

# LIFE'S LESSONS

---

## 1. PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THINGS

People should always come first - after God

We should love people and use things - **NOT** love things and use people.

*Proverbs 24:27 (kjv) Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; afterwards build thine house.*

*(NCV) First, finish your outside work and prepare your fields. After that, you can build your house.*

Our priority should be the *multitudes* and then the *disciples*.

It should be the *lost people first* and afterwards buildings to train and to make disciples.

## 2. THE SECULAR AND SPIRITUAL

Why is it that we tend to divide activities and actions into secular or Spiritual?

**Something is not spiritual by virtue of its content but by virtue of its origin.**

If God is the **source** of why we do anything then it **must** be **spiritual**.

Regardless of the nature or kind of the work or activity involved.

## **Do all things as unto the Lord**

*Ephesians 6:5-7 (esv) ...trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6: not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7: rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man.*

## **3. THE CALL OF GOD**

The call of God came down from above - from heaven it came down - it did not come up

**It is a heavenly calling.** It comes from God who makes the call.

## **4. LONELINESS**

Loneliness is something we all experience at times in our lives.

Loneliness is a powerful emotion that can debilitate, incapacitate, weaken, our energy.

We must develop structures to combat the debilitating power and influence of loneliness.

Loneliness is connected to the emotional part of our lives where we **feel** and **sense** things, **but** they are **not** always a true gauge of what is true.

**We are never left with only the facts - *what we feel, our reality* - but there is also always the truth of God's Word.**

*John 14:23 (niv) Then he said: doesn't the word of God say - "If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our **home** with him.*

*(NET) "...and my Father will love him, and We will come to him and take up **residence** with him."*

## **OUR EMOTIONS**

Emotions are not wrong otherwise God would not have created us with the ability to feel.

Emotions should not be the **sole** dominating factor / governing our lives.

Another factor is to come alongside our emotions to bring balance and wisdom to our lives that factor is **truth** – truth according to God's Word.

God's Word (the Truth) assists us in navigating through the unchartered and unknown things that we encounter in life's journey.

What we are feeling is real and is happening to us therefore we can conclude that there is nothing else present but to face the facts.

There is always another factor that is available and that is the truth of what God's Word says.

The woman with the issue of blood (12years) was a fact. But she believed that there was another factor available to her - it was **her faith in what Jesus said**, "*if you shall ask anything of my name I will do it.*" (*Matthew 9:21*)

She said within herself - "*if I can touch the hem of His garment I shall be made whole.*"

## **FACTS AND TRUTH ARE DIFFERENT.**

The **FACT** is we can feel lonely and alone, but the **TRUTH** is that God said, "*I will never leave you and I will never abandon you.*" *Hebrews 13:5*

*John 14:23* Jesus replied, "*If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*"

So, we need to make a choice - **to decide to live by the truth or by the facts?**

**To live by the truth will require the use of our faith to believe what God's Word says as opposed to what we are feeling.**

We are liberated through believing what God's Word says about us.

If our emotions are allowed to rule without a balancing factor that creates stability, then our emotions will take over and dominate our lives.

This is why there is a need to set up **structures** in our lives that will enable us to bring **restraint** and **stability** to our emotions so we can continue to conduct our lives in an **orderly manner**.

**These structures must involve our faith, because our faith is an integral part in how we effectively address our loneliness.**

## **ESTABLISHING STRUCTURES**

- that direct our faith towards God and His promises.
- that addresses the way we think and what we think - the **key** to managing our emotions.
- that train us to focus our thoughts on what is true compared with what our emotions are telling us.

## **CREATING INSTRUCTIVE PATHWAYS**

- that show how to draw strength and comfort from the relationship and fellowship that we have because of our union with Christ.

It's the **acceptance** of the truth of our relationship and fellowship with God that our emotions are then checked from running 'wild' within us.

**Going to God and His Word when we feel lonely is the key to rising above loneliness.**

The following **three** things are essential in overcoming loneliness

1. **KNOWING** what God's Word says about the relationship, companionship and fellowship we already have with Christ and the Father.
2. **ACCEPTING IT** - believing as true.
3. **APPLYING IT** to our own emotions, feelings.