

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Newsletter

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Dependence On God

I am constantly amazed at the wonders of divine grace that I, who had turned to my own way of independence from God, that He the Almighty should have tolerated my insolence and blatant rejection of His salvation. If there is one thing I love, it is to tell my conversion. I was a thirteen year old sitting in a children's meeting and causing trouble by making mischief. I was not interested in God or salvation. I wanted to live my own life, I wanted to travel the world, I wanted fun and excitement, and no interference from God. I was so naughty the speaker had to stop and publicly tell me to behave. Then God graciously spoke, and with a voice like thunder reverberating through my heart, I realized the ultimate end of my independence. Broken, I acknowledged my sin, and in mercy God saved me. From when I was told to behave until the moment of salvation, it was no longer than five minutes. Oh the wonders of divine grace when in mercy I changed from being independent, to a life of being dependent on God.

When our Lord was here, the only man who was ever dependent on God, was tempted by Satan to be independent of God. The ploys of the evil one were brilliant, being the best his mind could conceive. For forty days he had been tempting the Lord and all to no avail. These were not little temptations. They were an all out attempt to have Christ act independently of God and so have Him sin. It must be remembered that when sin came into the world of humanity, it never came upon the Lord. Whither we call it the Adamic, fallen or old nature, "sin" was never in the Lord. He never had to offer a sacrifice because of His unacceptability to God due to what He was. He was in Himself absolute holiness. Satan tried to get Him to act independent of God in providing bread, he tried by using the scriptures to support his satanic reasoning, and he tried to do it by having Christ divert His focus on the exclusiveness of God. In seeking to have the Lord worship him it was the same as Adam knew. Which will He serve, the creature or the Creator? But the Lord, being dependent on God, never faltered or wavered.

When considering the beauty of the Lord, one of those beauties is the beauty of His dependence on God. In tracing the life of the Lord from His birth to His ascension, it was the life of a man wholly dependent on God.

Let us consider:

1) When He was a baby:

- a) For us there was a point of time when initially we began to depend on God and Christ. That was how we were saved. Since then, there have been times, when through either physical illness, financial burdens, bereavement, and the urges to sin, we were reminded of our need of dependence on God. Christ was never like this for prophetically it is stated concerning Him: "I was cast upon thee from the womb" (Psa. 22:10). Even when our Lord was a baby and a little infant He not only knew God, but was aware of His dependence on Him. This is beyond human or angelic comprehension. That dependence was manifested most magnificently when He trusted in God to providentially provide the "parents" to care for Him. When we see this and realize that He had no fretfulness, knowing the heart of love the Father had for Him, He lived in the

quiet confidence and peace of God. Glorious is this God, depending on a third party to care for Him in His infancy.

2) When He was a man in public life:

- a) Anyone in public life knows that it can be very stressful. People are constantly watching and judging them by a higher standard. The Lord knew the reality of this. For instance:
 - i) There was a day when He was being criticized by the religious leaders. In such a case it is only natural to take the initiative and modify ones behavior, or backpedal some expressions, or criticize the criticizers exposing their faults. The Lord, being dependent on God, spoke a parable and then leaving it with God said: "Wisdom is justified of all her children" (Lk. 7:30-35).
 - ii) On the same day a Pharisee invited Him into his home and made a feast. Then to the horror of those gathered, a prostitute came in, and weeping, kissing His feet, and anointing them with the ointment, the Pharisee began an inward critique of Christ. The Lord again speaks a parable and then declares that "her sins which are many, are forgiven" (Lk. 7:36-48). This is followed by the further critiquing of those who sat at the feast. Now, does the Lord defend His declaration of forgiveness, or give further evidence of His deity to do such a thing? He leaves it to God to justify Him.
 - iii) When there is serious illness or death of a friend or loved one, it is an automatic that we go to be with the sick individual or to be with the family in the case of the death. The Lord hears that Lazarus was sick, and then knows he has died. Had he acted independent of God, and on that which is naturally expected, he would have gone immediately to the bereaved sisters. Rather we read: "He abode two days still in the same place where He was" (Jn. 11:6). Humanly speaking, He had some explaining to do, and the sisters made no quibbling about it, for they said: "If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" (Jn. 11:21, 32). However, He had no explaining to do. He was living in fulness of fellowship with God, "ignoring" the questioning of others, and the wisdom of going to Judea (Jn. 11:8). He will move in dependence on God to justify Him. Then at the tomb He cries: "Lazarus, come forth" (Jn. 11:43) and from the regions of the dead Lazarus walks from the tomb alive! That day Martha, Mary, and others, learned that: "He is the resurrection and the life" (Jn. 11:25). God justified Him for His dependence and submission to Him.

3) In Gethsemane:

- a) The writer to the Hebrews adds data about the experience of the Lord in Gethsemane that is not found in the gospels. The Holy Spirit caused several truths peculiar to Hebrews to be emphasized:
 - i) He cried "with strong crying and tears" (Heb. 5:7)
 - ii) "Unto Him that was able to save Him from death" (Heb. 5:7)
 - iii) "Was heard in that He feared" (Heb. 5:7)
- b) In this prayer the Lord expressed His dependence on God to raise Him from the dead. The richness of this is the contrast between our death and His. We are forced to believe God and depend on Him for resurrection because we can do nothing else. Christ knew the purposes of God for Him, and yet deliberately entered the citadel of Satan and depended on God to raise Him from the dead. What a man!

4) During the trials:

- a) The Lord was before Pilate, and looking at the lowly Nazarene standing before him, in pompous imagined superiority said: "Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?" (Jn. 19:10). The Lord answers: "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above". What a declaration! This was no poor quivering individual whose words belied his inward feelings. He knew all was in the hands of God. It was God who had put Pilate in this governmental position, it was God who had given Pilate life and in that age, it was God who had Christ before Pilate, and it was God who was working out His own purposes. His brow knew no furrows from concern, His mind knew no distraction from worry, and His heart knew no stressing from anxiety. He lived in perfect peace for He lived in the full knowledge that God was in control.

5) In Glorification

- a) What is the end of the man whom God delights to honour, for the man who lived His pilgrimage in dependence on God? God never let His "Holy One to see corruption" (Psa. 16:10); "God hath highly exalted Him, and hath given Him a name which is above every name" (Phil. 2:9).

Another truth so profound is that God depended on Him! God put all His faith in the Son. Without any “back-up” plan, He fully depended on Christ to finish the work of declaring His name (Jn. 17:4), of answering the need of man in his sin (Jn. 19:30), and yet there is more. God is dependent on this man Jesus to rule for Him, and for the earth through Him to be “filled with the glory of the Lord” (Num. 14:21).

May the Lord help us to see the greatness of a life lived “dependent” on God.

. . . . Rowan Jennings



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