



Lesson 2 – Self Gets in the Way

01/10/2010 MEETING: PRESENT - I AM, Bob and Cindy

Of one accord, be of one accord. Hasten to understanding.

Purple scepter. Scepter - **1**: a staff or baton borne by a sovereign as an emblem of authority **2**: royal or imperial authority; sovereignty. What about? Royal decree - Abound in faith.

Resign self (get rid of it). Get rid of I/ME thinking. Don't try to defend it. It's not where you should be. Trust me completely. Self gets in the way of trust. It blocks it.

Apple orchard. The fruit is ripe for picking.

Have you been preparing as I instructed you?

Telephones work well; they can help. Sometimes people open up when they are not face to face.

Imagination runs wild. Use your whole self for me. Even your imagination.

Don't forget joy. Joy is a label you should be wearing for all to see.

Vast plains stretch across the horizon. What about? They are to be filled. With what? Filled with love, joy, people and disciples. It's unfolding. What is unfolding? My plans are unfolding.

Coming about. Praise Jesus daily. (It's part of the joy factor).

Amen.

Resign Self

The Lord said, Get rid of I, ME thinking. Don't try to defend it. It's not where you should be. Trust me completely. Self gets in the way of trust. It blocks it. Holding onto "self" has far reaching affects. It not only affects our trust in the Lord but we will learn in this lesson how it affects other aspects of our lives as well. The Lord, however, has given us a royal decree to "Abound in faith" and get rid of self.

The Lord described self as, "I/Me thinking". Of course one of the first thoughts that comes to mind is selfishness. The definition of selfish is: concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself; seeking or concentrating on one's own advantage, pleasure, or well-being without regard for others; arising from concern with one's own welfare or advantage in disregard of others. This definition seems to be focused on putting oneself before others but I think there is another aspect to I/Me thinking. I believe I/Me thinking can also involve being critical of ones self? Have you ever met someone who could not go forward in life because they could not forgive or forget their own mistakes of the past. They were completely focused on themselves although negatively. But the scripture says,

Philippians 3:13

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.

Therefore, whether you are critical, infatuated, disgusted whatever; it is of no matter because it boils down to this; you can't be focused on the Lord when you are focusing too much attention upon yourself. How can you grow in the Lord when you are not focused upon Him.

However, there is still more to learn about self; like the elements of rebellion or absentmindedness and from the Take His Heart website: **The Lord said, "You cannot walk hand-in-hand with me as My bride and have "Self."**

Moses got into "Self" when He struck the rock instead of speaking to it like the Lord commanded. He momentarily lost his "*hand-in-hand*" with the Lord and it kept him from going into the promised land. "Self" will keep an individual or a corporate body from receiving their full reward. This makes "Self" a big issue! (See <http://www.takehisheart.com/selfobediencetogod.htm>)

You can see from what we have studied thus far that there are consequences to a life full of self. It can hold you back; it can even keep you from your reward. In **Numbers 20:12** The Lord said this to Moses, *Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them. I think Moses was angry with the children of Israel because the word says "they contended with Moses". It also says he referred to them as "rebels". I think he allowed the situation to get the best of him. He lost his focus and got into self. The children of Israel were not able to see what the Lord had intended them to see. Therefore getting into "Self" not only affects us individually but it can affect those we interact with both individually and corporately as well.*

When we insist on doing things our way we are demonstrating that we either do not trust the Lord completely, we think we know better than the Lord or we don't want to turn over the reins. Or maybe we want to be our own boss because we don't like being told what to do. No matter what the motivating factor, **refusing to get rid of self is wrong**. It is a form of rebellion. The word says in,

Isaiah 30:1-2a

"Woe to the rebellious children," says the Lord, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; who walk to go down to Egypt and have not asked My advice."

I realized, however, that there are other times when rebellion is not the motivator. Sometimes, we do not get rid of self because we don't even realize self is guiding our path. We're not thinking we're just doing. When the children of Israel were in the wilderness a man was found gathering sticks on the Sabbath. And I was thinking he was probably going about absentmindedly picking up sticks although I'm not really sure; maybe he was being disobedient on purpose. We cannot know what motivated him. But there were consequences. **Numbers 15:35,36** *Then the Lord said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones out the camp. So, as the Lord commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones and he died.*

Following this the Lord spoke to Moses, in **Numbers 15:38-40**, saying *"Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God."*

We probably are not going to literally attach tassels to the corners of our garments in the physical but you can provide reminders to yourself in other ways to keep you on track (i.e. bible verses stuck to the refrigerator door or on your car visor, a song you listen to, etc.). You can decide what your tassel will be; just so it provides a reminder to you so that we do not end up walking in “harlotry” (selfish acts).

Discipline Self

Part of getting rid of self is just having the wherewithal to discipline yourself. The Lord asked us, **Have you been preparing as I instructed you?** Honestly, I would have to say no I have not been preparing as I should have. I have allowed other things to take priority over instructions from The Lord. I have let self get in the way. I have lacked discipline. Do you lack discipline?

God Calling Jan 6th: “Never neglect these times, pray, and read your Bible and train and discipline yourself. That is your work – Mine to use you. But My instruments must be sharp and ready. Then I use them.”

How can the Lord use me effectively if I am not sharp and ready? The Lord has told us what to do; we just need to do it. We must ask ourselves, what kind of a servant am I going to be?

The Lord has another recommendation as well. It is from the **God Calling Nov 27th:** “Whenever you feel that you cannot leave the choice to Me then pray, not to be able to accept My Will, but to know and love Me more. With that knowledge, and the Love, will come the certainty that I know best, and that I want only the best for you and yours.”

It is important that we understand all we can about the Lord because once we do we will understand that He only wants the best for us. In other words it is easier to discipline ourselves and follow the rules when we know the rules are for our best. We must, therefore, pray to know and love Him more, to trust him completely as this will help us **get rid of I, ME thinking.**

Your Whole Self

From all of this we can gather that the Lord doesn’t want just a part of you. He wants all of you. You could say He wants your undivided attention. He said, **Self gets in the way of trust. Trust me completely.** He told us, **Use your whole self for me; even your imagination.** As His servants we will have interaction with others just as Moses did. Remember how his interaction went in the story above.

The Lord wants us focused on the tasks ahead of us. Remember, you are His creation and you are His servant. He has been preparing you. He wants us to give it our all. For example when you have interactions with others, The Lord understands that there are many different ways you can reach out to people whether face to face or via the telephone; whether mail or email or even skype; there are many different ways to touch people. He even suggested using the telephone at times because it is easier for some people. This is an example of how as He put it you can use your whole self, including your imagination.

Don’t Forget Joy

The Lord started to closing with this: **“Don’t forget joy. Joy is a label you should be wearing for all to see. The definition of joy is the emotion evoked by well being, success or good fortune or**

by the prospect of possessing what one desires; delight; the expression or exhibition of such emotion; gaiety; a state of happiness or felicity; bliss. Joy is something The Lord wants for us. But how do we have joy. Here is a clue from the **God Calling book**. Maybe these verses will help us understand the connection between self and joy.

Jan 8 – “Joy is the result of faithful trusting acceptance of My Will, when It seems not joyous.”
“Joy is the daughter of calm.”

Sept 19 – “Remember that the Truths I teach you have all been given to you too (as to My disciples of old) with the idea of giving you that overflowing Joy. . .

Search for the Joy in life. Hunt for it as for hidden treasure. Love and Laugh. Delight yourselves in the Lord.

Joy in Me. Full joy it was I wished My disciples to have. I intended them to have it. Had they lived My Teachings out in their daily lives they would have had Fullness of Joy.”

June 29 – “You can never go beyond My Love and Care. Remember that. No evil can befall you. Circumstances I bless and use must be right ones for you.

But I know always that the first step is to lay your will before Me as an offering, ready that I shall do what is best, sure that, if you trust Me, what I do for you will be best.

Your second step is to be sure, and to tell me so, that I am Powerful enough to do everything (“The hearts of kinds are in My rule and governance”), that no miracle is impossible with me (“With God all things are possible” and I and My Father are one).

Then leave all with Me. Glad to leave all your affairs in a Master Hand. Sure of safety and protection. Remember you cannot see the future. I can.

You could not bear it. So only little by little can I reveal it to you. Accept My Will and it will bring you joy.

In these words above the Lord is teaching us that **if we seek after His will, if we follow His teachings, if we acknowledge His power and authority and turn it all over to Him we will have joy**. Therefore when we get rid of self we will have joy. I now understand the connection between self and joy. This knowledge makes these words from **God Calling Jan 2** all the more interesting; -“Be full of Joy. Joy saves. Joy cures. Joy in Me. In every ray of sunlight, every smile, every act of kindness, or love, every trifling service – joy.” **And as the Lord put it joy is a label you should be wearing for all to see.**

And the Lord closed with this when He said, **Vast plains stretch across the horizon**. What about? **They are to be filled**. With what? **Filled with love, joy, people and disciples**.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You,
Cindy

<http://www.takehisheart.com>