

The Navigator Vision

Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

- A. The greatest need among Christians is to be totally liberated, motivated and fulfilled.
- B. The two greatest hindrances to these needs are feelings of inadequacy and feelings of guilt because of past and present sin. 95% of people are hindered by these feelings.

II. Lessons from the life of Abraham.

A. Rating his life.

- 1. God gave Abraham a great promise and his belief was counted to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)
- 2. The previous Scripture was fulfilled when Abraham became willing to give up his son for a sacrifice. (James 2:23)

B. God never sees a part of a person's life apart from the rest - He viewed Abraham's belief in light of his later willingness to sacrifice Isaac.

C. God has a favorite file folder of his children - He focuses in on the highest moment of a believers life. God sees a person in light of his finest hour.

D. The believer is a king and a priest before God despite his feelings of inferiority.

- 1. The believer can be perfect to the degree that he is fulfilling the object for which it was created.
- 2. Perfection is concerned with the moment. Perfection is not concerned with comparison.
 - a. Every person is uniquely created and has a unique plan.
 - b. The biggest number in the Bible is concerned with the thoughts God put into a person's career plan. (Psalm 139)

III. Application.

A. Dealing with the guilt feelings.

- 1. God no longer remembers the sins and iniquities of the believer. (Hebrews 10:17)
- 2. God can choose what to remember and He has chosen to forget the sins of believers.

3. There is a discrepancy in the count of years between the Exodus as listed and as being counted. What happened apparently is that they did not count the years of evil. (1 Kings 6:1)

a. When God deletes something from his records, as far as he is concerned it never existed.

b. While historians say that the period was 594 years, the Holy Spirit says 480 years.

c. If we do not remember it, it does not exist. This is the New Testament doctrine of justification.

4. There is a difference between guilt and guilt feelings.

a. Guilt feelings are self-imposed. When wrongs are confessed and forsaken, God blots the wrong from the record. But we go around nursing a wounded ego.

b. We need to distinguish the conviction of the Spirit from the wounded ego.

c. God is the God of instantaneous restoration and the present intention.

B. Why do we sin all the time?

1. David is the most exposed man in all the Bible. Much of David's life does not come out to be a very good profile.

2. This is a reflection of us. We are judged according to what is in the heart not all the failures.

3. No matter how many times David fell he rose to greater heights. If there is any value to sin it is in rising again.

IV. Summary.

A. The greatest need of the Christian is to be totally liberated from the feelings of guilt and inadequacy.

B. Among the most successful women, the common thread was that their father told them that they could do anything. The believer needs this affirmation.

C. Christ looks at us as number one. We should not feel guilty because of the person God has made us in Christ.

Application questions.

1. What observations did the speaker make about Abraham's spiritual life?

2. How is it that God can simply forget about the low levels in Abraham's life? What does this mean?

3. Make a chart of your own spiritual life up to this point. What will you do with the low points? What are you looking forward to in the future?
