THAT THEY MAY SERVE ME

Exodus 8:1

Exodus 8: 1 - And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. Does the Lord Jesus Christ still want us to serve Him?

Acts 17: 30 - And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

John 6: 28 - Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Acts 4: 12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14: 6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 John 2: 23 - Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

So if Jesus Christ is our Saviour, He is also Our Lord. 1 Corinthians 7: 23 - Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Luke 4: 8 - And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

So we serve Our Lord Jesus, and help others. Be careful, because the devil tries to get us to switch those roles. We do not help the Lord God, we serve Him. Now the Lord Jesus Christ wants us to be a praying people.

1 Timothy 2: 1 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Humbly the disciples realized their inadequacies.

Luke 11: 1 - And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

The Lord even left us guidelines in Matthew 6. Now the Lord created the universe in an orderly manner. And if we want to fit in with God's program effectively, we will have to do it His way. 1 Corinthians 11: 3 - But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 6: 1 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

1 Corinthians 7: 12 - But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save *thy* husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save *thy* wife?

Joshua 24: 14 - Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

Luke 3: 10 - And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse *any* falsely; and be content with your wages.

Mark 12: 17 - And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

1 Corinthians 16: 15 - I beseech you, brethren, ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,

Acts 15: 20 - But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. How well did God's people serve Him? He warned them beforehand.

Leviticus 26:40 - If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them:

and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes. And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God. But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD. These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Daniel 9: 5 - We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: 9 To the Lord our God *belong* mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

Nehemiah 9: 17 - And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

Psalms 78: 8 - And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

Isaiah 1: 2 - Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. V23 - Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Jeremiah 5: 23 - But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone.

Ezekiel 2: 3 - And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

God wants us to be holy and perfect. Leviticus 11: 45 - For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

Deuteronomy 18: 13 - Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.

Just as lepers were unclean in society, mankind is unclean in God's sight.

Exodus 33: 3 - Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

Isaiah 64: 6 - But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

Josiah tried to clean up. 2 Chronicles 34: 27 - Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD. Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.

So when man could not get it done, God our Father sent His Son.

John 1: 10 - He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 4: 34 - Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. What was the reaction of the people?

Matthew 4: 23 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Matthew 10: 1 - And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

This great commission is still valid to-day. Mark 16: 15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

But the religious leaders were still rebellious and unclean.

Luke 20: 19 - And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to

lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them. And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor. But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

Their unbelief and hardness of heart blocked them from God.

Mark 7: 9 - And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. 13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. 15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. 18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

If we really want to serve Him, we will have to deal with these.

Evil thoughts, murders, and an evil eye start in the mind.

1 John 3: 15 - Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Adulteries, fornications, and lasciviousness are lusts of the flesh. Thefts and covetousness are lusts of the eyes.

1 John 2: 16 - For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. Wickedness, deceit and blasphemy deal with our relationships with others.

Matthew 22: 18 - But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Pride and foolishness display our attitude.

Proverbs 14: 3 - In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

We need to confess these sins, and the sins of the fathers.

1 John 1: 9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Daniel 9: 16 - O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

If that list is too big, we can try a shorter one. How about fear and anger.

Mark 5: 36 - As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

1 John 4: 18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

John 7: 23 - If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

Ephesians 4: 31 - Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

If that list is too long, we can shorten it to selfishness.

2 Peter 2: 10 - But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Titus 1: 7 - For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

We need to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. Psalms 40: 8 - I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

With deliverance we can still work out our salvation.

Philippians 2: 12 - Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Our spirit is cleansed and sealed, but our soul and body need work.

When the going gets rough, we will need Luke 17: 5 - And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

When the tempter urges us to stop waging spiritual warfare and deliverance, we will need, 2 Corinthians 12: 9; And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Will the devil really try to get us away from the Lord God? Well let's look at a few examples of what he's done in the past.

In the beginning... with Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3: 13 - And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, & I did eat. Even prophets can be deceived; like Balaam.

Numbers 31: 16 - Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Were priests any better?

1 Samuel 2: 22 to 25 - Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress. If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

Most of the kings were not good. Even David was tricked. 1 Chronicles 21:1 - And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. Are matters better now that we are under the new covenant.

Acts 5: 1 to 5 - But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Acts 15: 36 to 40 - And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; And Paul chose Silas, & departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

2 Timothy 4: 9 to 11 - Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

1 Timothy 4: 1 to 3 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter

times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Matthew 24: 4 & 5 - And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

- 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.
- 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

So the fact that the devil is still trying to get us away from the Lord God is firmly established. But exactly how does he operate?

Pastor Win used to say that the battlefield was in the mind.

Genesis 6: 5 - And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Romans 1: 28 - And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

We need to first recognize that there are evil thoughts running around. And if we are not sure which is which, ask Our Lord Jesus to help us.

2 Corinthians 10: 5 - Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We need to take this seriously. The Lord Jesus Christ shows us just how important it is.

Matthew 5: 28 - But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Mark 7: 21 - For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, etc.

Needless to say, that if we don't get these under control, they will cause trouble. They need to be confessed as sin. Then the associated demons, like mind control and schizophrenia, have to be cast out. If we can't think straight, we can't act properly.

How else will the devil move to block us from serving the Lord God? He will entice us to sin, to destroy our Christian witness, and bring shame to Our Lord Jesus.

2 Samuel 12: 14 - How be it, because by this deed thou hast given great

occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

Our adversary will try to destroy our families. The more strife in the family, the harder it is to serve Our Lord Jesus. What happens when someone gets saved. Isn't the rest of the family overjoyed? Luke 12: 51 to 53 - Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Then The tempter will try to destroy our churches, knowing that the downfall of the nation is not far behind. 1 Corinthians 3: 1 to 3 - And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Many churches are at a critical point. With the current economic situation, and constant witchcraft attacks; the devil will try his worst. The attacks from the outside don't have to get in. If we remain in a righteous Godly relationship with Our Lord Jesus, their curses etc. will not be able to land.

Numbers 24: 10 - And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times.

Numbers 22: 12 - And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.

The enemy will also try to stir up strife within your ranks. He will try to break the bond of love that holds you together.

John 13:34 & 35 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

We will have to minister to each other with compassion, as Our Lord Jesus Christ did. If we find ourselves getting too critical, realize that it is our own religious spirits, like the Pharisees and Saducees, that are manifesting.

But what do you do when unexplicable things happen? The devil like Balac, will try to get deceived believers like Balaam to attack. Because they are out of order, their prayers are really curses.

Ezekiel 13: 17 to 23 - Likewise, son of man, set your face against the

daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them, "and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive? "And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies?" 'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds. "I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. "Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life. "Therefore you shall no longer envision futility nor practice divination; for I will deliver My people out of your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

Do you recognize any of those symptoms? If so, then deal with it as charismatic witchcraft. Break it off and send it back to the original sending demons. Pastor Win has a good article, "Psychic Prayer equals witchcraft", in Booklet #2. It seems like an enormous task ahead of us, but that will keep us humble, and close to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember Paul.

2 Corinthians 12: 10 - Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

And like Pastor Win Worley and others, we need the proper relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2: 20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

So let us continue onward and upward, that we can complete God's plan in Exodus 8: 1b; Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Pastor T. John Franklin

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