

Lesson # 2 -- The Biblical Qualifications Related to Faith, Love and Hope.

Introduction

- A. The ability with which we were created, so that we could respond to God, and which we lost in the Fall, has been reborn within us in the New Birth. The believer now has the ability to respond to God in faith, love and hope.
 - B. It is quite evident, from the Bible and our experiences, that the believer responds to God in a very intuitive and spontaneous manner. However, for that response of faith, love and hope to be as Biblically profound and experientially fulfilling and as useful in the lives of others, as it has been designed by God, certain basic qualifications must be met. The believer must learn how to walk with God.
 - C. This does not mean that we are to earn the grace of God. That cannot be. God's grace is a free gift. However, we must learn how to cooperate with God so that we may receive His grace.
- I. Qualification # 1 -- A Biblical Attitude Toward God and Life: Not Coveting but Responding to God in Truth.

A. The Scripture:

Exodus 20:17
Matthew 22:35-40
Luke 12:13-31
Romans 13:8-10
I Corinthians 6:10
Galatians 5:14
Ephesians 5:3,5
Colossians 3:14
I Timothy 1:5
James 2:8

B. The Principle:

- 1. If God is there -- and He is --
- 2. If God created the world -- and He has --
- 3. If God is sovereign in His creation -- and He is --
- 4. If God is absolute in truth, love and holiness -- and He is --
- 5. If the message of Romans 8:28,29 is true and indicates God's plan to use our lives for His glory -- and it does --
- 6. Then -- we may not covet and sinfully wish things to be otherwise.

C. The Summary:

1. We may not sin against God in being covetous.
2. We must believe in God's goodness and interpret life from this viewpoint.

II. Qualification # 2 -- A Biblical Surrender: Not Demanding Our Own Way but Choosing the Will of God.

A. The Scripture:

Mark 8:34-38
Romans 12:1,2

B. The Principle:

1. By nature, as sinful, man is selfish and will demand his own way.
2. This desire to be at the center of all things, to be served, to be in control, to have our own way, to have the final word, to be the authority -- must be completely given up. We must address ourselves and our actions with confession renunciation and restitution.

C. The Summary:

We must surrender totally to God and then renew that surrender every day.

III. Qualification # 3 -- A Biblical Confession of Sin: Not Covering Our Sin but Living with a Clear Conscience.

A. The Scripture:

Psalm 32:3,5
Psalm 66:18
Proverbs 28:13
Jeremiah 7:4-12
Acts 24:16
Romans 2:14,15
Romans 9:1
I Corinthians 8:7
I Corinthians 10:25-33
II Corinthians 1:12
II Corinthians 4:2
I Timothy 1:5
I Timothy 4:2
Titus 1:15
Hebrews 9:14
Hebrews 10:22
Hebrews 13:18
I John 1:7-9

B. The Principle:

1. All refusal to confess our sin, or treating sin as inconsequential, is grieving to the Holy Spirit and will seriously limit our response to God in faith, love and hope.
2. While the Scripture is our authority we may not violate our conscience. We must learn to correct our conscience with the Bible and learn to live with a conscience void of offense.

C. The Summary:

1. We must confess our sin, renounce all sin and make restitution where necessary.
2. We must assume responsibility for living in the will of God. This involves decisions of faith, love and hope and must extend into all of the practical areas of life.

IV. Qualification # 4 -- A Biblical Activity in Daily Life: Not Neglecting Our Response To God but Doing the Will of God From the Heart.

A. The Scripture:

Matthew 28:18-20
John 4:24
I Corinthians 1:9
Ephesians 4:22
Ephesians 4:24
Ephesians 4:27
Ephesians 5:18
Hebrews 4:1-3
I Peter 2:2
I John 5:3

B. The Principle:

Doing the will of God means a personal involvement with the Person of Jesus Christ, with His Work, and with His Word.

1. Involvement with Jesus Christ is manifested in:
 - a. Fellowship, I Corinthians 1:9.
 - b. Worship, John 4:24.
 - c. Service, Matthew 28:18-20.

2. Involvement in the Work of Jesus Christ is manifested in:

- a. Putting off the works of the Old Nature (Eph. 4:22), claiming the cleansing God has provided through the Crucifixion (Romans 6:6-13).
- b. Putting on the works of the New Nature (Eph. 4:24), claiming the enablement God has provided through the Resurrection (Romans 6:4-13).
- c. Resisting the Devil (Eph. 4:27; I Peter 5:8,9), claiming the deliverance God has provided through the Ascension (Eph. 1:18-23; 2:5,6) and covering oneself with the armor (Eph. 6:10-18).
- d. Being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), claiming the anointing God has provided through the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:33).

3. Involvement in the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ is manifested in:

- a. Seeking the Word of God with hunger, I Peter 2:2.
- b. Obeying the Word of God in love, I John 5:3.
- c. Mixing the Word of God with faith, Hebrews 4:1-3.

C. The Summary:

1. We may not neglect our response to God. Such a failure is looked upon in the Bible as a most serious sin. Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:7-4:13; 6:4-9; 10:25-31; 12:14-29.
2. We must daily choose to respond to God from the heart, in decisions of faith, love and hope, in all facets of the daily life. Romans 6:17; Ephesians 6:6.