

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

4.14.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Jesus Authority over Demons

Mark 9: 14 – 29

Within our life in Christ there will be those things that appear to be beyond the scope of our control. Situations and circumstances that seem impossible, and beyond all hope. It is during these troubled times that we must acknowledge our faith in God and believe that it is his work in our lives that enable us not only to believe in his word, but also to become more obedient to the commands and promises written therein. As believers, we are privileged to be dwelling in God and he in us, but even at that, how often do we doubt the power and the ability of God. Therefore, we fail to lay hold of all that we are in Christ, and he in us. We want to believe, but our faith is consumed by our doubt. We want to trust in Gods love, and believe in the truth of his word, but worldly deception hinders our ability to understand his will in our life. This means that spiritual pride and spiritual neglect prevents us from fulfilling our God given purpose, and it is this that causes us to become careless in our personal walk with Christ. So, let us seek the spiritual discipline that is necessary in the life of every Christian, so that we might have the ability to hear the truth of Gods word and acknowledge his power and his strength as it continues to ensure the growth of our perfection within the likeness of his Son, Christ.

Luke 11: 28,....but he said, yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it....

To trust in Christ is to rely upon him and to willingly seek to be obedient to his word. Hearing the word of God and keeping it means that we have examined the evidence that Christ is the Savior of the world, and we have accepted that evidence as being wholly and completely true, therefore we know and trust in God according to his word, through his Son, experiencing his presence by living obediently in his unshakable faith.

John 6: 29,....Jesus....said....this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent....

With the help of the Holy Spirit, it is possible for every believer to have unwavering faith if we trust in the written word of God. As believers, we have the life of Christ, and we have the good works which God has prepared for us to do, and we are to accomplish those works through the power of his Holy Spirit. We are to work the works of God and believe with all our heart in the one whom God hath sent to save us from the sinfulness of this world.

Mark 9: 14 – 20,....when he came....he saw a multitude....and the scribes questioning with them....he asked....what question ye with them....one....answered....I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a....spirit....he teareth him....and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out, and they could not....he....saith....O faithless generations, how long shall I be with you, how long shall I suffer you, bring him unto me....and they brought him....and he fell on the ground....

Although Christ is very patient with those who have accepted him, he will still be honest and truthful with us, even in those times when the truth seems like it might seem hard to bear. Christ does not judge, but he embraces us, and he will receive all who will come unto him with repentance, for he does not secure those who remain in their sins, and he judges the faithlessness of those whom he has already ministered unto, those who yet to grasp and fully believe in the teachings of his words. Christ provides the means for all things to be made possible, but one must truly believe. It is not always that we need more faith, but that we need to place, and focus our faith on the right place and in the right person. Now, this does not mean that we have the power to do whatever we want, but it does mean that we have the power to do Gods will, through his Son, Christ Jesus. It is only by Gods grace that we can accomplish miraculous things as we live for Christ and focus on him as the object of our belief.

1 John 5: 14,....and this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us....and if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him....

Our certainty, that God hears and answers the prayers of the righteous, when we offer up these prayers in accordance with his perfect will, our certainty is given unto us and founded upon his unchanging word. This certainty does not only abide in us, but it gives every believer the confidence to pray in faith believing, and to pray expectantly, knowing that God hears us, and if he hears us, he will answer anything and everything that is ask of him according to his will.

So, how do we know what is the perfect will of God? It is his word that is the greatest indicator of his will, and believers are to discern the will of God through the study of his word, by the leadership and guidance of his spirit, and we are to carry out the good work that God has prepared for us to do. All believers have been given the same opportunity to walk in newness of life, and as we align our thoughts to the mind of Christ, the more that we will pray according to the will of God, and the greater our confidence will be that he will answer our prayers.

Mark 9: 21 – 24,....and he ask....how long....since this came unto him....have compassion on us, and help us....Jesus said....if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth....the father....cried out....Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief....

The acknowledgement of our inadequacy allows God to work in our lives. When we do not trust in God to take care of the circumstances in our lives, this overpowers our faith. Therefore, we must acknowledge that our faith comes from God, and it is his work in our life that enable us to trust in him and become more obedient to his word. As believers, we know that our faith, and our obedience are always insufficient, therefore, we must frequently ask God to help us to live a life that is pleasing unto him. God has done all that he can do, in order for us to trust in him, but there is always more that I can do to become more trustworthy in his presence. God grants unto us his faith by revealing his truthfulness unto us through the gospel of his saving grace. It is up to us to prayerfully take hold of the gospel and allow it to become the foundation of our daily walk with him.

Mark 9: 25 – 29,....when Jesus saw that the people came running....he rebuked the foul spirit....I charge thee, come out of him....and the spirit....came out of him....Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up....his disciples ask him....why could not we cast him out?....he said....this kind can come forth by nothing, just by prayer and fasting....

It is our faith in God that drives us to our relationship with him, to confide in him our needs, and to tell him how much we rely upon him. If we only pray to compel God to give unto us what we want, then that is a selfish view of our prayer life in Christ. Prayer is not given so that we can change God; it is to change us. Prayer maintains and strengthens our relationship with God.

So, why do we fail, it is because we try to accomplish Gods will by our own strength. Only in humble obedience, by faith, through prayer, can we overcome worldly pride and self-confidence, and begin to trust completely in the workings of God. Our pathway to spiritual greatness lies within our life as a faithful servant unto God. Christ came to the earth to serve according to the will of the Father in the manner in which the Father commanded him. If we desire to be Christlike, we must choose to follow in the footsteps of Christ, through obedience to his word, as humble servants of God, walking according to his will.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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