

C: Cultivate Christ centredness

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Col. 3:1-4)

Many of you will have been stirred by Richard Wurmbrand's powerful testimony documenting the needs of the persecuted church, and calling people to identify in prayer and work on behalf of them. Some of you may also have come across a delightful little book he wrote, which he claims healed him of the great hurt that Communism had done to his soul. *Little Notes which like each other* (Hodder) is a lovely book that simply speaks of His love for Jesus.

Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brethren, like unto me. To him shall ye hearken in all things whatsoever he shall speak unto you." (Acts 3:22)
[NIV = "You must listen to everything he tells you"].

Picture your spirit as a pair of delicately balanced scales.

Do you find that the Lord has to "dump" lead ingots on one end of your spirit to tilt it in a particular direction - or does just a feather weight gram suffice to align it with His leading?

Are you overly susceptible to the demands and emotions of the flesh, or do you truly desire to do what honours God most, whether or not it initially appeals?

An enormous number of people have fallen by the wayside having set out in the power of the Spirit. I am not just talking of those who have fallen into moral sin, but of those who have harboured erroneous thoughts in their lives and ministries, or simply insisted on getting their own way, and ended up many degrees off course as a result.

Wherever possible, try not to allow yourself to be pressurized into premature action. Give matters time to mature. Test them with others and against His word until you can be reasonably confident that you are being led by the peace of Christ.

We are His lovers as well as His fellow workers, and our task is to be in the *mode* that He is in: now in high praise, now silence, now in vigorous prayer, now in the call to reach out to others, or to be faithful in our calling, that in all things Christ may have the preeminence (Col. 1:18).

The old radio set

Do you remember the film *The Heroes of Telemark*, in which the British commandos shelter in a hut high up on the Norwegian mountains? They try to establish radio contact with base back home but find the reception varying according to the prevailing atmospheric conditions. In the same way our ability to hear the Lord varies greatly from day to day. Sometimes there is enemy opposition and jamming that we have to overcome. Other times it is the Lord Himself, who has got us on hold, so that we have to continue to seek “in the dark.”

Just think how denuded the Bible would be without phrases such as ‘The Lord said to Moses or to David’ . . . Don’t give up seeking because the Heavens feel like brass. Make a framework and set up your radio set and antennae. One word from the Lord restores peace, imparts direction and makes everything possible. Keep seeking Him!

Don’t forget to allow time to tune in – and don’t be put off if you come up against a lot of radio interference. There are often barriers you have to persevere through.

Satan came to Jesus not so much in run-of-the-mill days when He was out and about healing people in the villages He was passing through, but at key moments of his life, when Heaven was closest. The presence of glory in and around our lives therefore is no safeguard from danger: rather quite the reverse.

Everyone used to teach about pride as being the cardinal sin. Nobody mentions it any more, but it is still the heart of the enemy’s heart.

When the Lord gives us a vision or vocation, we usually have to work hard to bring it to pass – but we always take care not to allow it to become more important to us than Christ Himself. If we do, even something that God Himself originally gave us can become idolatrous.

The sun does not go around the earth. We are to be in Christ’s orbit, rather than expect Him to come into ours. This will keep us from unintentionally pulling other people into our orbit too.

- **What does remaining Christ-centred mean?**
- **Living with open hands,**
- **Being willing to offer our gifting back to the Lord if He asks for it back.**

But only if He asks for it. If Abraham had sacrificed Isaac outside the Lord’s will it would have been homicide!

May the Lord help us to know what He is saying: when to *yield* something back to Him, and when to *resist* something that the enemy is seeking to interrupt or close down.

- **Carrying burdens in your spirit and not in your soul. We regularly find when ministering to intercessors that their spirits have become bogged down because they have begun to carry burdens in themselves rather than allowing the power of the Spirit to flow through them to the Cross. We often pray for the equivalent of a lightning conductor to redirect the tension safely. It makes all the difference - like a lens that has been adjusted as opposed to one that is out of focus.**

There are other things in us, of course, that make it hard for the light of Christ to flow out through us. **Imagine, if you can, the roots of your life.**

What do they go down into?

Can you discern any red roots in your life? (These are roots that are raw and tainted, that represent untreated and unhealed emotions).

Like bitterness

Or lusts and wrong longings.

Or envy. You have probably noticed that envy is usually stirred up in us by people who are in the same field of business as ourselves;

It is nearly always present when there is a relationship tension or breakdown.

“Anger is cruel, fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?” (Pvbs. 27:4)

Are your roots red or green? What does green speak of to you?

Something new and fresh, and full of life and hope. Green meadows.

Deep contentment.

To me it speaks of something that *includes* happiness but that goes still deeper than mere feelings. The direction of our heart, above and beyond our feelings, must be Christ-ward.

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. (Col 3:8-10)

The angel of the Lord tells us to

“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” (Rev. 14:7)

Let me encourage you to make a special God time: not for conscious burden bearing but just to be with him in love and worship. See where His Spirit leads you and what comes of it!

God bless,
Robert

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