

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS

***"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."
(Galatians 6:7)***

There is a famous story that speaks about a woman who alone brought up her child. The boy is the only child to his mother and he was loved and cared of with kindness and mercy. But this mother went beyond norm that she accepted even the wrong ways of the child. She was agreeing with him and satisfying all his requests whether right or wrong justifying that he is still a boy who needs to be loved and cared for. She has kept the same attitude and supported him until he grew up without receiving any discipline. One evening he came home with an egg in his hand and called his mother: "Mum, I brought an egg for you from the hen of our neighbour!" The mother was so glad that his son had given her something but she never asked him how he took the eggs. The son progressed and succeeded in his profession until one time his business collapsed. In order to regain his lost he practiced corruption, cheated a lot of people and engaged to illegal businesses. Again he earned much money but the police authority was after him. His mother recognized that her son is in the wrong path but now she no longer can speak to him nor advise him because his behaviour and lifestyle is already beyond her control. Finally he was caught by the policemen and for his multiple crimes and murderous acts the court sentenced him to death. The mother lost his beloved son and the son was denied for abundant and eternal life.

The above story may not be related to your life situation, but meditate on how a little seed of wrong action can bring barriers and thorns in the person's life. A small deviation from the truth and righteousness will end to a situation of loss and defeat.

"Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but you harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but you are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it'." (Hagai 1:5-6)

Every human desires to love and be loved; to care and be cared of; to work and to receive reward. But why to certain situations or many times people do not receive what they expect:

1- You toil much in planting but gain little fruit and poor harvest. This is because God is not the center of your life. Your first priorities are the things concerning your personal benefits or to accomplish and satisfy your own ambition, and God's business is only secondary for you. But, ***"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all His commands that I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. The Lord will open the heaven, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands."*** (Deuteronomy 28: 1, 12) When you do God's will and you obey Him and following all his decrees you will gain the best harvest. You suffer and live difficult life because you are working hard to serve yourself but not to serve God. You do not accomplish God's will and plan but you

struggle to do your own will and accomplish your own plan. Moreover, you do not know the will of God for you because you will only know when you receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and after the Holy Spirit will come to you to teach you all truth and to lead you to a righteous way of life.

2- You eat and drink and wear nice clothes but you are never satisfied. This is because you gather things not essential for living. You cannot live by delicious food and drinks alone. You need the living word of God. Material things are consumed, worn out and disappear after a time. And to any man who is only after material things, ***"God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.'" (Luke 12:20-21)***

3- You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it. This is because your money is dispersed in ways God is not pleased with. In addition, your disobedience to the Lord cancels the grace of God in your life and brings curses to you and your family. Your money is spent in the hospitals due to your sickness, taxes and penalties for your cars and houses, and you invite robbers and thieves as they see your material wealth and jewelries. What you fail to give to the Lord as your tithes and offerings is taken away by diseases and pestilence a hundredfold. ***"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** (Romans 6:23) The payment of sin and disobedience to God is loss, suffering, destruction, defeat and finally death. For every sin done or committed there are consequences. You will carry the bad effects of your sins which may arise sooner or later in your life. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Through Jesus there is forgiveness because He has already paid the price of your sins by his death on the cross. Through Him you have the hope, through Him you gain abundant and eternal life. After having Christ Jesus in your life, ***"If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murder or theft or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name."*** (1 Peter 4:14-16)

My dear and beloved: From time to time we need to take a break and examine ourselves through the word of God, which acts like a mirror for us; through it we can see what things we need to reconsider, things that need to be taken out to cleanse ourselves, and to see the right and perfect way of a meaningful life. ***"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does."*** (James 1: 22-25)

"Father God in heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.