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Dear Friends,

Before I started to read today, I wrote my usual list, and shared it with the Lord. Sharing the things that are foremost in my mind, and on my heart; and asking Him what it is He wants for me to know about these things, is of paramount importance to my day, and to my OBEDIENCE.

You see – I NEED to KNOW what it is He has to say about them, and I then NEED to KNOW what He wants for me to DO about them – ALL - of what we have just shared.

I then opened my devotional - and began to cry. I didn't get past the "title" and the scripture that accompanied it. I already had His answers to my questions.

He did go on to explain a little further, some of the detail in which He wanted for me to operate, and why; I was so humbled, and so happy, that He found me worthy of His explanations; and trustworthy to deliver the desired result. Thank You Jesus!

How do you greet your day? Do you go to the Lord and seek His counsel on what He wants for you to do today? Or do you busily get about your chosen subject matters, and decide to ask that - He bless them?

I personally CHOOSE to ask of Him FIRST - what it is He would have me be, say and do – today! Let me share 'our morning together' and I pray you too, will be blessed, by joining our journey!

Take the Initiative! (Wow! ...The answer to my question!)

Act 20:35 "...It is more blessed to give than to receive." (NIV).

By now I needed tissues. This is **'the opportunity to exercise the CALL'** in the ministry God has chosen for me to do. (**The - NEED is not the same as the CALL — the NEED is the opportunity to EXERCISE the CALL.**) God is so good to me. I never need to wait very long, before He tells me the things I need to KNOW. But I needed to read on...

When the Good Samaritan saw the wounded man, the priest and the Levite had already 'passed by'; **he took the initiative and went out of his way to help him.** Jesus ended His parable by saying, **'...Go and do likewise...'** (Luke 10:37 NKJV).

... **Most of us recognise the value of taking the initiative. We acknowledge its importance in relationships, yet we still don't do it.** We wait for the other person to make the first move. **But all that does - is lead to missed opportunities.**

Pastor Malcolm Bane observed, **'If you wait until you can do everything for everybody, instead of something for somebody, you'll end up not doing anything for anybody.'**

If you're serious about helping others, and you want to walk in God's blessing, don't wait — initiate! The **'perfect moment'** seldom arrives.

An old Jewish proverb says, **'The wise do at once what the fool does at last.'**

Initiating a conversation often feels awkward. Offering help means risking rejection. Giving to others can lead to misunderstanding. You won't feel ready or comfortable in such moments; you just have to learn to get past those feelings of awkwardness and insecurity.

To help people, you must go ahead and do what others never quite get around to.

So right now take the initiative!

Go out on a limb — that's where the fruit is. (Referenced – The Word for Today)...

Then I read - **Is He Really My Lord?**

That is a very important question. And the Lord may well ask it of us; because He is about to return to gather up His Bride; and if He is NOT Lord of our life, we will be left behind!

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from [which was entrusted to me by] the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news (Gospel) of God's grace (His unmerited favour, spiritual blessing, and mercy).

JOY comes from seeing, (evidence), the complete fulfilment of the specific purpose for which I was created and born again, NOT from successfully doing

something of my own choosing. *The joy our Lord experienced came from doing what the Father sent Him to do.* And He says to us, **“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you”** (John 20:21).

Have you received a ministry from the Lord? If so, you must be faithful to it — to consider your life valuable only for the purpose of fulfilling that ministry. *KNOWING that you have done what Jesus sent you to do, think how satisfying it will be to hear Him say to you, **“Well done, good and faithful servant”** (Matt 25:21).*

We each have to find a niche in life, and – **spiritually - we find it when we receive a ministry from the Lord.** *To do this we must have close fellowship with Jesus (INTIMACY), and must know Him as **MORE THAN** our personal Saviour.*

“Do you love Me?” Then, **“Feed My sheep”** (John 21:17). **He is not offering us a choice of how we can serve Him.**

He is asking for **absolute loyalty** to **His commission**, a **faithfulness** to **what we discern** - when we are in the **closest possible fellowship (intimacy)** with God.

If you have received a - **ministry from the Lord Jesus, YOU WILL KNOW that the NEED is not the same as the CALL — the NEED is the opportunity to EXERCISE the CALL.** **The CALL is to be faithful to the ministry you received when you were in true fellowship with Him (INTIMACY).**

This **does not** imply that there is a whole series of differing ministries marked out for you. **It does mean that you must be sensitive to what God has called you to do,** and this may sometimes require, **ignoring demands for service, in other areas.** (Referenced - Oswald Chambers).

Isa 54:14 You shall establish yourself in righteousness (rightness, in conformity with God's will and order): you shall be far from even the thought of oppression or destruction, for you shall not fear, and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

Isa 54:15 Behold, they may gather together and stir up strife, but it is not from Me. Whoever stirs up strife against you shall fall and surrender to you.

Isa 54:16 Behold, I have created the smith who blows on the fire of coals and who produces a weapon for its purpose; and I have created the devastator to destroy.

Isa 54:17 But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]; this is the righteousness or the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the Lord.

Have you ever asked yourself why some Christians are constantly beset with overwhelming challenges, sicknesses, and defeat, if God's promise, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper" is true?

Well, this promise comes with a condition ... (as does ALL of scripture. Jesus was obedient to The Father, as we need be obedient to The Son, if we too, want to be partakers together in Heavenly places) — "In righteousness you shall be established".

WHEN you are established in righteousness, you will be far from oppression and terror, and NOT - a single weapon formed against you will prosper! Hallelujah!

This CONDITION is NOT HARD to meet. For a start, YOU ALREADY have RIGHTEOUSNESS! When you received Jesus as your Saviour, you received the gift of righteousness, which enables you to reign in life. (Romans 5:17)

This righteousness does not come from you, but the Lord. (Isaiah 54:17)

And WHEN you are — "established in His righteousness, NO WEAPON formed against you, will prosper"...Amen!

But what does being established in righteousness mean?

To be established in something is to have that something as your very foundation for security. So God wants you to know, be sure of, and grow, in the revelation that: "...you are righteous by the blood of Jesus, by His perfect sacrifice at the cross." (Referenced – Destined to Reign).

A day in the life of 'His child' and their quest for His instructions, and how best to expedite the implementations of same, can be a very challenging, but even more rewarding, experience. NO MORE do I have to guess, as to what it is, I really needed to KNOW and to DO. NO MORE was I thinking, thinking, and thinking!

I ask the questions; He answers; I OBEY! Mission accomplished!

I am overjoyed, and blessed beyond measure; as is whomever else (the recipient of my obedience); and God gets to bask in the afterglow of my obedience, and the blessings - that instant decision to ASK – then freely GIVE – has brought to His children. ***BLESSING is always the reward of OBEDIENCE!*** We may have to wait for Heaven to see the RESULTS of that harvest – but Oh the JOY in KNOWING you will hear – ***'Well done, good and faithful, (and obedient) servant.'*** Amen!

Till next month - From my house to yours - Blessings of the abundant kind!

Leila Nord.

