

FOR LOVERS ONLY - LOVE IS NOT CRAZY V

False assumption V.

“I just need to give it to the Lord.”

¹² *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

Philippians 2:12-13

I. Let go and let God?

A. Our spiritual sanctification is found in partnership with God and us. (Romans 8:29; II Corinthians 3:18)

[Rom 8:29 NIV] ²⁹ *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

[2Co 3:18 NIV] ¹⁸ *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

B. God requires us to be active, responsible participants in our own healing. (Ephesians 2:10)

¹⁰ *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

C. Many adopt a passive attitude towards spiritual growth. They do not perceive themselves as partners with God in their own growth. These people are often disappointed, confused, and frustrated when God doesn't answer their prayers.

II. Two passive teachings / "Position" teaching and "Get your eyes off yourself" teaching

A. "Position" teaching says you need to focus on your position in Christ; he has secured everything for you and if you realize this you will escape your problems.

* This teaching is out of balance. It forgets the fact that we must go and possess what Christ has secured.

** We must face our pain and the issues that caused it. We do this by deepening our relationship with God and others. (Ephesians 4:15,16)

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

B. "Get your eyes off yourself" teaching

* Introspection is self-worship. Stop thinking of yourself. This is secular humanism!

** Yet Godly self-examination is good. (Matthew 7:5; Psalm 139:23,24; I Corinthians 12:28,31) Gaining self-awareness helps us confess, repent, and become clean.

We are never to avoid the sanctification process of grace, truth, and time.

[Mat 7:5 NIV] ⁵ *You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

[Psa 139:23-24 NIV] ²³ *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.* ²⁴ *See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

[1Co 12:28, 31 NIV] ²⁸ *And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. ...* ³¹ *Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.*

III. True partners and co-laborers with God

- A. We learn to cry over our losses.
- B. We learn to accept comfort from others.
- C. We learn to repent of the relational patterns that have kept us from loving others.
- D. We learn to forgive those who have hurt us.
- E. We learn to overcome our defenses that have kept us from responding to love.
- F. Prayer becomes a new reality.
 - * We ask God to show us where we need to change.
 - ** We ask God to show us what we are hiding in our hearts.

*** We ask God for courage to confront friends and family members.

- G. We learn that we don't merely "depend on the Lord," but that God depends on us to possess what He has secured for us.
- H. The problem with "I just need to give it to the Lord" is the word "just."