

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

Do or Do not. Be or Be not. There is no try.

Matthew 5: 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

If you are Star Wars fan like me, you recognize these words from the movie, "The Empire Strikes Back." Master Yoda is teaching a young Luke Skywalker the ways of the force. He is instructing Luke on how to tap into and use the power he already has inside of him. Luke makes the mistake and utters, "I will try." It is then he receives the rebuke and correction from Yoda. "Do or Do not. Be or Be not. There is no try."

We have adopted this mindset as children of God, operating in the Kingdom of God. If it is one thing that I constantly hear as a Pastor from people dealing with the issues of life is, "I Will Try." We mean well when we say it. We try to be a good Christian, we try to be a good spouse, we try to be a good parent, we try to live right, we try, we try, and we try. Search the scriptures and find that God never commanded us to try. It is not in the Bible. God did not tell Noah to try to build an ark. He did not tell Moses to try and deliver the children of Israel out of bondage. He did not tell David to try to be a King. He is not telling us today to try and do or try and be something. When God uses the word try in the scripture, the word is always referring to being tested. He tries the heart, He tries the reigns. We are to try or test the spirits whether they are of God.

We have to renew our minds and our vocabulary and discontinue using the word try as it relates to operating in the Kingdom of God. If we continue to try to do something or try to be something, we will continue to fail. Subsequently we will use trying as an excuse for our failure. How often do we hear people say, "I tried but it didn't work."? Or they will say, "I am trying or I will try." Before I understood this revelation of truth, I tried and failed at being a good husband. I tried and failed at a consistent, disciplined Christian walk. I would have continued to fail if I had not understood how to operate in the Kingdom of God. In the Kingdom of God we either do or we do not. We either are, or we are not. In the text above Jesus declares that we are the light of the world. Since we are the light of the world, it would be foolish for me to say I am going to try to shine. Lights don't try to shine. They are either on or off. Jesus says "Let your light shine before men..." The choice to shine is ours. There is a difference between a choice and an attempt. We make the mistake of not distinguishing between the two. We say we tried rather than making the choice to do or to be. I cannot try to be a man. I am a man and now it is up to me to make choices and decisions that line up with who I am. Today stop trying and DO. Stop trying and BE! Make it a great day.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Please join me today in lifting up the soldiers and families in Fort Hood Texas, who lost loved ones and who are in hospital as a result of the tragedy that occurred yesterday. Many of us may not be able to go there and comfort them personally, but we can send our prayers together to comfort them and give them peace. The effectual fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill