

## Day Four: The All-or-Nothing Life

With the Lord, it *is* all or nothing. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus clearly tells us, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” James challenges us in James 4:4, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” If you look up the Greek meaning of James’ choice of words, the message is this:

Those of you who are faithless toward God, ungodly and unclean! Do you not know that associating with and being familiar with the ungodly multitude that is completely alienated from God and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ makes you a certain enemy of God? Whoever therefore wants to associate and be a companion of the mass of men alienated from God makes himself God’s enemy.

We are either God’s friend, or His enemy, and the way we live is the testimony we declare. We must choose: Are we serious about loving the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, and strength, walking in His ways, and obeying His word and voice, or are we going to despise Him and continue to act opposite to His ways? We must decide:



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Do we really believe God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do in His word? For the most part, I don’t think we do because we’re not living like we believe it. We’re not seeing the miracles Jesus said we would in John 14:12-14 when He said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.”

God’s word is full of promises for us to live victoriously, to live in peace, to live free of bondage, to live in abundance, and yet we choose defeat because we CHOOSE to believe the lies the devil pipes into our thoughts rather than the TRUTH OF GOD. Truth is light, and the truth will set us free (John 8:32). Identify the lies you believe by holding the light of truth – the word of God – up to your life. Ask the Holy Spirit for daily revelation, counter the lies with the truth of God, and then CHOOSE to believe what He says.

We must give priority to the only source of truth in this world: the Bible. In Proverbs 17:4, we are told, “An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.” We do this every day when we listen to the secular news media and give heed to their false reports! We listen eagerly to everything they feed us, and then we wonder why we’re living in fear and anxiety. According to this verse, we are liars when we listen eagerly to a spiteful tongue. We lie to ourselves every day to make ourselves comfortable with our sin. We do evil every day by continuing in our sin, telling ourselves it’s okay because we prayed the sinner’s prayer one time, and therefore we’re further deceived by false lips and spiteful tongues. The TRUTH dispels lies. If we’re living according to anything but God’s truth, we are lying to ourselves, and we’re at the mercy of false lips and spiteful tongues.

## Walk and Talk

As our lives begin to preach the gospel, we must simultaneously speak the gospel by sharing testimonies of how Jesus saved us and what the Lord has done in our lives. Romans 10:14-15 challenges us:

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in



Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Every one of us is called to preach the gospel, maybe not from a pulpit on a stage, but from the pulpit of our lives.

As we believe and declare the word of God, and as we look at our increasingly wicked world through scriptural truth, we can remain confident in Christ Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the promises of God. In Luke 21:28 and 36, we are told, “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads because your redemption draws near... Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” If our heads are lifted up, then our eyes can’t be focused on what’s happening around us. We cannot continue to subject ourselves to the doom-and-gloom deception in the news and from unbelieving, defeated people who are waiting for the sky to fall. We must LOOK UP to the Lord Jesus Christ and put our hand to His work. We can live victoriously even in the most difficult of times, and that is the testimony that will shout the glory of Jesus Christ.

We will not achieve perfection, by any means. We are going to fall short. In Romans 3:23 God makes it clear that we all have sinned and fall short of His glory. But His word says in Proverbs 3:21b-26:

Keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.

When we do this, Proverbs 4:12 tells us, “When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.”

Thank Him for His mercy and grace!!! Jesus even assures us through Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9). But He does want and require our whole hearts. It’s definitely a process as we recognize more and more our sin and our need for Him and surrender more and more of ourselves. But have we DECIDED to give him our whole heart and are we seeking after Him and His truth, each day renewing our love for Him as Savior and ruler in every area of our lives?

Solomon shares a great truth in Ecclesiastes 1:13-15:

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed all is vanity and grasping for the wind. All that is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered.

(emphasis mine)

What the Lord ordains cannot be changed. His plan is perfect. We can’t change it, nor should we, so let’s join Him in what He is doing.



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# Day Four: *Wholly His*

In what ways does your life reflect your belief in God, who He says He is, and in what He says He will do? How well does your lifestyle preach the gospel of Jesus Christ?

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If you could make one suggestion to your church leaders as to how they might better reflect Christ to the world, what would you suggest? If you could change one thing about your lifestyle to better reflect Christ, what would it be?

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When you listen to or read the news, how does it affect you? What importance do you give the Bible's report over news reports?

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When circumstances appear threatening, how do you respond?

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Have you made the decision to give Jesus your whole heart? Do you seek after Him and His truth each day? Does Jesus rule every area of your life in reality and not just intention? If not, what is holding you back?

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Crawl into the lap of your heavenly Father. Close your eyes and see yourself resting in His loving arms. If you have not given your whole heart to Jesus, do so now. Ask Him to be your Lord and Savior and to rule every area of your heart. Confess what has held you back, and give that to Him today. Confess any unbelief in your heart. Ask the Lord to forgive you and to help you overcome your unbelief. Ask the Lord to do a mighty work in you and your church and to give you strength to make the changes He requires for you to better reflect Christ to the world. Thank Him and praise Him for His forgiveness, for saving you, and for the abundance of His provision to do in you what you cannot do in yourself. Pray for your life to become a platform from which the good news of Jesus is preached by your actions and by your words.

