

When You Stop Reckoning

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Hello! This is Dorothy -

I was just reflecting upon the church I went to as a child. They were very nice people; all of them were our best friends, but none of us really knew the Lord in a living, intimate way. One day, as a young person, I was singing in the choir and we were given this little musical piece to sing, which was in a bit different from usual. It was *God Is A Spirit*. (God is Spirit, that word really should be.) **God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24).** At that time, I went to a ladies' school and I know the head of the school would say, "I do not like to use the word *must*, but when I do use it, it must be applied!" So it bothered me - this word ***must***. So, I tried to seek help to find out what it meant that I ***must worship God in spirit and in truth***. I do thank God that He has taken this inquiring heart and He has, in my latter years, shown me what this really means. I cannot worship God in Spirit, until I myself, first and foremost, receive God the Holy Spirit by being born-again in His family. When I am born-again into His family, I realize Jesus Christ is Truth and He gives the Spirit of Truth and His Word is Truth.

When do I stop reckoning on death to self and really let this crucified life work in such a normal way? You see, if self gets in the way and

slips off my place of being on the Cross and becomes active again, as it surely will when you stop reckoning, I have to confess it immediately, because reckoning, *counting upon the fact*, is essential. In other words, you have so many pieces of coinage in your hand and you need so much to purchase the food for the family. No amount of hoping it will be enough is going to make it so; you have to take what you have and reckon on that amount. That is what happens when we reckon and realize that in Christ, we are crucified; we count upon the fact.

In **Ezekiel 47**, there is a beautiful description of a river, a river a blessing which left the temple and it went straight for the dead sea. It is kind of interesting to me. I know there is a place called the Dead Sea, but this is the dead sea, because it is a reminder that the Spirit of the Lord really flows the most when I **reckon (myself) indeed unto sin and alive unto the Lord. (Romans 6:11)**. This river brought healing and fruitfulness on its way, except when it came in contact with the marshes. When I enthrone Christ in my life, which is His temple and He is the King of my life, the rivers of living waters will begin to flow. As they begin to flow and there is abundant fruit around, it is so easy to take credit and to get in the way, like the marshes, and hinder what the Lord wanted to do. Somehow, it is so easy to fall prey to the attack of the enemy and to think there is a certain knowledge that you have or a certain wisdom, when all the time the Word of God shows the Lord

is our wisdom. He will give direction in everything. So, instead of the normal of the river flowing through me, soul winning suddenly becomes my job and my specialty. Unfortunately, this brings much confusion.

In **Matthew 4:19**, we see such a life when the Lord called to His disciples and said, . . . **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.** He says the same thing today. He is saying, 'If you follow Me, there is spiritual fruit.' In other words, this river that goes forth is going to bring forth fruit. It is enough for the disciple. People are saying, 'Oh well, I can't be like Him.' No, you cannot be like Him, but you can contain Him, and He is the life. People then see Him; they have His reflection. You see, the Lord went to the place of the Cross. Somehow, we love God to use our life in some way or another, but we hate to remember that as the Lord went to the Cross, I need to go to the Cross. I need to see that it is death to self : out of my self that it might be into His self, into His service. It is His empowering; it is His working. The secret of His saving love flowing through me, impelling those around to turn to Him in His resurrection power, is all about Him. To live this Christian life simply means I must allow Him to live that life through me by faith, to see, yes, God is Spirit. *Lord, it is You. I must worship Him in truth in You and thank You by faith for what You will do for Your glory.*

In Jesus' Name. Amen.