

APRIL DEVOTION 2014

A Prophetic Word for You

1 Corinthians 3:9



'A test of faith:-The full treatment'



'Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect', Matthew 5:48.

Additional Reading; Matthew 5:43-48~Philippians 1:2-11~ 2 Peter 1:2-8- 3:18.

Let us pray; 'Heavenly Father, I thankyou for reminding me of the fact that I cannot fail if I love, even if love fails to accomplish its ends, for in expressing love I become more loving, I grow in love, for the more I love the more loving I become and abiding in Your love I shall send out love with your grace and love Eternal to all who call on the name of the Lord, in **Jesus** name, and all glory shall be lifted up to Your glorious name on high, amen'.

This month's devotional may seem like an impossible ideal, but we have faith in our God and all things are possible, in **Jesus** name. It is helpful to note that the word '*perfect*' (*teleios: in the Greek*) is best translated as '*complete*' or '*mature*': a reference not so much to God's moral perfection as to His generosity of heart. If God's sun shines and His rain falls equally on the just and the unjust in indiscriminate goodness then to go on loving people who mistreat us is to develop what theologian Dale Bruner calls the '*poise of maturity*'. **Jesus**' command is a challenge not to settle for anything less than what the Father wants to give us and wants to do with our lives.

God is not content merely to add a bit of religion to a corner of our lives. He is committed to our total renovation from the old learned man into the new learning man, '*born again*'. In Christ we embark on a lifetime of renovation, a reconstruction program. To be perfect as God is perfect is to be willing, as author Eugene Peterson puts it, '*live out your God-given identity*'.

When **Jesus** explained the cost of following Him, some of His disciples walked away. Yet the impact of those who didn't is still felt in the world today. By the time the Apostles and scribes wrote their epistles, His Apostles (*and scribes!*) had learned to see every test in life as a chance to strengthen their faith and multiply their effectiveness towards the preaching of His covenant and Word, in **Jesus** name. **John 12:26.**

Tests of faith are opportunities to surrender something of a value to God, even when we have the right not to. In a test of faith you'll feel assaulted and stretched by circumstances, yet not distant from God; tried by them, but not judged or guilty.

The Psalmist writes, '*for you, O God, have proved us; You refined us as silver is refined....You brought us out to rich fulfillment, abundance*', **Psalm 66:10-12.**

A test of faith doesn't really test anything unless it pushes you beyond your last test; past what you've already proven.

Thankfully, our Heavenly Father is graciously and patiently still working on us to complete that task to His satisfaction. If you try to run or pull back each time you reach what seems like your limit, you'll never know how much you can trust in God, or how much He can trust you.

Brethren the fire that refines us like silver can come as a job lost, a relationship lost, or good health lost, or even a reputation lost. But with God beloved, the end result is never in doubt, praise God. Perhaps you maybe wondering today, of, '*how much more can I take?*' listen to the

words of Bishop JC Ryle; *'This only we may be assured of, that if tomorrow brings a cross, He who sends it can and will send the grace to bear it'*, amen.

In God's Kingdom it works like this brethren, *'faith tested, character refined, abundance given'*, praise God.

And don't forget that *'love never fails'*, **1 Corinthians 13:8**.

It always finds ways of expressing itself, and in expressing itself it makes the person who loves more loving giving it out in faith the full treatment of God's blessed unconditional love, praise God. Even if we see no results of that loving, we still become more loving for having loved and not being of judgmental towards another, all are of His children the saved and un-saved to be blessed of His grace and mercy to love one another as He loved us first, amen.

'Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved', Romans 10:13.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God', Matthew 5:8.

JESUS IS LORD

