

April 2003

Spiritual Coffee

In this message I want to talk about perception. The definition of perception is: the representation of what is perceived; basic component in the formation of a concept, way of conceiving something. Many people have a wrong or distorted perception of God and their relationship with Him. I hope to show through the word that many of us may have been carrying wrong perceptions.

James 1:12-14 KJV reads:

¹² Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

As we see in verse 13 of this passage God doesn't tempt any man with evil. Many people want to blame God with natural disasters and illnesses. Some people go as far as to say that God is teaching them a lesson with whatever affliction that they are enduring at the time. Well, that may hold some weight if verse 13 wasn't in the middle of 12 & 14. Verse 12 gives hope to the person who is going through any temptation, affirming the promise from God that he/she shall receive at the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Verse 14 gives explanation of when temptation may come. But instead of reading over verse 13 and quickly going to verse 14, let's discuss that middle verse a bit. "God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." So if circumstances arise, sickness comes, and catastrophes occur don't wrongly label the blame onto God. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus and we have a heavenly father that loves us. God loves us and would never put harm on to you.

Romans 8:15-17 Amplified reads:

¹⁵For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!

¹⁶The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God.

¹⁷And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.

Romans show us that we are children of God. Our heavenly father loves us and wants us free from bondage and fear. In this series of scripture it shows us that we are heirs with Christ, so unlike the people of the Old Testament who were servants we are his kids! As children of God we are entitled to live abundantly and prosperous, not broke, sick and in lack. If you are seeking God with all your heart and not feeding into your flesh then you do not have to put up with bondage in your life.

Some people look to their circumstances as unchangeable. The only thing unchangeable is God. The word says that God is the same today, yesterday, and days to come. He is the Alpha and Omega. Your circumstances are only temporary, even if it doesn't always seem that way.

John 16:33 Amplified reads:

³³I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]

Mark 11:22-24 Amplified reads:

²²And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly].

²³Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.

²⁴For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].

Based on both of these set of scriptures our God has overcome the world and as children of God we have that right. Also, if you believe in your heart and have been in fellowship with your heavenly father you can speak to your circumstances to be thrown into the sea! But, if you have a wrong perception of what you are entitled to as a child of God and don't take a stand of faith against those things that are hindering your walk with God you'll be stuck where you are at! Now you can't look at Mark 24 and expect to win the lottery in prayer. Let's look at Romans 12.

Romans 12:2-4 KJV reads:

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

Every believer has been given a measure of faith, according to what measure you have been transformed. The old adage that you can't give what you don't have surely comes into play here. If you don't have the faith and you haven't been renewed to the measure to handle a million dollars why would God give that amount of money to you? Now perception here is very important. You have to perceive that your heavenly Father loves you and keeps you from harm, that as a child of God you don't have to put up with negative circumstances in your life, and being faithful to God will bring about increase to you. This increase is not based on how much you can do but what are you willing to do at all costs. To what measure will you fulfill the will of God in your life? You have to perceive that God is your source for everything and He is your only answer to everything. As my pastor says the answer to 101 questions is be lead. Be lead by the Holy Spirit in what direction and what decisions you need to make. Having the right perception of your heavenly father and being in fellowship with Him will bring you closer and closer to His perfect will for your life!