

WAITING ON FEELINGS

1 Corinthians 13:9-11; 3:1 Hebrews 5:11-14

Introduction: "Oh, stop acting like a child..." "Childish things." "Never have grown up." There's still a child in every adult and often that "child" takes over and controls that grown adult. Children don't think things out, whatever comes to their mind, they do or not do it without giving any thought as to consequences. "Impulsive" might define a child's actions. There was a man named "Sam" who said he was waiting to feel the hand of the Lord upon him before he did anything. Sam never amounted to a thing in the Lord's service. He went from church to church but never got involved or served the Lord in any way in any of those churches. He was always waiting for that "feeling" from God to do something special. Sam was "saving himself" for the Lord. Sam died years later, never having served the Lord in any way and had spent his entire adult life "waiting for a feeling" from the Lord. We say, "how sad for a man to act that way," yet countless Christians are doing basically the same thing, waiting.

I. FEELINGS AND ASSURANCE

1. It is dangerous to rely upon one's feelings.
 - Feelings are variable and unreliable. Sometimes one feels good and sometimes one feels bad.
 - Feelings influence out of attitude and interests.
 - Feelings have nothing to do with being saved for we are saved by our faith and God's Grace.
 - FACTS of the Christian's relationship with God are what matter, NOT whether one FEELS saved or not.
2. *Psalm 34:8*: Fact and Truth of God's Word is the needed ASSURANCE.
 - Fact, Faith and THEN feeling. This is God's divine order.
 - Grasp the Truth, establish that right relationship with God and then Feelings will come later.
3. Very little is done for the Lord by those who wait on Feelings.
 - Certain moods or attitudes are waited upon as a "sign."
 - Regardless of the immediate need, many Christians want to wait for some certain feeling before committing themselves to action.
 - It is usually the same handful of faithful members/christians who carry on the whole work load of their church, those who don't wait for a certain feeling to "hit them."
4. Feelings run most people's lives.
 - Only when one "feels" like it does he/she pray, study the Word, go to worship, visit, witness, teach, get involved in some church activity.
 - To be controlled by Feelings is to remain childish and for the most part, useless.
5. Getting busy serving the Lord in WHATEVER position will always produce the right feelings.

II. FEELINGS AND GUIDANCE

1. God does not always guide us by Feelings or Impulse.
 - God has used these channels but not as much as we think.
2. Many Christians wait for some "feeling from God" before doing ordinary, everyday things, such as dating, which clothes to wear, what car to buy, etc.
3. God isn't the Only one who speaks to us through feelings or impulses.
 - Satan speaks to us through our feelings.
 - Self speaks to us through our feelings.
 - Feelings must be tested as to Where do they really come from, they may not be from the Lord at all.
4. God gives us more leaway, slack, room than we think.
 - If one is in a proper relationship with God, then that person is walking in the Spirit and the Holy Spirit will be guiding every moment.
 - Live freely, Act freely, God will stop you when/if you go the wrong way.
5. God guides us through other sources than our Feelings.
 - God uses His Word, opens and closes doors, counsel from toher Christians.
 - Feelings are usually the last thing God uses.
 - God reaffirms His wants in our lives in more than one way.

III. FEELINGS AND GOOD WORKS

1. Feelings are not the means of deciding whether to serve God or not. *James 4:17*
 - "I don't feel led, I don't feel I should, I don't feel adequate, etc..."
2. One doesn't need some special urge or feeling from God to get busy and serve Him in His Church.
3. Sadly, most Christians have NEVER done a thing for the Lord.
 - They just sit around, taking their spiritual temperature, feeling their emotional pulse and wait for some good inner feeling to push them out into the stream of God's service.

CONCLUSION:

1. Most Christians don't do anything in their church because they are waiting for some feeling.
 - "I don't feel I should do that..." "I don't feel....."
2. To wait for some certain feeling (and nobody knows what kind of feeling to expect) is nothing more than laziness and sin.
3. Only a handful of members carry on most of the work done in any church. Which are you?