

Follow Me

Eph 2:10

Eph talks about us as God's workmanship God actually created us for good works. Not only good works but predestined good works this does not mean that everything we do is predestine. We do many good works but then predestine good works – God's specific purpose for your specific life. He has a ministry for every believer but it doesn't mean we will walk in it. Part of verse says we should walk in. Might decide not to. Should means a possibility. Just because you are born again does not come automatically we have to decide so a should becomes a would.

Mat 22:14

What does that mean? Study context speaks about God calls us and if we respond he chooses us. People say I found God – Howard says God was never lost. He chose us but we need to respond.

Our first response is salvation but goes beyond that goes to God's purpose for our lives.

Rev. 17:14

Called, chosen and faithful – 3 steps. Just because we are chosen does not fulfill what we are to do, we need to walk consistently in the calling until we are found faithful. Sad when people wasted God's purposes. Wasted their lives. Some not interested, distracted, not found faithful. What is wonderful is He does it, we seek. Of all the things, we can waste is time. Everything else requires effort. That is the biggest problem. You won't even realize you have wasted it.

Gal 6:7-9

Sowing and reaping principle – when planting something not immediately a harvest that is why people get deceived. When they sow something and don't see something immediate, thinks all is okay or what is the purpose. When we sow to the flesh. Live is great I am enjoying myself but later a bad harvest comes. Never heard and addict being happy about it. When we sow to the spirit we don't see a result immediately, consistency in prayer etc. After time will see a wonderful harvest and see God's purpose in our life.

2 Thes 3: 12&13

So we see don't grow weary in doing good – 2nd time we see this. This is in the simple things of life, work, school. Easy to be great in the moment of crisis. But true greatness is being faithful in the mundane.

Heb 12:1&2

What does it mean great cloud of witnesses? We are looking at what they have done. Who are they Heb chapter 12:1. Those who were faithful. Greatest example looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Motivated by love – self-sacrifice motivated by love. So for us we need to be motivated by love. I tried to help that person and look how ungrateful they are. First love to God and then those around us.

Heb 6:12

Sluggish means to be lazy, neglect or ignore. We can ignore God's promises. Love reading testimonies of people who stayed faithful.

1 Corth 4:15-17

Paul says imitate me. When we first come to Christ and be disciple my someone we follow their example. Thankful for that disciple me.

1 Corth 11:1

Now takes to next step. First become believer was amazed by friend who could open up the bible and find things. Thought that was amazing. Now knew he kept reading the word of God. Next step now we imitate them in areas they imitate Christ. Ex. Robert Ewing – God used him to change my life. Some things were really wonderful characteristic. One thing loves peanut butter put on white bread and dip it into milk – will not imitate that. Not personality character of God manifest through them. Third step

Eph 5:1&2

We can look to God directly now.

1. Imitate those lead us to Christ
2. Imitate their character
3. Follow God

Math 4:18-20

When God calls us don't wait. When you are to pray don't say I will pray later – do it now.

Math 9:9

Wow he is there with money etc he leaves everything behind. He responded to the call

John 1:43

So we see this pattern over and over again

Mar 10:17-27

There are many wonderful things in this story. First young man coming to Jesus. His response was sincere. Jesus loved him. Saw his heart that he wanted to walk with Jesus. Jesus was giving him an invitation to be one of his disciples. Can you imagine walking with Jesus? He gave it up even though he could have been close to him, not all had that invitation. Many believers do not walk closely with Jesus. We have the same opportunity. Covetousness, pride, lust, bitterness – hold on to those thinking they are precious. We do not know the delight of walking with Jesus. The problem was not the riches but the riches had the young man. Nothing wrong with procession of this world it is our attitude. The young man was broken hearted. I have seen so many times that people want to serve God but not badly enough to give things up. How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God. Trust in riches – that was the problem. Trust anywhere else will stop us from following.

Prov 23:5

You will be sadly disappointed to trust in anything else. When looking at the Greek means exactly how it is written.

With men it is impossible but with God all things are possible. Things in our lives can't overcome but with God it can be. If you try to overcome you will fail. How to overcome – on your knees. It requires us to turn to Him and ask to be set free.

John 21:21,22

Sometimes people stumble because they look at what is happening with others and wonder how come they get blessed. Not our business.

God what do you want to do in my life? You follow me.

Sometimes it is good to see what others are going through to follow Christ – going to jail etc.

We can be more thankful and gives us an opportunity to be more generous etc.

John 10:27

How many times believers say I can't hear. If read carefully it does not say my lambs but my sheep. Sheep have been trained. Instead of complaining learn how to grow from a lamb to a sheep. That is why it is could to have been disciple you.

Spend time in the word of God – 1st way to learn how to hear. Till we hear Jesus voice and recognize.

Gave examples.

Math 8:18-27

One of the disciples said I will go wherever you go. Jesus said where I go no guarantee everything will be comfortable and all your wants be met needs but not wants. Once come to Jesus all be okay – no. Let me bury dead first. We can say I will serve God after that – will not happen to walk with the Lord after you finish something. So get in the boat huge storm comes. Something we think have we missed you? Maybe did not have enough faith. They followed Jesus right into a storm. There will be time in your life you will follow him instead of peaceful and prospering it is a storm. Did I miss your will. No you followed and He led you for strengthening. They had little faith. When things don't go well shows your level of faith. So when they saw the miracle they said what man is this. They got to know Jesus more. Don't get discouraged if it does not work out. He is teaching us to follow him.

2nd Pet 1:1-11

Theme 2nd Peter – knowledge. 2nd Tim experiencing God through experience. Talks about grace and peace multiplies through knowledge of God. Diligence, faith virtue knowledge self-control godliness kindness... if you do these you will not be barren. If you lack these things short sighted. If you are not growing in Christ short sighted. They backslide. What is the use to do these things. The obvious does not become obvious things anymore. Forgot you are cleansed from your sins. We have forgotten how significant being saved is. Grow into this until we grow more and more. Till we say this is amazing I have eternal life and he is walking with me every day.

Short sightedness don't see what is ahead or what has been done in the past – what he has done for us.

Heb 11:13-16

Seen a far off. We need to recalibrate our hearts. This is not our homeland. Short sighted does not work out now it is wrong. Look towards eternity helps us overcome troubles. Also gives us a desire to to Gods will because we know about eternity. Sometimes things happen and we get disappointed. Talked about the Hiding Place. Why were they caught? Because in the consecration camp many came to know the Lord through them. Then had own ministry afterwards sharing everywhere. Then talked about the movie Billy Graham made about this. He wants us to keep trusting him that he has a plan. If you continue to trust you will see the wonderful plan unfold.

Acts 8:3,4

Saul causing havoc in the church, dragging people off, this is terrible, we are trying to serve God. Vs 4 said they went everywhere. God saw the church in danger of becoming in grown. So wonderful just us and Jesus. Forgot the go part. I will help by allowing Saul to produce havaco. So people went everywhere and gospel was spread. What god meant for evil turned out for good.

2 Corth 4:16-18

Recalibrate my heart I read these verses. At 61 I get it. Paul who went through all these difficult times called it light and momentary problems, why? Bringing forth eternal glory. The temporal things short sighted. Fart sighted when cannot see.