

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 16th

Daily Devotional #16

We Are in the Season of Cleansing

Today's Devotional is the third (a veritable trifecta!) in a series of journaling and sharing concerning the 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting from fellow WHers! I absolutely love – and am deeply blessed – by your Scriptural / spiritual thoughts, wisdom, and insights! Please continue sharing! (by the by, I've got a couple more in the "bank" that I'll be sharing in the next few days)... *df*

I love Jim's focus on pleasing and serving GOD and GOD alone. Jesus lived this out beautifully and gives us a look at how we can do the same. It is far too easy, and ultimately destructive when we begin looking for approval and value in the world around us.

The "Jesus-Paradox" here is that in our serving GOD alone, HE is serving the world around us. Our perspective must remain that we serve the world out of our love for, and gratitude to, GOD and His pursuing love for and deep value for the world (John 3:16). As the Parable of the Seeds teaches us (Matthew 13), we sow the seed of the Kingdom – He lives the Story through us, He sows the seeds of the Kingdom through us, He desires to reach out and save the world and we are His chosen tools and vessels (remember "a Pencil in the Hand of GOD!")!

So, as you read Jim's thoughts, relish in the love, trust, and Holy service GOD prepares for us, gives us, prepares us for, and leads us to! And then, spend some time in prayer thanking GOD for all of this, and humbly seek to cleanse yourself (ourselves) of any motivation apart from pleasing and honoring Him.

Blessing and love... *Jen Chick*

(The following is an email from Jim Perkins, used by permission, dated October 10th)

Thoughts on Christian Life

(Jim Perkins)

Matthew 6:3-4 "When you do your alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing: so that your alms be in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:6 "When you pray, enter your closet and shut the door, pray to your Father in secret and He will reward you."

Matthew 6:17-18 "When you fast, anoint your head with oil and wash your face; so you will not look like you are fasting to men but only to your Father in secret. And He who sees in secret will reward you."

Life has been compared to actors on a stage. They play a part in respect to one another. Their lines are coordinated with other players. In the audience are their ancestors, relatives, community leaders, friends and society at large. The actors respond to the applause and mood of the audience, when they laugh or cry. The whole of life is determined by this audience response.

The Christian is also a player on this stage. He has lines to say, reactions to the lines of the other players. But in his audience there is only one listening to his performance. There is only one laughing, only one crying, only one applauding. The Christian is not concerned with the applause of the other crowd, nor the reaction of the other players. He is playing to the Writer and Director of the entire show. It is His opinion which matters most.

The Christian life is a life on anonymity. It is not a life to be played (for the applause of) the audience of the world.

The candle on the candlestick is not there to draw attention to itself but to illuminate others, in fact if the candle is doing its job no one will even notice it is there.