

Accepting Life

It is very important in the light of God's goodness, sovereignty, and His plan for us – that we do not reject what God has given to us. If we do we may fall into the sin of refusing God's will, living as a second rate person, and coveting.

We must learn to do more than tolerate life. If we do not spiritually accept ourselves, one another, our place in life, our abilities and call, our circumstances etc., we will become very vulnerable to grumbling, anger, bitterness, envy, coveting, and rejecting correction. Unless we are sure something is not the will of God for us, we must be characterized by contentment and thanksgiving to some degree (all of life has it's ups and downs).

Before I go any further I must say that there are many things that come to us in life with which we should **not** be content – but quickly and thoroughly reject. A good example would be all forms of temptation, irrational fear, disruptive obsessions, grudges, role playing, the martyr complex, being self-centered, and the list goes on and on. Most if not all “bad” things are **not** of God. We may have caused them, but more likely they are due to being members of a fallen race. God does not do bad things!

And then there may be areas of life where we constantly struggle to do what is clearly God's will. What I have in mind here is not a rejection of what God has given to us or wants us to do, but a constant inability to do what we know we should. If this is your problem, and it is for most of us, and you how to put off the old man and put on the new, how to walk in fellowship with God, how to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and how to resist the enemy – then look into your past for times in which you accepted errors which you still may be practicing today.

The error may be an omission (“I don't have to make restitution,” “I don't have to forgive,”) or perhaps a commission (“I'm not worth anything,” “I have to accept the blame”). Since Christianity works when we are honest and know how to do God's will, and do it – then we can conclude that there are hidden errors in our life, or the control of the enemy. God has promised to be our Shepherd and lead us. And He has given us His Holy Spirit to guide us into a knowledge of His will. Therefore it will help to be honest and humbly ask Him to help us see those areas where we have accepted error. We may need a Spirit-filled friend or counselor to help us.

When I speak of not accepting life I'm referring to what is clearly the will of God. Are you one of those who can rarely accept the weather? Does a rainy day make you angry and sullen? Because of our sinfulness all of us have a tendency to be dissatisfied with life and therefore will reject all that does not measure up to *our likes and dislikes*. We may not allow such an attitude to characterize our life or lead us into sin. It is not enough to be neutral about life. We must choose, if we are to please God, to accept His will, to cooperate with Him, to live by faith in all the areas of our life, and to be thankful.

Our rejection may be a child

- our wife-husband
- our marriage
- our Church – pastor
- our house and it's location
- our body (this is one of the most common)
- our abilities
- our job
- our financial situation (very common)
- our ministry and gifts
- our spiritual growth
- our trials
- or our color and nationality

Such a rejection may become a form of rejection, which may open the door to the enemy and **may** give him permission to influence and try to control and use that area. By our sinful rejection we also lose the blessing of God to some degree and become vulnerable to fantasy as an easy way out of our problems. That will surely open the door to the enemy.

Biblical examples of those who accepted very trying situations in life would be Joseph, David, Daniel, and Paul.

Perhaps a prayer like the following may be of help.

Heavenly Father, I confess to You that I have sinned in rejecting what You, in Your goodness and wise sovereignty, have given to me in _____. I hereby repent of my sin, choose to take the ground back from Satan, and wholeheartedly accept Your gift and provision in _____. I am depending on You to enable me to cope with the difficulties related to _____ and to use this area of my life to bring glory and honor to Yourself. I thank You for Your promises that You will never leave me, that You will supply my needs, and that You will take every good and bad thing in my life and work it for my good. I apologize to You that I have not been claiming these promises in regard to _____. Teach me how to live more fully for You and to be thankful for all the areas of my life and not just those I enjoy. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

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