

YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY WITH GOD

by Abri Brancken , 1st Jan 2017

Introduction

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness is laid up for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but to all who crave His appearing....

Paul was a man who lived his life in pursuit of God. Paul dedicated his life to journey the road God has called him for. He was focussed.

The pivotal passage in Paul's story is Acts 9:1-22, which recounts Paul's meeting with Jesus Christ on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus. There, on the road to Damascus, Paul's life changed forever. His journey with God began. His journey would take him to many nations, to great suffering but also to great glory. Paul refused to give up on his journey prematurely, but remained faithful to God's call till the end... "I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Each of us is on a journey

Each one of us is on a journey with the Lord. Each one's journey is unique, peculiar, challenges.

You are part of a team, and how your journey affects everyone else, whether you know it or not.

The decisions you make on your life's journey, have eternal consequences.

On this journey, it is vital that we constantly grow towards spiritual maturity. Growing in maturity is a process. It does not happen automatically. It takes focus, dedication and time. God often reveals Himself through the things we go through as we journey with Him. The Bible is filled with examples of men, woman and children who chose to say yes to God and journey with Him.

We often start our journey, not knowing where it will lead to. The end destination is often hidden from us and therefore it is not always so easy to take the first step. Following God often implies travelling off the map that you have set up for your life.

Very often, God calls us to a place unfamiliar to do His will.

Abraham

Abraham had to leave his country and follow the Lord to an unknown land. Abraham had faith. So, he obeyed God. God called him to go to a place he would later receive as his own. So, he went. He did it even though he didn't know where he was going. - Hebrews 11:8

Hebrews 11:8 (NKJV) - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. Abraham had to trust God for protection, guidance, provision, health, etc.

Abraham had to keep his eye on the eternal purposes of God. If you and I lose sight of eternity, we will work against God in our day to day living, because our decisions will be based on temporal results, gratification, success.

There are many things calling each of us today, but many paths leading to various destinations, which path do we choose to walk on.

The enemy always tries to pave the path of life with many interesting parking spaces. If I say to you it is easy to follow God, I will be lying. There is a price to pay, but the reward is so sweet.

Moses

The Hebrews had grown from a family of about 70 to a people of over 2 million people. Moses had to lead them out of Egypt to the Promised Land. This journey would be through the desert. Moses had to trust God for protection, guidance, provision, health, etc. How do you feed millions of people every day in the desert?

We need a Biblical perspective in our journey with God. It is the relationship we build with God on the way. It is the lessons of faith that we learn on the way. He reveals to you who He is, and He reveals to you where to go.

The FEAR factor

Fear and doubt often grip our hearts. The thing about fear is that it paralyzes its victim.

The goal we're after is an everyday walk of unbroken communion with our Lord and friend.

In the process of our journey, God reveals His glory in the midst of difficulties.

"In our journey with God, we will face numerous challenges. Why? Is it because God does not love us or care for us? No, on the contrary, it is because He knows that in Him we are capable of achieving the impossible. That when we journey with Him, learning what we need to learn in our everyday life, giving our lives as a blessed sacrifice to the creator of the universe, we will be transformed into a people who are worthy carriers of His Name. Putting yourself at risk with only faith in God is not always easy. To step out and fully, unconditionally and unreservedly place your life in His hands is what we are called for. Thinking and being like Christ are requirements not only for an individual but also for the corporate body of believers. Together we need to think and act like one being. We simply have to say yes to the call with everything we have. There is no other way. We have to serve, encourage, and build the Kingdom in and through every opportunity presenting itself. Abraham did it, David did it, and so can you and I. So do not become discouraged by people's opinions, your own failures and weaknesses, trials, tribulations, challenges and fear, but continue regardless of all these things, for in the midst of these, He is with you and remains faithful"

God providentially weaves the threads of His call through our lives. And only we can distinguish them little by little until we are confronted by God through his Spirit who then confirms our inclinations.

If you are not completely sure of how to get where you are heading, trust in the relationship of the One who gives the promises and He will help you take the next faith step.

Will you trust God in 2017? Will we as a faith community take God by His Word and obey His guidance?

Prayer:

Let's pray the following.

1. Pray that 2017 will be a year of faith, of believing God for the impossible.
2. Pray that our faith will endure throughout 2017.
3. Pray for a mighty move of God in our midst in 2017.