

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

#02-08114

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CLING TO HIM

According to Moses, the Lord God will test His people to see if they love Him with all their heart and soul.

“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

(Deuteronomy 13.1-3 NASB)

Why would the Lord, who knows the heart of all men, test the love of His people when He knows full well what is going on in their heart? He will even go so far as to allow prophets or dreamers of dreams to deceive His people through signs or wonders that come true. The answer is simple: The testing is to reveal to His people the condition of their heart.

The Lord knows our heart, but often we do not know our own heart. You see, we often think we know our heart. We can even declare that we love the Lord with all our heart and soul, but the words do not accurately reflect what is going on inside of us. We can say the right things with our lips, and yet our heart can be saying something entirely different.

In speaking of the religious hypocrites of His day, Jesus quoted Isaiah the prophet: **“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me”** (Matthew 15.8 NASB). These are the same ones about whom Paul declared: **Jews ask for signs ... but we preach Christ crucified** (see 1 Corinthians 1.22-23). They were seeking for signs and in fact received them, but this did not lead them to believe in and love the One who was standing in their midst. Instead, they demanded that He be crucified.

This should be a somber warning to all in this day who seek for signs and wonders. If they come true, are they a testing of the Lord?

Only the Lord knows what is in the heart of His people in our day, so I will not venture to state that I know. However, those who are seeking after signs and wonders, even running to and fro to the next so-called great move of the spirit, need to inquire of the Lord. Are you seeking for the signs and wonders, or are you seeking for more of the Lord out of a love for Him and Him alone?

Given this day of instant gratification, we need to guard our heart from anything that could steal it away from the love of our life, our Lord Jesus. If we are not careful, seeking after signs and wonders could lead one to love the experience and not the Lord. As I have written previously (#02-08113, September 8, 2008, *Let Us Go After Other Gods*), running to and fro after every new so-called “move of God” that comes along could be more a sign of spiritual immaturity than of maturity. If we are not careful, we could end up going after other gods, even falling into idolatry. We must grow up to be a mature man in Christ, feeding on the meat, discerning in spirit, and not remain as a babe, feeding on milk.

“You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.” (Deuteronomy 13.4 NASB)

Through Moses, we are given six ways for us to keep from going after other gods. We are to follow the Lord, fear Him, keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. Many have written or preached on these ways, and I would imagine that, if asked how one should walk as a believer, many would mention some of these. However, the last one, to cling to Him, is the one probably preached on the least, and yet, in our day, for me, it is the most important.

We live in a day when there are many things for us to cling to, as well as many things to cling to us. But are we clinging to the Lord?

To me, clinging is something extra special and essential in our day.

In Hebrew, the word for *cling* is *dabaq*, which means “properly to impinge, that is, to cling or adhere; figuratively, to catch by pursuit.” It is variously translated as *abide*, *cleave*, *joined*, or *pursue hard*. It is the same word used in reference to Adam and Eve, as well as the relationship of the husband and the wife, and Christ and His body. The Greek word for *cling*, most often translated as *cleave*, is *proskallao*, which means “to glue to.”

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave (*dabaq*) unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis 2.24 ASV)

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave (*proskallao*) to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? (Matthew 19.5 ASV)

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave (*proskallao*) to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. (Ephesians 5.31 ASV)

Thus, *cling to Him* means the same thing as *cleave to Him*, as a husband and wife are to cleave to one another, as if they are truly one flesh.

But there is more to this matter if we look more carefully at the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words. *Dabaq* means to impinge upon by pursuing and catching. The word *impinge* is not a very genteel word, for it means “to strike, to hit, or to dash.” In my days of conducting environmental sampling, we often used impingers to capture particles and chemicals in the air. It is the same concept with the Lord. We are to pursue the Lord in an effort to catch Him and impinge ourselves to Him or, as the Greek word implies, to glue ourselves to Him. We could say that we need to get stuck on the Lord, and to do this we need to pursue Him with a passion that will not be quenched until we are fully conformed to His image. However, I imagine that when we arrive at this glorious state, our passion for our Beloved will only increase.

I believe that we must ask ourselves this question: Do signs and wonders lead us to pursue the Lord with a passion, as if in pursuit to catch Him? Paul declared that he had one passion, and that was to know Christ, to gain Christ, and to be found in Christ. To live is Christ; to die is gain for Christ! This is the heart of one who desires to get stuck on Christ, to cling to Him.

Consider the following word spoken by Moses as a warning and exhortation to those who seek after other gods.

Your eyes have seen what Jehovah did because of Baal-peor; for all the men that followed Baal-peor, Jehovah thy God hath destroyed them from the midst of thee. But ye that did cleave unto Jehovah your God are alive every one of you this day. (Deuteronomy 4.3-4 ASV)

Who lived? Those who cleaved to the Lord! We are living in a day when many are seeking after strange gods; they will not inherit the kingdom nor will they be enjoyers of eonian life in the coming eon. Let us live to pursue Him that we might be found worthy of His kingdom! Let us be in pursuit of our Lord as if to catch Him and cling to Him! Let us get stuck on our Beloved Lord Jesus!