

KEEPING GOD FIRST IN MY LIFE PART 2

Pastor George Dupree* – October 10, 2010

When effort is a way to obtain God's favor and salvation, then following Him will be a **DUTY**

When effort is a result of God's favor and salvation, then following Him will be a **DELIGHT**
– *John Maxwell*

Matthew 11:28-30 (Message) Jesus said, 'Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? **Come to Me. Get away with Me** and you'll **recover your life**. I'll show you how to take a **real rest. Walk with Me** and **work with Me - watch how I do it**. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn how to live freely and lightly.

Jesus asks us to do **FIVE THINGS** – He says

1. COME TO ME
2. GET AWAY WITH ME
3. WALK WITH ME
4. WORK WITH ME
5. WATCH ME

What He is asking of us is to **SPEND TIME** with Him.

One reason why He asks us to do these five things is that He wants us to be able to **RECOVER** and have **REAL REST** in our lives. Serving God because of **DUTY** will wear you out. You'll never feel that you fully satisfy Him. You'll always feel like there's more you could do.

Following God should be a **DELIGHT**, not a **DUTY**. A key to this delight is to serve God from **gratitude, thankfulness** for His **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**.

FOLLOW GOD WITH DELIGHT

1. COME TO ME – **JESUS ACCEPTS YOU**
2. GET AWAY WITH ME – **GIVING GOD YOUR ATTENTION**
3. WALK WITH ME – **ENJOY HIM**
4. WORK WITH ME – **PARTNER WITH GOD**
5. WATCH ME – **FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE**

RELY on Him and you'll become **FRUITFUL**

John 15:1 (MESSAGE) "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. **2** He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. **3** You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. **4** Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. **5** I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, **the harvest is sure to be abundant**. Separated, you can't produce a thing.

Jesus promises that when we are in **RELATIONSHIP** with Him the harvest of fruit is **SURE** to be abundant. The harvest of fruit He is talking about is Fruit in your life, evidence of His presence in your life as well as bringing people to the Lord.

RELY on Him and you'll become **FRUITFUL**

† Without God – **WE CANNOT BE FRUITFUL**

Our Partnership Requirement – **AVAILABILITY**

† Without Us – **HE WILL NOT**

God's Response To This Partnership – **ABUNDANCE OF FRUIT**

Jesus Said Watch Me – **FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE**

† If you watch Him, He will show you how to **VALUE** people

When you value people they will be drawn to you and more importantly they will be drawn to where your heart is, that is to the Lord.

PRAYER:

Lord, I want to walk with You and enjoy Your presence.
Lord, I want to work with You and accept Your partnership.
Lord, I want to watch You and follow Your example – Amen

*ADAPTED FROM A MESSAGE BY DR. JOHN MAXWELL

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