

Foundations For Living

Laying Foundations Today For a Brighter Tomorrow

FOUNDATIONS NEWS

JANUARY 2015

THE FATHER'S VOICE



Welcome to a New Year, 2015. I love starting a new year with a new calendar that is not already weighed down with appointments, commitments and events. I enjoy setting goals, many of which are the unmet goals of last year, but this is a fresh start and I'll try to do better this year. There seems to be an energy that accompanies the first few days of January. This energy pushes me to organize, clean up last year's messes, and commit myself to walk closer with the Lord.

Taking advantage of this new found energy and commitment, I will often turn on the radio, tune in my favorite Christian station and begin to clean. The work passes quickly as my hands are engaged in work while my mind is focused on the music and programing coming from the radio. Sometimes, however, if I move too far from the physical location of the radio, the music and programing turns to static and I'm unable to hear the message being broadcast. This interrupts my work and begins to add stress to my otherwise pleasant morning. So I adjust and readjust the radio until the signal is clear, but try as I may, this pattern will continue over and over until I find myself content to do whatever I can in the corner of the house were the radio is located. This method results in a sparkling

clean kitchen, but does nothing to correct the mess in the rest of the house.

Recently, as I was going through this ritual, the Lord showed me that this is how His voice is often silenced in my life. When I get too busy and move away from His mouthpiece, I'm surrounded by static. Static comes in all forms. It can simply be the fault of always thinking I need to be busy. It can be worry or concern that I take upon myself. It can be the constant cry of others for my help. But whatever forms the static takes, it cuts out the voice of God and it can only be regained by moving closer to the source, God Himself.

In James 4:8 God tells *us* ***“Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”***

Does my double-mindedness distance me from God? Do I pray, but not fully believe that He hears me? Do I say He is the Lord of my life, but chose my own way without seeking His direction? Do my words say one thing, but my actions tell a different story? How can anyone maintain this closeness that God desires?

We can take a look at Jesus' example. If anyone was surrounded by static, it was Jesus. The Jews were out to destroy Him, the Romans were around every corner, the crowds pressed Him daily and His own disciples did not really 'get it' much of the time. How did He manage? He listened constantly to the voice of His Father.

Jesus withdrew from the disciples, from the crowds, from the concerns of the times to commune with His Father. He knew that He had to be in tune with the Father's agenda. John 8:54-55 records: **“Jesus replied, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the One who glorifies me.**

Though you do not know Him, I know Him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word.’” And in In John 14:31 we read these words that Jesus spoke regarding His impending death. **“The world must learn that I love the Father and I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”**

Jesus did not move in His own power while He was on earth, He was in constant contact with the Father.

If Jesus, Himself, needed to walk close to the Father, the source of His power, should we not also walk with Him closely every day, staying in tune to the Father's voice? I pray that this year I learn to identify the static in my life that often blocks out God's voice. I pray I may quickly tune into what is most important and follow God's agenda for my day. I pray that I may move through the year being directed by His Voice.

This then is my number one commitment for the New Year.

