focus is on me, the 'best' man, rather than on the 'perfect' man, the Bridegroom!

In order to maintain this friendship and loyalty to the Bridegroom, we have to be more careful with our relationship to Him than of any other thing, even of obedience. Sometimes there is nothing to obey. The only thing to do is to maintain a vital connection with Jesus Christ. Do not let anything interfere with that. Actually obedience is a by-product of genuine passionate love for God. We can actually begin doing, what would have been obedient, before it is even expressed.

Only occasionally do we have to obey. When a crisis arises we find out what God's will is. The more intimate our relationship with God the more we know what His will is in every situation. The greatest experience of the life is not conscious obedience but maintenance of intimacy in relationships. Christian work might actually end up being a means of evading the soul's concentration on Jesus Christ. Instead of being lovers of God, we may become amateur providences (acting like God in the lives of others). When we operate in this capacity, we work against Him while we use His resources.

You can most certainly count on this. When your life, that is, how you treat others, attracts people to the love of God which exudes from your expressions, you are definitely in the 'will of God.'

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

Volume 6, Day 23: The Pure in Heart
See God in Everything!

Purity is not innocence, it is much more. Purity is the outcome of sustained spiritual intimacy with God. We have to grow in purity. The life with God may be right and the inner purity remain unsullied. Yet every now and again the natural spirit which reaches the outside will be sullied. God does not shield us from this possibility because in this way we realize the necessity of maintaining the vision by personal intimacy which alone produces purity. If the spiritual bloom of our life with God is getting impaired in the tiniest degree, we must stop doing everything and reacquire the intimacy. Remember that vision depends on character – "... the pure in heart see God."

We may have thought that the 'pure in heart' are those whose moral quotient approaches perfect behavior and attitudes. However, Jesus was referring specifically to the way we see other people. Do we tend to find fault and criticize their inappropriate expressions. Or do we give them the benefit of the unknown and see them as having noble motives which we simply may not understand at the moment. When we cast purity on the motives of others until their motives have been clearly revealed as evil, we can see God in them. God is good. Thus if we see good in them, we also see God who creates the good in them. There is none righteous without God's Holy Spirit in them. But we have the best chance of helping them see God when we first see them as God sees them. They, too, are his children (only once born).

God makes us pure by His sovereign grace, but we have something to look after, this bodily life by which we come in contact with other people and with other points of view, it is these that are apt to sully us. It is only by the Holy Spirit within us that we are brought into perfect accord with the purity God gives us by His grace. The spiritual understanding is blurred the instant that our expressions are unloving toward others. Make every reasonable effort to increase your awareness of how your expressions reflect the spirit (or Holy Spirit) within you. One of these spirits will always be more evident than the other.

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Volume 6, Day 24: The Source of Personal Character

Your personal character is largely determined by how others perceive you, not by how purely you live. However, the character which is observed in you comes from one of two spirits. If you only have one spirit (the flesh and blood natural spirit) you are stuck with only one character source. Our character flows from the abundance of the feelings in our soul. And those feelings come from choices which we make. So, in order to have elevated character, it will come from feelings elevated by choice. The best news in this regard is for 'born again' believers in Jesus, the choices can be made by the most elevated of all spirits in the Universe, God's Holy Spirit.

Development of true character does not come from the activities in which we engage or the expressions coming from within. These are the evidences of character. The golden rule is often thought of as limiting our expressions to what we desire to be expressed to us by others. However, the best application of the golden rule rests in the understanding of what we really want from others. It is not their resources or toleration which we desire. It is rather to be accepted by them without needing to change a thing. Being accepted "as-is" as a person of value in spite of our idiosyncrasies and lunacies.

We can twist our idea of holiness beyond what flesh and blood could ever achieve. It then becomes a spiritual acrobatic performance. You are poised and dare not move. But when God's Holy Spirit elevates your character by your surrender to His present power, instead of finding a pinnacle to cling to, you find a high plateau of character where it is easy to encourage others.

Growth in grace is measured not by the fact that you have not abandoned God, but that you have abandoned yourself more, even if only a little bit. You are constantly conscious of where you are spiritually and how much more the character of God will be formed in you by greater surrender to His Holy Spirit. This is the attainment of the highest possible character.

My Confirming Scriptures: Aligning Experiences:

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Volume 6, Day 25: Mistaken or Misunderstood

I may not understand what Jesus Christ says. But it is wrong to say that therefore He was mistaken in what He said. It is never right to think that my obedience to a word of God will bring dishonor to Jesus. The only thing that will bring dishonor is not obeying Him. To put my concern for His honor ahead of what He is plainly telling me to do is never right. Although it may arise from a real desire to prevent Him from being put to open shame.

I know when the proposition comes from God because of its quiet persistence: When I insist on weighing the pros and cons, and doubt and debate come in, I am bringing in an element that is not of God, and I come to the conclusion that what I thought I heard Him propose was not what He really wanted. Any time we seek the confirmation of what God has spoken only to our ear by other trusted believers, we will become immobilized to the request of God.

Many of us are loyal to our notions of Jesus Christ, but how many of us are loyal to Him out of pure love for Him? Loyalty to Jesus means I have to step out where I do not see where I am going or what results to expect. Loyalty to my opinions means that I clear the ground first by my intelligence, and then follow up with my common-sense. Faith, on the other hand, is not intelligent understanding, faith is deliberate commitment to a Person where I do not need to know the way.

Are you debating whether to take a step in faith in Jesus or to wait until you can see how to do the thing yourself? Obey Him with glad reckless joy. When He says something and you begin to debate, it is because you have a conception of His honor which is not His honor but yours. Are you loyal to what He says, or are you trying to compromise with your own ideas which never came from Him? "Whatever He says to you, do it."

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

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Volume 6, Day 26 Too Busy to See

The most important thing for a Christian is to be ready to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. This applies to the home place, the work place, the play place, the worship place, the private place and the public place.. It is every experiential place. This is not a common practice of most Christians today. The struggle is not against sin or difficulties or circumstances, but against being so absorbed in work that we are not even

aware of His presence in us all the time. He is there, waiting to be noticed, even consulted. But we are distracted by our circumstances so much that we fail to get God's guidance while is it the most readily available resource we have. Force yourself to develop the habit of the awareness of His Holy Spirit's presence and wise counsel.

It is always in the most illogical and unplanned connections that He reminds us of His presence. The only way we can remain true to God is by being aware of the Holy Spirit who prepares us for the Lord's Divine surprises. It is not actual service that matters, but intense spiritual reality, considering Jesus Christ in every decision we make. This will give our life the attitude of child-like wonder which He wants it to have. If we are constantly aware of the presence of Jesus Christ, we have to stop being religious and be spiritually genuine.

If you are "preoccupied with Jesus," avoiding the call of the religious activities in which you engage, and setting your heart on what He wants; thinking His thoughts - you will be called impractical and dreamy. But when He appears in the stress of the job and the heat of the moment, you will be the only one who is able to remain calm and ready. Trust no one, not even the finest saint who ever walked this earth. Ignore him, if he recommends anything other than your constant awareness of Jesus Christ.

The comfort
of God
is wrapped
in my release
of my control
over my life
& the lives
of others!

Volume 6, Day 27: Intercession for NOT Criticism of

If we are not yielding to the way the Spirit of God works in us, we have become spiritual hypocrites. We see where other people are failing, and we turn our discernment into condemnation of them by way of our criticism instead of into intercession on their behalf to the restoration of their fellowship. The revelation is made to us not through the sharpness of our minds, but by the direct penetration of the Spirit of God. If we are not submitted to the source of the revelation, we will become criticizing centers and ignore God's words, "... He shall ask, and He shall give him life for them that sin not unto death." Be careful not to play the hypocrite by spending all your time trying to manipulate others' behaviors into obedience to God.

One of the subtlest burdens God ever puts on us as saints is this burden of discernment concerning other souls. He reveals things in order that we may take the burden of these souls before Him and form the mind of Christ about them, and as we intercede on His line, God says He will give us "life for them that sin not unto death." It is not that we bring God into touch with our minds, but that we open our minds and hearts to God until God is able to convey His mind to us about the one for whom we intercede.

Is Jesus Christ seeing evidence of the travail of His soul in us? He cannot unless we are so identified with Himself that we are fully motivated to hold His point of view about the people for whom we pray. We must learn to intercede so wholeheartedly that Jesus Christ will be abundantly satisfied with us as intercessors.

My Confirming Scriptures: My Aligning Experiences

The peace of God is **fully acquired** when we become **fully aware** of His presence in every decision. —J H Alan

Volume 6, Day 28: Blindness Is Self Imposed

We think that it was God who had blinded the eyes of the Disciples. But the truth is that all of us are blinded by our own choice not to believe what we are hearing. This is most often due to the fact that this is new information and revelation and no one else seems to believe it either. We choose to remain ignorant of the truth for fear we would wander away from God's own people in the process of believing God's personal revelation to us. And we accept the lie that, "... if you are the only one who believes it, you must be wrong!"

Jesus had entered into Jerusalem in triumph. The city was stirred to its foundations. But a strange god was there, the pride of Pharisaism. It was religious and upright, but a gathering of "white-washed tombs." For many Christians today, our personal 'self-righteous whiteness' is more important than obedience to the personal revelation of God. We have a strange god - not a disgusting monster, but a disposition that rules us! I am blind (by my own choice) to the things which belong to my peace. It is an appalling thing that we can be in the place where the Spirit of God should be have his way with us, and yet increase our self-condemnation in direct contradiction to the Gospel itself.

"If you had known ..." - God goes direct to the heart. These words imply culpability. God holds us responsible for what we do not see. "Now they are hidden from your eyes" - because the selfish natural disposition has never been yielded fully to the Holy Spirit of God. How sad to have missed what "might have been!" God never forces open doors that we have closed. He opens other doors. He does remind us that there are doors which we have shut, doors which need never have been shut, imaginations which need never have been sullied. Never be afraid when God brings back the past. Let memory have its way. It is a minister of God with its rebuke and chastisement and sorrow. God will turn the "might have been" into a wonderful culture for the future.

My Confirming Scripture: My Aligning Experiences:

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