

How We Get in our Own Way; Part 2

II Timothy 2:24-26 - In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.

We've all done it, locked our keys in the car, locked ourselves out of our house, burned a meal, stubbed our toe, bumped our head or forgot some important appointment. These are frustrations but not life altering things. It's the serious issues we are looking at because life is tough enough as it is without getting in our own way. Let's look at other ways we get in our own way.

1. We expect perfection from ourselves - This produces a myriad of problems such as; comparing ourselves to others which results in feelings of superiority or inferiority, never being happy with anything we do, not allowing ourselves mercy for our mistakes, not allowing ourselves time to develop, giving up and quitting, not being willing to try anything new. The worst response is when we feel we have achieved a "perfect" result and hold others to our standard. Note: We need to know God is not looking for perfect performance but a perfect heart. Having a perfect heart is easily obtained because we are saved by grace through faith and **NOT OF WORKS LEAST WE SHOULD BOAST; Ephesians 2: 8-9.**

EXAMPLE - We look at a baby who can't read, write, walk, talk or take care of themselves and never expect perfection. We only want the baby to develop normally as it should. Our expectations are in line with the babies age. God is the same with us except He loves us more than we do our own children.

2. We rebel against authority and serve with a wrong spirit.

Romans 13:1-2 - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgement on themselves. Another way of saying, "They get in their own way.

Natural authority and spiritual authority delegated to people on this earth does not constitute supreme authority over our lives. We are never to obey natural or spiritual leaders when they clearly command us to disobey the dictates of scripture. But authority both natural and spiritual represent a law. And just as the law of gravity is no respecter of persons neither is the law of authority. You either learn to work with it or it will work against you.

All of us live in a world and are subject to laws that govern our behavior. Many also work for other people. This doesn't mean we have to like or agree with everyone and every decision. But the attitude of our heart cannot be rebellious, angry, dishonoring, or complaining. The scripture is clear; those who resist will bring judgement on themselves. How you serve others is a reflection of your relationship with God.

Ephesians 6: 5-7 - Verse 7 says; with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.

3. We don't listen - Matthew 24:4 - Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. So according to Jesus, our hearing has everything to do with our having. And I'm not implying "stuff" but wisdom, guidance, assurance, revelation from the Word and many other blessings from God. We also get in our own way when we listen to the wrong people; **I Kings 12: 1-16.**

Note: If we were honest we can all look in our past and see where God was trying to use certain people to speak to us about issues in our lives. **II Timothy 4: 3-4 - talks about a time when people will have itching ears (meaning they only want to hear what they want to hear) and then they will, "turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables."**

The Christian life is hard enough. Everyday we are living in a system that is against us. Sin, selfish people and that system are enough to drain any Christian of their energy. We only add to the strain when we get in our own way. By eliminating the areas where we are hurting ourselves we free up strength and energy to fight in greater battles. Greater battles mean greater victories.