
Words of Truth

God Doesn't Have To Wait To See Your Fruits

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For you and I to know the faithfulness of an individual we have to wait to see what type of fruit they produce (Matthew 7:15-20). We can look at individuals who say they are Christians and see through their fruit whether or not they truly are (Luke 6:43-46). Sometimes this is a disadvantage to us because we cannot always see immediately those whom are fraudulent Christians.

The word of God shows us that there are some fraudulent Christians who will go a long way unnoticed. Consider this: *"Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid"* (I Timothy 5:24-25). False disciples, such as Judas can be around true disciples of the Lord (John 12:1-6) and the faithful not even notice (Luke 22:21-23).

Since some do pretend so well, there will be those among us from time to time that are not faithful servants of the Lord. We cannot withdraw ourselves from them (II Thessalonians 3:6) if we do not know they are unfaithful. Even in this congregation wherein we work so hard to make sure all are faithful (I John 4:1), we have to realize people can lie to us. When they do, and such goes unnoticed because they are "good" at being liars, those people become confident in their dishonesty. God says: *"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil"* (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

The purpose of this article is to get us all to think hard about accountability. Over the years I have noted many people who are fakes. It scares me how many times I have seen such, because that could mean there are many more I have not found to be liars (cf. Revelation 2:2). What about you? Are you a sincere, faithful child of God? Are you always doing those things that are well pleasing in His sight? If so, good! If not, are you getting false confidence because you're able to fool others? Whether faithful or not, we all have to realize that God knows everything we do. Beyond that, He knows more than just our actions or fruits. God knows what is going on within us internally.

God Knows You Inside Out

Consider these Scriptures: *"But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart... And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake*

him, he will cast thee off for ever... Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins... The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts... I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings... Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do... And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works" (I Samuel 16:7, I Chronicles 28:9, Psalms 7:9, Proverbs 17:3, Jeremiah 17:10, Hebrews 4:13, and Revelation 2:23).

After reading those verses, do you think anyone can fake out God? Truthfully, there is nowhere that a man can hide wherein God will not know what is going on within that individual (Jeremiah 23:24). We would do well to remember that while we will be judged based on what we do and do not do (John 5:28-29), our hearts will not be excluded. Therefore, perfecting that which is right in action is not the only thing we have to do. We also have to perfect that which is right in thinking.

Get Our Thoughts Right

God knows everything (I John 3:20). That includes the way man thinks (Psalms 94:11). When God saw that the thoughts of humanity were only evil continually (Genesis 6:5), He flooded the earth (Genesis 6:5-17). God demands of us that our thinking, not just our actions, be right (Romans 12:1-3). The changing of one's way of thinking is part of the conversion process to become a Christian (Ephesians 4:17-32).

As Christians, we are expected by God to be able to focus our minds properly on His will. Notice this: *"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:1-5).*

Therefore, if things are not right within you that has to be fixed for you to be saved (Jeremiah 4:14). It is true that thoughts in themselves are not always sinful. You can stop a thought before it takes on the fruit of sin (James 1:13-16). However, there are times when thoughts are sinful without action needing to take place (Proverbs 24:9). So, let's keep our thinking in line so that our hearts are pure before God.

Conclusion

We should ask ourselves this: "Should I be thinking this way?" Simon was told to pray that the thought of his heart be forgiven (Acts 8:22). What about your thoughts? Is your thought process right? Is the focus of your mind on things carnal or things spiritual (Romans 8:4-8 and Colossians 3:1-4)? In the process of questioning yourself on these things, be mindful that God is not waiting to see what you'll do. He knows what you think!