

January 30, 2022

II Corinthians 1:12-2:4

Faithfulness, fickleness, fatherliness, falseness, fondness, firmness.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Paul proposes two visits with them in his future travel itinerary. When you truly care for someone, you desire to spend time with them every chance you get. Consider your church attendance and your level of desire to be in church. (Hebrews 10:25)

The sealing of the Holy Spirit is that of ownership. This signifies that the believer is God's property. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30)

These false prophets were seeking to diminish the finished work of Jesus. They claimed that just as Paul was untrustworthy, so was his message. That did not sit well with him because he knew more than anyone the source and validity of his message, God breathed. Paul was backed up by Silvanus/Silas, and Timothy regarding the Truth of their message. What troubled him greatly was that some were being swayed by the false teachers. "So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude." (Col. 2:6-7.)

In verses 21-22 Paul uses the following verbs: strengthens, anointed (for service), sealed (God's eternal possession), and gave (the indwelling Holy Spirit) as he describes God's provision for us that we may claim these promises as our own. (Peter 1:3-8)

Real love does the hard thing. It may cause one anguish and tears but it must be done in the face of unrepentant sin. This is true love for someone. Proverbs 27:6, faithful are the wounds of a friend.

Application: WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED

Do not let your faith be affected by every wind of doctrine. Test whatever "new message" you hear by the measuring rod of Scripture. This is why the Lord gave us the Bible, it is our instruction book on what to believe and how to live out the Christian life. Hymn, *I Love You Lord, And I Lift My Voice To Worship You.*

Second, if someone comes along with a new message/doctrine, you have a built in safeguard. At the instant this false message enters your ears the Holy Spirit who is "given" to all believers will immediately cause you to question what is being said. Hymn, *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus!*

Third, upon being warned by God that something is not right about what is being said, it is your duty to go to the Word of God and test it against what God has said, not what a person has said. If the message proves to be false, reject the doctrine they are trying to impose on you. Hymn, *I know Whom I Have Believed.*

Fourth, the prompting of the Holy Spirit is to move you to Scripture to check things out. Every believer should be a student of the Word, have a working knowledge of the Word and an immovable assurance that the Bible is infallible. This simply means that you are convinced that it is God's Word to His children and is absolutely trustworthy. Discipleship and discipline are key to being useful instruments in the Redeemer's hands. Hymn, *The B-I-B-L-E, that's the book for me!*

Fifth, think back on how you came to know the Lord. Consider the undeniable life changing Truth that was shared with you by someone. Now, consider the character of those who shared the good news with you, were they wrong? Can the life changing power of God that has absolutely changed your life really be put into question just because some people came and knocked on your door with a different message? Hymn, *When I Survey The Wonderful Cross*.

Sixth, as your faith grows stronger and you become a well equipped soldier of the Lord **II Timothy 2:15**, able to handle the Word accurately; will you join Paul in defending Truth and purity even if it means suffering hardships and false accusations as Paul did throughout his entire ministry? Hymn, *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus*.

Seventh, acknowledge that this is not possible in your own strength and totally rely on God. Think back on just a portion of His promises given to His children that are listed in **verses 21-22**. Claim those promises as your own. After all, in Christ, they are your promises. Hymn, *Standing On The Promises Of God*.