

## Tired



I'm just tired and I don't know what to do! I want to quit all of it! When it comes to serving, praying, part of the choir, Sunday School leader, Bible Study, leadership team, it's a burden and I want to quit it all! Actually it's "Good" you have come to that point! You have reached a point of catharsis that ultimately reveals to you the truth that you can't do it all. The trap that many fall into is, we have deceived ourselves into believing we should be happy to do these things, even overjoyed, maybe grateful, and while to a certain extent that is correct, yet to admit that the load is heavier than we can bear is a really great point in your service to The Lord. What next?

Don't "Stop", "Reassess", you may not be "Tired" because of lack of "Energy" but rather lack of "Inspiration". Reassessment means you actively aspire to pursue another ministry, outreach or building up of the community that God is calling you to "Start". However, God may be calling you to "Continue" to do that which you are doing, just not all of it.

To start the "Reassessment" process the first concern should be, "Where does our value come from?". In the world we might consider that our value develops out of our work and while in your employer's perception that might be true, God however, doesn't view your worth through your work. While "Mission", "Ministry" and "Work" may provide you with a better stature in "The Church", it doesn't necessarily improve your position in the "Eyes of The Lord".

What is pleasing in the "Sight of The Lord"? Three important words (RIM) "Relationship", "Identity", "Mission" and in that order. Now, in the words of Kenny Rogers, "You Can Know When to Hold Em and Know When to Fold Em" as long as you keep this RIM in order.

The first step is "Relationship", and you have been brought into that relationship with God "The Father" through His Son Jesus The Christ and His Holy Spirit. This all happened as a result of your Baptism, a covenant relationship through the death and resurrection of Jesus The Christ. Paul says in Romans 5:8-11, *"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."* Jesus The Christ's sacrifice puts us into a "Loving" relationship with God the Father even though we "Did Not" deserve it.

As previously mentioned, we often get our "Identity" from that which we accomplish, but that is backwards in God's economy. Instead we get our identity through our "Relationship". Jesus The Christ said in John 15:9-11, *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* This is relationship talk and Jesus The Christ is saying that if you do what He told you to do that will make you a "Beloved Child of God" aside from anything else you might do. Keep in mind that Jesus The Christ got His "Identity" not from all the miracles He performed but from how He responded to the wishes of God the Father and who He was. We know that in Matthew 3:17 when God spoke out, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased", this happened well before Jesus The Christ had

performed any of His ministry or miracles and this can be your identity if you “Strive” to follow Jesus The Christ’s instructions as imperfectly as you might do it.

At this point we are a “Beloved Child of God The Father”! This is where “Mission” begins and “Not Because We Have To”, rather “Because We Want To”. This is where “Earnest Prayer” begins, “God what are you calling me to do?”, “You brought me into a Relationship with You and through Jesus The Christ You have given me an Identity, now I need an assignment.”, “What will I do?” You always have permission to say “Yes”, you always have permission to say “No” and even those Biblical Characters who God approached had permission to ask questions. Gratitude for what God has done for you might inspire you to return the favor but God’s Gift shouldn’t compel you into anything.

Keep in mind the words of Jesus The Christ when He said in John 15:1-8, *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”* This isn’t a promise, this is a guarantee, living in Jesus The Christ’s words and His “Commands” will insure that you bear fruit in keeping with your ability and ambition.

Mother Teresa was quoted as saying, “God did not put you in this world to be “Successful”, He put you in this world to be “Faithful”