

THREE LITTLE KNOW FACTS IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

John 14:12-17

Introduction: Jesus never taught His disciples how to preach, He did however, teach them how to pray. Through His teaching on prayer, some hidden facts about the christian life are revealed. The christian is not to live life in his/her own strength or wisdom, but to allow the Holy Spirit to live through him/her. Until a christian has grasped that wonderful fact and then actually allowed the Holy Spirit to live through him/her, then that christian could be considered still at kindergarten level of the christian life.

I. THE LIFESTYLE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS SOMEONE ELSE'S (John 14:12)

1. All the things Jesus did in those three years are amazing, staggering and almost unbelievable but to say that christians are to do greater things than He did is absolutely stunning.
 - Is Jesus saying that christians can do even more and even greater things than He did?
 - Jesus is revealing that the "Risen Jesus" through the Holy Spirit living in each and every christian can and will do more and greater things than He did because there will be so many more than a single Man as He was.
2. What did Jesus mean "*...because I go to the Father?*"
 - When Jesus was here the Holy Spirit indwelt only Him, Jesus.
 - After Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit came and indwelt every believer since that time.
3. Reflecting on the three years of Jesus' ministry, in man's opinion not much was accomplished.
 - All that Jesus did seemed to have no lasting effect, except for the eleven disciples.
 - "*...your fruit should remain...*" **John 15:16**, meaning that what one does in the power of the Holy Spirit will last. "*...Greater work (than what I did) you shall do, because I go to the Father*"...and will work through all of you.
 - One has but to compare the results of the three years of Jesus' ministry to any three years after His ascension. Compare 2000 years later, what greater things have been done, just like He said would be done **by living His "lifestyle" through the christian.**

II. THE CHRISTIAN'S POWER IN PRAYER IS BORROWED FROM SOMEONE ELSE (John 14:13-14)

1. "...Ask whatever, anything, I will do it..." Is there a magic lamp that a christian is given and all that has to be done to get answered prayers is to rub it?
 - When two opposing ball teams pray the same prayer to win, to the same God, whose prayer is answered?
 - When a farmer prays for rain and a fisherman prays for a clear, sunny day, whose prayer is answered?
2. **There is a condition to a christian having power in prayer.."*...if you ask in my name...*"**
 - Is this some magic formula added to a prayer to ensure it will be answered?
 - Is this added because it has become traditional and therefore it is added because it has always been added at the end of a prayer?

3. *"...in Christ's name..."* means in His authority, based on His character, His work.
 - "In the name of the law..." is used by policemen, citing their authority to enforce the law.
 - Only those granted that authority will be recognized and their request heard.
4. Whatever is asked in Jesus' name must be asked within what He does and who He is.
 - Whatever Jesus is interested in having done down here, the christian is His means of getting it done and He will grant that prayer, **IF** it is in His interest.
 - Things that christians ask for in the name of Jesus are either granted, delayed, or denied. If what is asked for is not granted, it is not in Jesus' interest. If delayed, then it's not time for it to be granted but later in Jesus' time.

III. ANY HOLINESS IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE IS BORROWED (John 14:15-17)

1. Jesus promised that after He ascended that **someone was coming to indwell each and every believer and that someone was the presence of God:**
 - A counselor, a comforter, someone to stand beside and help make one strong.
 - The one who comes to live within the believer has all the fullness of power and the strength one could possibly need for anything God wanted done.
2. The Spirit of Truth is exclusively for the christian. Nobody else in the whole world would ever be able to understand the things of God and the things of the world except for the Spirit of Truth or the Holy Spirit. Only the christian is indwelt by this Holy presence.
3. Every christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit but so many have no more understanding about Godly things than a non believer, even though church is attended, why?
 - *"...he dwells with you, and he will be in you..."* many are not allowing the Holy Spirit to do what He came to do within the believer's life. The life has not been surrendered to His authority and therefore that unwilling person has many arguments within and thus fails to be what God wants or do what God wants to do through that life.
 - Sadly so many don't even know that they are rebelling, blocking, preventing the Holy Spirit from doing what He came to do in their lives.

CONCLUSION:

1. God sent Jesus to reveal His Fatherhood and to become the way through which any believing person can become a child of God, the Father.
2. After Jesus came and then ascended, God sent His Holy Spirit to indwell every believer enabling each believer to do the same things Jesus did, thus multiplying the works of His Son, Jesus.
3. The believer is free, however, to allow or not allow the Holy Spirit to have complete access and control of his/her life to be used in whatever manner God might choose.
4. It is not difficult to see which christian made which choice is it?