

No Excuses!

I was sitting in a prayer meeting recently, and we started by reading some of the promises of God, and some of the assurance we receive as born again, blood bought, children of the living God. As we prayed, and as I listened to the promises of God, I realized that all my excuses were worthless.

You see, I am the kind of Christian who wishes things were different; different in the world, different in the Church, different in my family, different in my life. But I must confess, I am also the kind of Christian who wishes someone would fix it for me. I pray that God would fix it. I complain that other Christians are not doing enough, and declare that if they would just turn off their TV's and quit playing around, something could get accomplished.

You have to understand that I am the kind of Christian who has a lot of responsibility: family, job, church work. I am too busy to fix it myself. "What could I do?" "God, when I get out of debt, then I..." "When my kids get older, then I..." "If my wife would just..." "If the pastor would only..."

But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus... (Luke 10:29)

Maybe you, like me, are an expert at excusing yourself. But as I looked at just a few of the promises of God, I saw that there is absolutely no excuse. I try to excuse my sloth, my silence, my lack of impact in the world around me. I try to give reasons why I can't go, and don't have money to send. I try to rationalize away missed opportunities to preach the gospel, or help someone in need.

Here is the problem. When I am telling God my excuses, I am talking to myself. Because if I were talking to God, it would go more like this:

ME: Lord, you know that is not my gift (or strength)

THE LORD: My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

ME: Lord, you know that if it tithes, I will not be able to pay the rent this month.

THE LORD: But I shall supply all your need according to my riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

ME: Lord, you know I didn't mean to look at that, but I just could not resist.

THE LORD: There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but I AM faithful, I will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

ME: Lord, I am afraid.

THE LORD: Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (Isaiah 41:10)

ME: I can't.

THE LORD: You can do all things through Me. (Philippians 4:13)

So what excuses are you making? Are you sitting life out and living excuses? Now is not the time! **There are no excuses.** God has given us His word, and it is full of promises. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:3-4:

...His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The promises of God are designed specifically to enable us to do all the things we know we ought to do. If fact, most of the "oughts" that plague your conscience, are simply the things God is looking for you to step out in faith on His promises and do. No more excuses - just do it!