

Passages that Pursue Me and Convict Me

The following passages continually force me into an examination of my personal life and service. I appear to come very, very short on all counts. I am asking for prayer and counsel concerning this important issue in my life.

I must have some kind of a resolution. I am not seeking a relief from “weakness, fear and trembling,” or difficulty, stress, opposition and apparent failure.

My only desire is that God would receive what He deserves and that people would experience what the passages plainly promise. I am not seeking “ministerial success.”

Please read the following verses slowly and consider what they could and should mean in my life and ministry.

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. John 6:63

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:13,14

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:21-13; (John 17:18)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. 1 Cor 2:3-5

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 1 Cor 4:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, Eph 3:20

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6,7

To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Col 1:29

Because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 1 Thess 1:5

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb 4:12

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

If you are aware or even consider that I am approaching this subject in some “soulish and proud” manner, or if you think I am being pressured by the enemy, please make it known, counsel with me, and pray for me.

I am willing to continue as I am in apparent severe limitation of life and ministry (in the light of the above verses) if that is God’s will for me.

I only want to be sure that I am not living with a disregard and disobedience to the plain teaching of Scripture or with a sinful, low-level of expectation of faith. I do not want to get to heaven and have the Lord Jesus say, “Let me show you the kind of life and ministry you could and should have had.”

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