

SPINNING YOUR WHEELS

Luke 24:49 ... "Behold, I send the Promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Have you seen a car or truck get stuck in the mud? When the wheels become mired in soft ground the vehicle sinks lower if the driver continues to spin the wheels. To get it free, it is usually necessary to pull it out with another vehicle or Caribao, or ask the help of men with shovels and strong backs. A similar problem can happen in our spiritual lives if we insist on forcing our way ahead without following God's map for our service to him, or when we get stuck and unable to move because we made a bad decision.

Before Jesus returned to heaven, he instructed his followers to wait in Jerusalem until the Father had sent the Holy Spirit ("the Promise of my Father"). He had already called them to the ministry, trained them, and instructed them how to spread the good news. But now he told them to wait for the Holy Spirit before starting their ministries. These instructions were just as important for Christ's followers then as they are for us today.

If you try to perform God's work without his guidance, and without the power of the Holy Spirit to direct and lead the way for you, you might end up spinning your wheels. When you follow YOUR OWN intuition and wisdom, or the wisdom of men, you can become stuck in spiritual mud and unable to move forward. I have heard many pastors and missionaries liken their own experience in trying to serve God, to spinning their wheels and being unable to move forward. There could be several reasons for that:

1. Pastors who are not directly CALLED by God to serve him, can find themselves accomplishing nothing or even suffering when they do only what they think is best. Being called means that God himself spoke to your heart or audibly, and instructed you to do something.
2. If you attempt to use your own wisdom to conduct a ministry instead of the leading of the Holy Spirit, frustration might become your only result.
3. If you ignore the guidance of the Holy Spirit because you think it will not work or is too slow, you could find yourself all alone without any help from God.

We are all instructed to serve God, and those instructions are clearly described in His Word. Beyond that, God may CALL you to serve him in a special way (such as being a pastor, Bible teacher, or missionary), and when he does, His Holy Spirit will equip you supernaturally for that special assignment. But, if you try to take on such special responsibilities without being equipped by the Holy Spirit, you will probably have limited success and will likely become miserable and discouraged. If you are a struggling pastor who faces overwhelming frustration and hardship, ask God if you are really called to serve him in that capacity. Perhaps God intended for you to serve him in another vocation; you could be suffering due to disobedience, even if your intentions were noble.

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