

“Adjustments”
By Brother Kenneth Ray
Sunday, September 11th, 2011

Do you ever get tired of yourself? Do you ever find yourself complaining about what others don't do, and then realize that you aren't doing 'that' either (whatever 'that' is)? Have you heard that song, "[Mess of Me](#)" by Switchfoot? They talk about, "I am my own affliction / I am my own disease / There ain't no drug that they could sell / Ah, there ain't no drug to make me well." Apostle Paul said it a little differently:

Romans 7:24 O, wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Are you tired of yourself? I'm tired of me; I know I can do better. After 9/11, America had to make some adjustments. For some people, it's hard to make adjustments. Let God show us things in prayer. I'm glad to live in a country with such privileges, such as freedom of worship. This country was built on the principle of one nation under God. Maybe it's not operating on that principle, now, but that's what it was built on. We need to get back to what we were built upon. We need to substitute for pride. We need to substitute for football. We need to substitute for shopping. We need to substitute for gossip. We need to substitute for chocolate. We need to substitute for fishing. There is no substitute for Splenda, or Equal, or pure cane sugar. We need to get back to the foundation where God would have us to be. As Americans, we have some serious resolve.

We need to do some self-evaluation. It has to be self-evaluation, because when somebody else does it, it's just criticism. Even when it's constructive criticism, it's still criticism, and not an evaluation.

We need to be humble. That's a hard thing.

Resolve

Acts 26:28-29 ... Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Paul was in chains when he said this. When you are seeking God, you need to make adjustments to get closer to Him. Push things aside to get closer to God. Even if you've been walking with Him for several years, you still need to make adjustments to stay close or to get even closer. You can't see an undertow, but you can still get sucked under; adjustments are part of daily life.

When you first got excited for God, you were willing to do anything for Him. Somebody asked you to clean the bathrooms, and you were right there, on it. Twenty years later, someone asks you to clean the bathrooms, and you say, "Don't you know who I am?" and you start listing off your titles. Twenty minutes or twenty years later, you need to have the same resolve as you had after twenty seconds. Don't 'crawfish' (back away from your responsibilities).

It takes the same effort of resolve to say yes as to say no. If I ask you to go shopping with me, and you say, "I'm at home." "Go shopping with me." "My foot hurts." "Go shopping with me." Do you realize how much effort people use to say 'no?'

As Americans, we had to adjust after 9/11, but we went back to the way we were living. Why is that? because we refuse to live in fear. Don't allow fear to keep you from making adjustments. "I'm afraid that people will figure out that I'm not perfect." I've got news for you, they already know. Don't let that shortchange you today. I'll be honest with you, if they were giving away gold, my pride would keep me from getting a mountain full.

Evaluation

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith...

Remember what I said earlier about criticism? You notice it didn't say to go to some elder in the faith and ask them to tell you what's wrong. You'd probably get your feelings hurt if they answered you honestly, anyway. Just knowing what's wrong is not enough; you still have to do something about it. Some things you are capable of doing yourself, making adjustments or changes to align yourself to God's Spirit. This is the part we like, because we have some control. Most of the time, that works out fine. We need to learn to be comfortable with being helpless. There are some things we just can't do; we have to cry out to God and then let Him change us. Don't do that crawfish thing because you know it's going to hurt. There are some things that only God can adjust. You wouldn't go to the chiropractor because you need an adjustment and then not let the chiropractor touch you, would you? ("Just stand over there, and I'll stand over here, and you work on me from afar.")

A good way to evaluate yourself is to ask, "How much am I leaning on God?" You know He said to cast your cares upon Him, right? (1 Peter 5:7) You have to have resolve. It takes more than religion; it takes more than a church. It takes a close relationship with God.

Where is your ministry? Is it just on Sunday morning? When you get together for what you call fellowship, are there any new faces? Are you just living your life? Are you trapped in your routine? It's what you learn here that you take out use to evangelize, educate and equip that is your ministry. Draw closer to God; remember that He said, "I am with you, always." (Matthew 28:20)

Joshua 24:15 ... choose you this day whom ye will serve...

Are you quoting what Joshua said, or are you living what is being quoted? Adjustments are part of this life. Have we gotten so far away from the foundation that it seems strange to fellowship? Or are you always socializing with the same people? And, if so, who are you adding to the kingdom? Go ye, therefore (Matthew 28:19). You can only indict yourself, or exonerate yourself; you cannot justify yourself—only God can justify. Have the resolve to honestly evaluate your own life and be humble enough...

Humble

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

Jesus humbled Himself.

Philippians 2:7-8 *... And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself...*

If Jesus can do it, and He's my example (1 Peter 2:21), then why can't I? Jesus took upon Himself the form of a servant, so I can be a servant, and not the boss. Remember that Jesus said, "Not my will, but thine." (Luke 22:42) He went from teacher, healer, prophet, savior to being beaten, thorns, put on a cross, and buried. Despise the shame and humiliation. You know what E-G-O stands for? Edging God Out. We don't want to be humiliated. Satan is subtle, and he erodes your foundation, and you may not even realize it. Choose. Jesus chose, and Joshua chose; they committed their souls to God of their own free will. You should choose of your own free will also; I'm not going to try to strong-arm you into Jesus. He will not only receive us, but that which we commit to His hand.

You will find that you will need fewer adjustments made when you allow the Holy Ghost to have His way. The Holy Ghost has a unique way of making the proper adjustments at the right time and place in such a way that you don't even know that He's doing it until you reap the benefits of it.

