Daily Devotion #107

Be Alive

*1 Peter 1:13 – “Therefore, prepare your minds for action.”*

 As life passes, we get older; we feel the effects on our bodies. At times it is challenging to keep going and not let discouragement take over. Even if the discouragement doesn’t come from the physical effects on the body, living in a constantly-changing culture that is becoming more and more ungodly is enough to make anyone with the Holy Spirit in them throw up their hands and walk away.

But God has not called us to walk away from life or the issues of this world. We all have our gifts and respective places to live for Him. God didn’t just create us and throw us into the world and say, “There you go. I hope you enjoy it”. No, He created us with purpose. Purpose to glorify Him as our Creator and to lead others to Him.

As God’s people, we are called to live in difficult times as much as in joyful times. We are to be engaged spiritually with all that is happening so we can be God’s voice, hands, and heart in this world. But that also requires we be engaged mentally. Our minds are what controls everything.

Peter was writing at a very challenging time in the life of the Hebrew Christians. They were undergoing horrific persecution by Rome. And as you can imagine, the culture was also against them in just about every way. That happens when leadership leads people to follow their sinful passions. They do what they do in their ungodly state. That’s what appears to be happening today, and that was happening in Peter’s day as well. The people were coming against God’s people and creating havoc for many. So it was easy for God’s people to be overwhelmed and think about giving up.

When persecution comes people have one of two choices to make. They either follow God fully, or they walk away or turn away as if they are not a part of God. Peter says, in effect, not to do that, not to walk away from the issues that plague us. Don’t act as if there is nothing to pray about or nothing to say. You are God’s voice, but to be God’s voice you must be prepared mentally.

Your mind must stay focused on God and what is spiritually right. In order to do that, you must stay in God’s Word. The things of this life are spiritually-discerned. The answers to all that people are experiencing during these times are in the Scriptures – whether the challenges be mental, emotional, financial, or physical. The Word has answers for all situations.

The people of Peter’s day needed to be challenged. They needed someone to say to them, “Don’t give up your focus. Don’t give in to the thinking that all is lost.”. The point is, people were dying and on their way to hell in Peter’s day and in our day - every day. And their only hope is Jesus.

Those of us who have the Holy Spirit have the hope of eternity. We have the joy of knowing our souls will forever be with God in full contentment and peace. The world doesn’t have that hope. It is up to each of us who have the hope in Christ to offer the world that hope. But in order to do that, we must be engaged in every way. Peter says to make sure you are mentally in the game. My basketball coach from High School would often say that to us. “Keep your head in the game.”

So beloved, determine that you will do what is necessary to keep your head in this spiritual game of life. See each person you come in contact with as a soul, not just the clerk at the store or the next guy on the street or office, etc., but as living souls who need Jesus. You are in their lives for a reason, a reason far bigger than yourself.