

Lenten Study 1
2018

STOP!



Have you ever sensed the hand of God saying...STOP!

How do we grow, and continue on forever, if we can't stop?

When we do...then rest and reflect upon it prayerfully with God...amazingly God gifts us a sense of where God wishes us to go, and be?

'The Way' God wishes we proceed, is about growing...eternally.

However, in order that occur, God at times commands us to cease what currently we're doing, prayerfully seek His wisdom, listen, then ponder and resolve to move on...ever onwards hopefully, to be with Him!

Few Biblical mortal lives have momentarily for a significant period of time as Job. God tested his faith...and all for the Good and wellbeing of all the faithful!

Scripture Job 37:14-16, 18...

"Hear this, O Job;
stop and consider the wondrous works of God.
Do you know how God lays his command upon them,
and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine?
Do you know the balancing's of the clouds,
the wondrous works of the one whose knowledge is perfect
...Can you, like him, spread out the skies,
hard as a molten mirror?"

Stop for a moment and a little look closer, allowing God to draw you a little deeper into His wisdom here shared.

What does it say to you?

Job 37:19

"Teach us what we shall say to him;
we cannot draw up our case because of darkness."

What does Gods wisdom say to us here? (ponder for a moment)

Proverbs 19:27 (NRSV)

'Cease straying, my child, from the words of knowledge, in order that you may hear instruction'

Ponder this scripture for a moment.

What does this command say to you?

Now to the New Testament

Acts 13:9-12 (NRSV)

'But Saul, also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, **will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?**

And **now listen—the hand of the Lord is against you**, and you will be blind for a while, unable to see the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he went about groping for someone to lead him by the hand.

When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord"

Again. Allow God to draw you deeper here into His teaching...

A couple of things already have been highlighted. However, there's more...what else jumps out at you?

*This scripture from Acts is significant. Let's note, it's at this point in time, Saul changes his name to Paul.

Immediately prior, he'd confronted the magician Elymas, whom he noted, was 'a son of the devil'.

He commanded that he 'stop'..."**stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord**"

Now faithful in Christ Jesus, Paul's teaching of Jesus, had astonished those present, particularly the leaders present.

When God asks that we stop, assuredly His Hand is against us.

There were 2 spirits present that day, Satan...and God in the power of the Holy Spirit. One immediately overcame the other! Unquestionably, Gods Holy Spirit wins every time!

Paul (then Saul) also had been confronted similarly by God in Christ in his life, and had now converted to be Jesus faithful servant.

Jesus at that time also asked Paul to stop...cease encouraging others against Me!

Look at what now was occurring. God in Christ had now empowered Paul, to stop others making crooked the 'path of the Lord'.

Having momentarily paused, what worldly inspired thing may God be encouraging you to highlight in your life, and turn away from?

Where is the Almighty Hand of God saying stop...desist?

Prayer

Life giving God of all, guide and nurture us we pray, that we cease doing senseless things against Your will. Encourage us to follow our Saviour Jesus, every day, along Your Holy 'Way'. Embolden us as You did your faithful servant Saul, now known as Paul, in order we assist others to abide Your command to stop, prayerfully ponder, & commit to turning away from doing things unhelpful things before You...things which cause Your Mighty Right hand to rise up! *This we pray in Jesus name.*

AMEN



Jesus Christ at the Cross, given absolute faith in God, gave up His life, that we receive the gift of true hope of eternal life. His human life was ceased for 3 days, and all for our sins, whereupon wondrously, He rose again to new life! Our wellbeing surely is founded in Christ our Saviour, now and forever! Praise God!