

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

November 3rd

Daily Devotional #34

We Are in the Season of DEDICATION

As We Ask, “What Is GOD Preparing Us/for Us to Do?”

²⁰ *In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹ If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.*

²² *Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2 Timothy 2:20–22 (NIV84)

We live in a “bumper sticker world”. In fact, thanks to Facebook, we are inundated by memes (a picture with a catchy phrase (sometimes funny, sometimes insightful, and sometime offensive and/or insulting). This “bumper sticker” approach is seen in our Bible Study, which affects our understanding of Scripture, and therefore, GOD. For instance, we’ve all heard sermons on “Flee the evil desires of youth”. Of the three verses quoted above, it’s the phrase we’ve heard quoted the most, preached the most, and “understood” the most.

The hiccup is, “flee the evil desires of youth” is not an end in itself. Paul is giving his “true son in the faith” incredible advice and Godly insight ***towards righteousness that is Godly living***. The first phrase of verse 22 (“flee the evil desires of youth”) is only one side of the coin... the other side of the coin (“pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”) is far more important. For this “coin,” the full value (i.e. the point, the goal) is found in the latter half of verse 21, that our desire, as Dedicated followers of GOD, is to be ***“an instrument (of GOD’s) for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”***

In this Season of Dedication, let’s purposefully work on becoming instruments of GOD for noble purposes. Let’s engage with GOD and be made holy and useful to Him, our Master. And let’s prepare ourselves for any and every good work for His honor, for His Kingdom, for His Name’s sake.

So, how do we do that? Try on this image (from the introduction to “On the Anvil” by Max Lucado):

The Blacksmith's Shop

In the shop of a blacksmith, there are three types of tools. There are tools on the junkpile:

*outdated,
broken,
dull,
rusty.*

They sit in the cobwebbed corner, useless to their master, oblivious to their calling.

There are tools on the anvil:

*melted down,
molten hot,
moldable,
changeable.*

They lie on the anvil, being shaped by their master, accepting their calling.

There are tools of usefulness:

*sharpened,
primed,
defined,
mobile.*

They lie ready in the blacksmith's tool chest, available to their master, fulfilling their calling.

Some people lie useless:

*lives broken,
talents wasting,
fires quenched,
dreams dashed.*

They are tossed in with the scrap iron, in desperate need of repair, with no notion of purpose.

Others lie on the anvil:

*hearts open,
hungry to change,
wounds healing,
visions clearing.*

They welcome the painful pounding of the blacksmith's hammer, longing to be rebuilt, begging to be called.

Others lie in the Master's hands:

*well tuned,
uncompromising,
polished,
productive.*

They respond to their Master's forearm, demanding nothing, surrendering all.