



Watch Out For Those Emotions

The BIBLE warns us constantly to keep our emotions in check. Do you know why this is so? I'm certain you have a pretty good idea. But there are some Biblical principles in this "teaching" that you, perhaps, may not have considered when you thought about them.

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Emotions ... excitement or disturbance, either way, can be a hindrance to walking in God's best for your life.

Feelings (emotions) are fickle and people who are led by them are "wishy-washy". One day they will buddy up to you because they like the way you get things done; the next day they will turn and buddy up to someone else who "thinks that he's a star", with the accompanying attitudes and egotistical "emotions."

Jesus was not led by his emotions. He was Spirit Led, even when the Spirit led him to places uncomfortable to His flesh. Jesus was not led by his emotions in Gethsemane, but rather was putting them under His control. He was not being led by his feelings when He walked out into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (And just for the record He did not give place to the devil in the wilderness either.)

Here's what the Bible says in Romans 8:14: *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

We become joint heirs with Jesus when we become "Born Again" believers. Being born of the Spirit, we should walk in and after the Spirit. The Spirit of God never changes, is never "wishy-washy" and never tosses us to and fro like emotions will. Emotions will **drive** a person; the Spirit will **lead** a person. Emotions can leave a person feeling **empty**; the Spirit will **fill** a person to overflowing. Emotions will take us **off course**; while the Spirit will goad us back **on course** if we veer off.

The root source of the word emotion according to Webster reads: from French, to stir up; from Latin to remove, displace, or to move away.

Satan would love for us to follow our emotions that **carry us away**. He would like to get us into carnal feelings that **move us away** from God. There are times when the Holy Ghost may be dealing with us to do something or go someplace, and someone will unconsciously try to detour us because they are being **soul led**. Paul was a good example of this when God was dealing with him to go to Rome. The people got all emotional and tried to sway him not to go to Rome. They were carnal and operated mainly from the Soul instead of the Spirit.

Siding with emotions or those who are emotional will not help you to fulfill God's Will.

In the same account, the prophet told Paul what would happen to him if he went to Rome; he would be bound and taken captive. I am sure, that at that point, Paul's own emotions rose up. But it was his desire to do the will of God, not to fulfill the lust of the flesh. The Will of God would have never been fulfilled through Paul had he decided to take the counsel of his own emotions or had he allowed others to counsel him and sway him off course. Neither God nor his prophets will tell you what your flesh wants to hear.

Here's what the Bible says in Romans 8:5-8:

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

We can see by these scriptures that if we cater to our emotions we cannot please (satisfy) God. He will not accept loose emotional actions. God will always love us, but he does not feed our flesh. People who do, are not Spirit led. They may be well meaning, but they may be actually only accompanying you as you walk away from God's Best. Way back in the Book of Genesis we have an account of Cain. He was upset with his brother Abel because that which Abel was

offering to God was pleasing to Him, while that which Abel offered was rejected by God. God had to refuse the flesh offering, because the flesh, when not dealt with, will end up on the outside of God's best plan. Our lives should be set on course and held steadily in place by the Spirit of God. To yield to any other voices, like our emotions, will steer us down the road to demise. To listen to people who side with their emotions, is to allow them to steer you down the road to probable disaster.

Here's what the bible says in Gal. 5:25 *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

His Presence, Your Choice

While some enjoy God at a distance, others experience His presence. His life, His peace, His joy and all His Glory, up close and personal. People who enjoy God from a distance are those who hear about the life, peace, joy and blessing of the Lord while living on the outside edges, vicariously. Much like Moses who, initially, only experienced the back side of God. *"He watched as God passed by"*, **Ex. 33:12-23**. Enoch, on the other hand, did not watch as God passed by, he walked with God. He lived everyday in the presence of the Lord. He enjoyed liberty and fullness of joy everyday, **Gen. 5**.

We have a choice as to whether we will live in the **passing** Glory, or in the **omnipotent presence** of the Lord. We can come to church and the glory can pass through. We can enjoy it for a small frame of time. But just as a fog lifts, so will that passing glory. We must make a choice, a decision, to live everyday in God's presence if we want to experience His Best. To live in the presence of the Lord is to live a life that is daily saturated by the Word of God. It is a life lived in sweet communion with the Holy Spirit. (I wake up, most mornings, with a Christian song of praise or worship playing in my mind. When it's not playing in my mind as I wake up, I say to myself, oh, oh. And that alone is reason enough to seek out the Lord, to make sure I start off each day on the right foot.)

To live in the presence of the Lord, is to live in the environment of spiritual awareness. Knowing that He is forever with you, encourages you to live a life worthy of that truth. Ultimately, it is to have a life of unspeakable joy, and a peace that is beyond understanding. It is to rest in the midst of storms, and to trust the invisible when everything around you is shaking. It is to sit in a crowd, or to be all alone, and either way be totally fulfilled in your spirit. It is to be content with what you have, or where you are, yet still be ready to step into a future that has not been engraved with every detail. It is to lay down and sleep sweetly. To rise up refreshed and ready for each new day. It is knowing that God's Glory will lead you wherever you go, and that nothing, by any means, can harm you. To live in His presence is to be loved, to live loved, and to give love. Living in His presence is your choice!

Demanding a Payment

When we quit running away from life, and stop demanding that life repay us for our hurts and failures, we will find ourselves en route to a very healthy and prosperous future! To demand a payment is to say that Jesus blood was not enough for a healthy, prosperous life. It is unfortunate that we have become such very demanding people. Demanding is much more than asking. We are told in God's word that we "have not" because we "ask not"; or we "ask" with wrong motives. When people demand in prayer, they **forget who they are talking to**. Prayer is a communication with God (who is the supreme authority). While to demand, is to ask for something with authority. People have often times misunderstood the use of "delegated authority". God is pleased with faith that knows the boundaries of delegated authority. To go to God in prayer in a demanding fashion is an attempt to make God do what you want Him to do. It takes the position that you are the supreme authority and that God lives in the place of delegation. Be forewarned: God is the one who delegates, we are the ones that have been given authority through him.

To demand, as example, that the enemy takes his hands off of something that belongs to you, is the right place to use demands, because you have been delegated power over all the power of the enemy. You are to live and reign in this life by faith, using that delegated authority. But when it comes to asking God, you ask knowing that He is Lord. You ask with

the knowledge that you are standing, or hopefully, kneeling, in the presence of one that reigns over you, not under you. The Devil is under you, Our Heavenly Father, whom we have access to through Jesus Christ, is Lord, and reigns over you. When we are wearing our "all about me pants" we can go to extremes, and walk into the throne room with the posture of Lording it over God himself, and this should not be, and will not be effective. It is displeasing to God.

Example: A child goes to a parent and says, "I demand that you to give me all your money right now so that I can go buy candy with it! Give it to me now! Do you hear me, give it to me now!"

That is out of order and is unreasonable. And if the parent has any principles at all, he or she will not respond favorably to such a demand.

Another Example: An employee goes to an employer and tells him, "I am here to tell you that you are gonna give me an additional four weeks vacation. I work hard here and two weeks a year is not enough. I demand that you to give me two extra weeks whether you like it or not! And if you don't, I quit!"

Any employer with good sense will tell that employee that they may as well go ahead and put in their resignation, because their work benefits have already been negotiated and accepted. If they don't want to work under that agreement, then they are free to quit.

The "all about me pants" cause one to feel entitled to what they want, when they want it, and at any cost. They push their way to the front instead of allowing God to sit them in their proper position. They jump into the limelight, instead of allowing God to place his light on them. They want the first piece of pie, and the largest sandwich half. They do not understand the concept of less is more. And they never even try to understand, and operate in rank. Submission to them is not a consideration, because they always see themselves as dominate.

When it comes to us "being the head and not the tail" in life is to speak of our power over the enemy, over Satan. It is not speaking of doing away with order and the boundaries in our lives. If everyone took on the notion that they were the head of every organization what a mess the world would be in. Flow chart order in organizations is set up to keep things flowing in a certain order, and to help a company to operate safely and successfully. God himself requires order. He set order over a brooding chaos in the very beginning of Creation.

The "all about me pants" will cause a person to become very angry if someone else gets a promotion that they did not get. It can even cause a person to take on a murderous spirit like Cain did when he slew Able. Instead of being his brother's keeper, he wants to get rid of the brother so he can be the key player.

The "all about me pants" will cause a person go to bed angry, refusing to release a person of an offense. And they will never admit their error if they have, in fact, been the offender.

People want favor in life. They want to be successful, healthy, prosperous and happy. And yet they often live defeated lives because they refuse to change their outfits. They are so busy making sure they get what belongs to them, that they don't live the life and the abundance that is offered them through Jesus Christ just for properly asking.

Eph. 6:10-18 tells us clearly how we should dress:

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

In this passage we do not see any place where we are told to put on the "all about me pants." "All about me people" live in the dark, while God wants us living in the light. So, let's give up our "all about me" attitudes. Let's burn that wardrobe and allow God to give us beauty for the ashes.