

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

*“Ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,
which is the earnest of our inheritance
until the redemption of the purchased possession,
unto the praise of his glory.”*

Eph. 1:13-14

I begin, dear beloved of God, by sharing a personal testimony of an experience I had while getting a haircut this week. The young lady who has been cutting my hair for over four years is a professing believer in our Lord Jesus Christ. Her knowing that I am a gospel minister, as we have had previous spiritual conversations, would seem to always have a question or comment about the scriptures.

On this occasion, she seemed to be struggling with fact of “assurance” of her relationship with God. She had shared with me (as when the barber shop is empty of customers, God enables a grand opportunity to speak our minds) how she wakes mornings desiring to seek God and pray for His blessings of the day. She said, “It’s my greatest desire to please the Lord and live the Christian life, yet I feel at times that I am not truly a Christian.”

I replied, “Dear Sister, you are not alone in feeling that you may not be one of God’s children, it is a common thing from time to time because of our imperfections as we walk in this wicked and sinful world.” I proceeded to express that each one of God’s children are uniquely called into the experience of saving grace, some with a drastic transformation after living a number of years in sin as a depraved sinner and then God by free and sovereign grace quickens the heart, mind and soul into the new birth experience.

While another may have been brought up in the church and lived a rather good life free from many of the pitfalls of sin, yet have been revealed their sinful state over time and

the truth of the gospel rang true in their soul and it became a “sweet sound of which they had never heard before.” Even at a very early age of which they can not recall a date of such experience.

I asked the young lady, “You expressed you wake up of a morning desiring to seek to Lord to lead and guide you through the new day, and you expressed that you have a heart that longs to please the Lord, how many people do you think walk in the door of your business has the same desire by the way they speak and their actions”? She looked at me with a very surprised expression. I asked, “How many customers have a desire to speak of Christ and their love for him”? She confessed, “hardly any.”

I expressed to her that because she has a heart after God (which is not of the flesh) that that is evidence that she has been given the grace to do so. For I said to her, “They that be of God heareth God’s word, and they that be not of God hearth not the word of God” neither shall they believe it. I asked her, “why do you believe the word of God and believe that Christ died for you?” This was not taught to you by your intellect nor natural understanding! This is a work of God that you believe on HIM whom He has sent. The young lady began to smile and said, “wow, you know, it truly is a miracle that one is blessed to believe in HIM who you cannot see.” I asked, “why do you believe?” Because God has been pleased to grant you FAITH to believe on HIM which you have not seen!! And believe that He alone can forgive sin and grant eternal life.

The fact, you know that you are unworthy and are a sinner by nature and that Christ is the ONLY means that we can have peace with God is a total and absolute work of God unmerited grace. The world could care less, they are happily going about their sinful way marching down the broad road which leads to destruction.

I expressed, “that Godly sorrow leadeth thee to repentance,” for repentance is one of the first evidences of grace’s divine work. Unless a person be brought to see their sinful unworthiness before God and remorseful repentance granted, there is no reason to need a Saviour.

I challenged the young lady as to why there was not a majority of the population brought to this place of sorrowful repentance before God and become believers in Christ’s redeeming blood? She said, “I really don’t know, for who would want to go to hell?” That was the door which I walked her through the precious doctrine of “unconditional election” and the “absolute sovereignty of God.” She was amazed at things which I spoke to her and stood there like a “spiritual sponge,” listening intensely.

At that time another customer walked in, and our conversation was brought to a close. It will be interesting to see what God does with the truth’s which I shared with her and how God works upon her heart, mind and soul.

Dear Friend, I have seen and heard some evidence of one that appeared to be Born of the Spirit. If it be so, she has been “Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” of which she

cannot escape nor ever be removed. We do have this promise, "They which endure to the END shall be saved," and those sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise are those chosen, called, elect, appointed, and ordained to be the heirs of free and sovereign grace even from the foundation of the world!

Respectfully Submitted,

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