

Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship
Pastor William Dawson
Prayer Meeting 2-27-07 “What Do You Want From Jesus”?

Some people followed Jesus for the food He provided in the desert, as well as for the miracles He performed. They were with Jesus for what they could take from Him. It was all about them being blessed. As long as they were blessed, they were happy, and satisfied. This bless me philosophy is driving much of the behavior, and programs we see in church today. The church community was excited about the book “The Prayer of Jabez” because it taught them how to pray for God to enlarge their territory, and bless them indeed. The excitement died when it was time to go from “being blessed” to “being a blessing.” Too many church members are only looking for way God can benefit them. They are not willing to work as hard for others to be blessed.

What type of believer are you? Before you answer, think about your thoughts, and behavior last week? Did you only cry out to God for your needs, or did you cry just as fervently for others? Be honest with yourself? If you are only focused on you, and your family, ask God to help you grow enough to be concerned about others.

John 6:15. Some people followed Jesus because they wanted Him to change the political powers of their day. The Romans oppressed them, and they wanted a power-shift. They were following Jesus because of their personal agenda. They were willing to take Jesus by force, and make Him king. Wow! Have you ever forced God to do something for you? Have you ever prayed, “God if you do this one thing for me, then I will serve you for the rest of my life.” This group saw how popular and powerful Jesus was. They wanted to use the power of religion to change society. Have you noticed how some Christian groups try to use this same method for changing society? Some Christians support any religious group that will push their agenda, even if the party they support get involved in torturing prisoners. What are these Christian groups doing wrong when they put all their support in one political party? Why didn’t Jesus allow the crowd to change His agenda?

Remember Jesus did not carry the burden of the people. He carried the burden of the Lord. God the Father had sent Jesus to establish a heavenly government Jesus was here to establish the Kingdom of God. Believers who would use church politics to gain positions, and control ministries to fulfill their desires surrounded him. **These believers were operating under the spirit of witchcraft, and sorcery. They were using the church for their personal gain. They wanted to fight to overthrow the set-order of the Kingdom.** How does witchcraft work in the church today? What system do you operate under? What have you done to support Kingdom order, and government?

John 6:41-52. Notice how this group refused to learn. They enjoyed doubting Him. They spread discord, and unbelief among the brethren. They encouraged the people to reject Him. This group is found in church. They block everything the pastor wants to do. They want to question every move, and decision made by the pastor, or established leadership. They resist the Kingdom flow of government in the church. They pick off the weak, ignorant members of the flock. Just a note of caution – be careful about who you allow close to you, and hang around you. If they are not submitted in obedience to church leadership, stay away from them. They will pull you away from your blessing. These rebellious saints are around you, not because they care about you, but because they are jealous of your progress, and they are lonely in their rebellion. Remember misery loves company. What are some of the things people may say to remove your confidence in pastoral leadership? How can you tell when someone is trying to destroy your confidence, and support for your leaders? How can you tell when someone is getting close to you to draw you away from Kingdom government? What should you do when you recognize someone is trying to draw you away? Are you brave enough to speak up for your church, and leadership?

It is possible to leave everything to follow Jesus, and yet not be sure of your personal destination or destiny. You may be following Him, but do not know His ways or His goals. In this case, you are going in the right direction but have not peace, or rest in your soul because your trust is not fully in Him. When you are trying to be obedient, and yet not completely trusting you will experience many inner doubts, and struggles. Anxiety and fear will follow your every move. **Mark 9:30-34; 10:32-34.**

There are people in the church who carry a spirit of fear, and anxiety. They do not feel complete in Christ. They feel there must be something more that needs to be added to their faith in order for Jesus to **be able** to fulfill His word. They are their own worse enemy. Are you resting in Jesus or are you still fighting to be accepted? Do you know for certain that God loves you, and there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more? If you are not certain of His love, what can you do right now to become certain? What is your part? What is God's part?