

## **We Can't Play God and Submit to God — At The Same Time**

**It's impossible to play God and submit to God. It's impossible to surrender to God and play the part of God. Because they "know" what God should do or should've done. You can't help those who don't want to be helped.**

**Is there a situation or circumstance in your life that's hijacked your joy and just gnawing at your contentment? Is there something eroding your sensitivity, to be awed by God, like a steady stream of water overflowing its banks? That something, whatever it is, doesn't have to own you. Wherever we center or place our focus, and therefore, give our attention unto, is who or what we work for... therefore, they own us as long as we are serving its agenda. And life's situations and circumstances are a tough task master to serve... they will manipulate you and fill your peace with grief and sorrow. And the longer you serve it --- the more bitter and negative you'll become. How do we escape the "thing" that's eating away at us? We escape, not the circumstance but who we serve, by**

putting our focus on something bigger and brighter and better. We shift our focus and attention on the One who will use that situation in our lives to make us bigger and brighter and better for going through it with our minds fixed upon Him.

When your joy is hijacked, and your peace is under attack, turn your eyes upon Jesus and place your faith in Him --- for He promises to keep you in perfect peace, no matter what you have to face. Trust Him with your life and the things you go through. Follow His lead, listen for His voice and rejoice in the victory He ushers into your struggles...from day to day.

## Wrestling with the Work of God

### Can I encourage you today?

There once was a man who struggled with what God was doing, what God would allow and who God would use. This man was a contemporary of several other prophets, including Jeremiah. His struggle was real but it was based on his reality and not the reality of

**God. If you're wrestling with your reality, and not resting in God's reality, that may be the very reason for your unrest. Misinformation and misapplied truth set him up to be devastated by the news of what God has done, doing and will do. This misinformation put him in a tailspin of misrepresentation of God and His glory.**

**This very same man went from a struggling witness to a servant with a living faith that surrendered to the truth, peace and rest of letting God be God of all. God's reality become his reality and he found rest and hope and joy in the Lord and the reality of his circumstances and future were no longer a threat but something to embrace, endure and enjoy. This is how Habakkuk explained the difference in his new found hope.**

**"Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls [in short, in spite of losing all my livelihood and provision] — Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make**

my feet [bountiful] like deer's feet, and He will make me walk [and overcome all the rocks and obstacles I must face] as I climb the high hills of my life..." (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

**"IN THIS you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, IF NEED BE, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to PRAISE, HONOR, and GLORY at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you LOVE. Though now you do not see Him, yet BELIEVING, you REJOICE with joy inexpressible and full of glory, RECEIVING the end of your faith the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:6-9**

I shared this with y'all Sunday and it helps me to recall this passage when I'm facing trials. Maybe it can help you when you need it! It goes like this...

If need be,  
I'll be,  
If YOU'll be,

**So WE can be...**

**A blessing to others!**

**The understanding...**

**If need be, (Lord, You know what's best.)**

**I'll be, (A vessel to go through whatever You want.)**

**If YOU'LL be, (With me in this fire.)**

**So WE can be... (That You work through me, so we can be...)**

**A blessing to others!**

**Through it all, it's truly a sweet joy being an everyday missionary with Jesus and you. May we recover that sense of childlike wonder... and continually cultivate an atmosphere of passion that delights in being enraptured and amazed by Jesus. (Isaiah 26:3 ; Acts 16:25-34)**

**Yes, may we continue to encourage each other — in and through — the every day battles of life for the glory of Jesus.**

**If need be...**

I must admit — how ugly, foolish, mean and ungrateful and ungodly I'd be if it were not for the word of God. Jude encouraged the brethren to contend for the faith by identifying the ungodly and keeping themselves in the unhindered flow of God's love. To do this they would need to build themselves up by trust God and the word of His grace. And without His Spirit leading me and giving me the supernatural ability to understand and comprehend the word I'd be worthless. Two things we can't live effectively without: We need God's UNCTION (His power and presence) and His UNDERSTANDING (His perception and perspectives on everything).

Ungodliness, no matter if it's done innocently or intentionally, will manifest itself in a variety of shapes and forms — but the foundation of every ungodly person and each act of ungodliness is all rooted in this:

(1) Not believing that God is who He says He is...

(2) Not believing God will do what He says He'll do...

**Jude deals with this in a pointed and intentional way... it's worth the read and it's only twenty-five power packed verses. He uses the word "ungodly" no less than six times in his brief message to the church.**

**I encourage you. Take God at His word, trust Jesus with everything you got and ain't got, follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in everything you do or don't do, love on people for Jesus sake and be gracious with those who don't see things as you do.**

**As the Lord refers to rebuking the devil... the Scriptures teach us that even the highest order of angels refer to God — the One who has the authority to rebuke Satan. We have the responsibility to obey the Lord. "Yet in the same way, these also in their dreaming defile the flesh, despise authority, and slander celestial beings. "But Michael, the archangel, when contending with the devil and arguing about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him an abusive condemnation, but said, "May the Lord rebuke you!""**  
**(Jude 1:8-9)**

And when we get out of step with our responsibility, as with generations behind us, God does things we often fail to remember that He does. We deal with the roaring lion by humbly coming under orders of God, stand with Jesus and resist the devil while clinging to the Lord (1 Peter 5).

For example: "God [sent a spirit] of ill will [between] them..." Judges 9:23

He (GOD) ordered a season of ill will...

When people fight among themselves, who once lined themselves up with God, but now have gotten distracted, out of line and out of order with Him — so He sent them an ill spirit among them.

Remember this in relation to the past and that spirit of ill will:

- Sometimes He does.
- He doesn't always.
- But He has.



- And He still can.
- When He does, it's always for the right reasons.
- It may explain some things in your past.
- It could be a revelation of your current season.
- Either way, He'd be the one to seek.
- If we listen and lean on the Lord (trust and obey) we have nothing to fear... but if we don't, we should tremble before Him.
- Times and seasons are in His hand.
- We should pay attention to this revelation and its ramifications.
- I wouldn't take Him or His providence lightly, if I were you.
- It could be a revelation of your current season.
- Either way, He'd be the one to seek.
- If we listen and lean on the Lord (trust and obey) we have nothing to fear... but if we don't, we should tremble before Him.
- Times and seasons are in His hand.
- We should pay attention to this revelation and its ramifications.
- I wouldn't take Him or His providence lightly, if I were you.

**This is what we've read in Jeremiah...**

**"Therefore you shall speak to them this word: 'The Lord, the God of Israel says, "Every bottle shall be filled with wine.'" They will tell you, 'Do we not certainly know that every bottle shall be filled with wine?' Then tell them, 'The Lord says, "Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, even the kings who sit on David's throne, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness (under the influence of deception and judgment). I will dash them [one against another], even the fathers and the sons together," says Yahweh: "I will not pity, nor spare, nor have compassion, that I should not destroy them." (Jeremiah 13:12-14)**

**These spirits are no doubt the work of an enemy — but an enemy who's been sent to do what God decreed — because the people had already made themselves an enemy of God. They can blame the devil but ultimately God holds His people accountable and deals with them not the devil. Satan's day is coming but right now God is still using him to do what He wants.**

**So the solution is to turn back to Jesus and humbly and submissively turn in trust to Him with everything we are. So, as I remind myself every day... take God at His word, trust Jesus with everything you got and ain't got, follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in everything you do or don't do, love on people for Jesus sake and be gracious with those who do not see things like you do.**

**Quit trying to fix the fool and feed the flock...**

**A very clear and concise word that God spoke into me fairly early in ministry. A word I needed and one that shifted the attitude and affirmation of my life, teaching and preaching.**

**"Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has understanding... but the correction or instruction of fools is foolishness." (Proverbs 16:22)**

**We're not in the fool fixing business... we're feeders, who feed those who wisely humble themselves before God and hunger to be fed with His wisdom and walk in**

**His ways.**

**Jesus doesn't fix fools... He transforms and transfers the fool, freeing them from the bondage of their foolishness — THAT they can wisely humble themselves before Him and hunger for His indwelling, insight, influence and instructions for today, tomorrow and forever.**

**Another way of seeing it is like this. Jesus doesn't repair the fool so he can be a better fool, He rescues the fool from drowning in their own foolishness and stupidity.**

**When Jude spoke of contending for the faith he began with identifying the ungodly fools that had crept in unnoticed. We have to know how to identify them but to be effective at contending with the problem at hand we are to keep ourselves in the unhindered flow of God's love. Building, praying, looking, rescuing and trusting would be their responsibility but nowhere did he encourage them to fix the fool. When they fed the flock, and the flock followed the Shepherds voice, they**

would be in position for the unhindered flow of God's for them and what would be needed to rescue an ungodly world with Jesus. Feeding the sheep leads to freeing the sinners.

A fool is a fool because he is a fool. Not because of what he does but who he is. Who is he? Someone that is convinced in his or her own mind that they know better and are wiser than God. Therefore, he or she has no need of God or His solutions for life. And the more confidence and courageous they become in their folly they foolishly mock and scorn the ways and people of God. How they think and live manifest their foolishness but their foolishness is a direct consequence of being a fool. Why? Rebellion, to all things Godly and Christlike, is the most natural response of all fools. Why? They have not been made a new creature in Christ, and, therefore, they do not humbly and submissively seek, trust, obey, follow nor honor Jesus with their lives. So remember, Jesus does not fix or repair the fool but He will transform them from within and rescue them from their folly and stupidity.

No saint of God is a fool, even though they can act foolishly and out of character at times. We must learn how to make a distinction and discern the differences between a fool and when the people of God act foolishly. None of us are exempt from being misled by our flesh. But an undisciplined and non chastised disciple, always living by and walking according to their flesh, will never be characteristic of a wise and humble servant of Jesus.

I've heard it said that: A wise man can glean more from a foolish question than a thousand fools could ever glean from one wise answer.

I encourage you my friends of the kingdom... never quit trying to rescue the fools of the world but go ahead and quit trying to fix the fool and feed the flock. God used someone to reach and rescue you with His gospel and since then He's used His servants to feed you. Go... and be a difference maker and stop frustrating yourself with trying to fix the fool. Ask Jesus to transform them. Blessings...

I pray this word and the other service help you look to Jesus.

#nestingwithjesus #jude #grief #grieve #grieved  
#theLordismyportionandstrength  
#habakkuk3and17thru19 #habakkuk  
#1peter1and6thru9 #ifneedbe  
#manythingsarehardtohandle #alone #circumstances  
#situations #changeourperspective  
#whenourrealitygetshelpfromabove  
#ourperspectiveschange #theythatweresentwent  
#theywentbecausetheyweresent  
#sentwentandfounditasHemeant  
#celebratinglifeandgrace  
#preachingthekingdomofGod #teachingaboutJesus  
#1corinthians1 #1corinthians1and18thru31  
#quittryingtofixthefool #feedtheflock