

Quidnick Baptist Church

03 November 2019

1st John # 12

“I Heard it through the Grapevine”

John 15:7-8

The Word of God is the standard of the Christian life and emotion is a gift from God to be enjoyed, understood and evaluated but this is impossible without the absolute standard for the Christian way of life, which is biblical truth.

Emotion is not the standard for the Christian way of life and emotionalism is too often a substitute for ignorance of the Word of God.

Emotion has a wonderful place in our lives but only as the responding appreciator of the soul. So, remember; everyone has emotion from God to enjoy Him and things in life, like people, nature, a concert or even a football game but emotion cannot be our standard.

Peter, Paul and James, like Jesus, speak of our distinction leading to incentive followed by rewards for Christ-like service which means that in Jesus' absence, the 11 and we follow His example to obey His caring Father's instructions to His Son which are similar to His instructions to us to remain or abide in fellowship with the true Vine.

There can be internal transformation without external evidence as a young believer can be abiding in Christ with no production to show for it as in our context in John 15:2.

There can be external conformity with no internal reality of transformation but that's not in our context.

True readiness or willingness means internal character transformation or fruit is present without external evidence.

A successful prayer life does not mean that prayers are always answered the way we want them to be answered.

A successful prayer life is a prayer life that gets our petition heard at the throne of grace. *If we are out of fellowship, our prayers aren't going to be heard, so we are unsuccessful in making our petition.*

So, the better we understand the Word of God, the more we let the Word dwell in us and the more we will be able to ask according to His revealed will.

Prayer is first and foremost to accomplish God's purpose.

There are two conditions for effective prayer:

1. Abiding in active fellowship with Jesus Christ;
2. Knowledge of His Word and therefore, His will and both involve consistent choices to learn, meditate on and apply biblical truth resulting in renovated thinking and momentum in the plan of God.

It is ultimately important that we are filled with the Holy Spirit, abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ and that His words are abiding in us.

God only gives on the basis of His character and never on the basis of who and what we are.

If we ever hope to enjoy our lives, we must make His Word our #1 priority.

As a matter of fact, to reject or refuse to participate in legitimate pleasure provided by God is to insult Him!

If we have biblical truth in our soul, we are content and happy with capacity to enjoy the details of life but if we don't have the Word, we are miserable even with the most money, the best of friends and perfect health etc. and if we are occupied with Jesus Christ through His Word in our soul, we can lose the details of life and still be happy but if we aren't occupied with Him and we lose the details because we are occupied with them, our misery is intensified.