



PREPARED FOR HIS SOON RETURN SERIES

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THE SECRET OF HEAVEN SAVING'S ACCOUNT

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1).

If we often fail to have a steady and constant spiritual walk with the Lord, if it is oftentimes difficult to keep in step with the Spirit of God, it is probably because we have not discovered the secret of Christian victory. To be able to win big battles in life, one needs to know the proper strategies.

So in order to be victorious Christians, we must know the secret. Jesus gave us the secret in Mark 8: 34-NKJV:

- "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

If a victorious Christian life means a desire to follow Jesus, the price to pay, the secret, is self-denial. This is also true in life; self-denial, long suffering, patience, overcoming great difficulties, lead to great successes. A young rich ruler came to Jesus, asking Him what he should do to have eternal life; Jesus told him to go and sell all that he had, to give the money to the poor, then Jesus added to him these words : *“and you will have treasures in heaven”*; and after that, to come and follow Him (Luke 18: 18 – 23). According to the apostle Paul, self-denial is the most reasonable sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God; David went on to say in Psalm 51:17 that God does not despise a broken and contrite heart.

If God is the author of success, if He know what is best for us, if He has our best interest in mind, He can only work in our lives if we give Him the permission to do so, or if we deny self and allow Him to have His own way.

Ellen White in *“My Life Today”* (Page 6, January 2) said the following words:

- *“The surrender of all our powers to God greatly simplifies the problem of life. It weakens and cuts short a thousand struggles with the passions of the natural heart. Religion is as a golden cord that binds the souls of both youth and aged to Christ. Through it the willing and obedient are brought safely through dark and intricate paths to the city of God.”*

The message of Paul in Romans 12:1 is a plea to every Christian, to offer his/her body to God as a living sacrifice, for that is the *“most-reasonable-sacrifice”* we can ever offer to God.

Are you ready to deny yourself for more delight, die for endless joy (John Piper- *“Deny Yourself for more Delight”*, desiringGod.org)? Then offer your body to God as a living sacrifice. You can be more ambitious than you are now; it takes ambition to gain heaven one day, and walk on street of gold; but the price is total surrender to God, self-denial, a daily and closer walk with Jesus. Which ambition do you choose? The riches of this world? They

will fade away and be destroyed at the end of this world. Or the eternal things of God, and the unending fellowship with Jesus in a sinless eternal world? Those will never fade.

You can choose today. Regarding the treasures of this world, Paul said:

- But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:7 -8-NKJV)...

That is true wisdom. One has to be smart to make such a quick U-turn; Paul knew the reward ahead, and willing to pay the price.

In these last days where we are witnessing the final events of Bible prophecies, where there are more temptations, more trials for God's people, more discouragement, more disappointment, our Christianity is put to the test, we will only overcome if we surrender all to God. And we will only be able to stand for Jesus-Christ in the last conflict if we deny self.

"Time is almost finished. Do you reflect the lovely image of Jesus as you should?" ... "Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died...Will ye go to glory and enjoy all that God has prepared for those who love Him and are willing to suffer for His sake? If so, ye must die that ye may live. Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye must have a greater preparation than ye now have, for the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate and to destroy the sinners thereof out of it. Sacrifice all to God. Lay all upon His altar—self, property, and all, a living sacrifice. It will take all to enter glory. Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where no thief can approach or rust corrupt. Ye must be partakers of Christ's sufferings here if ye would be partakers with Him of His glory hereafter."(www.ellenwhite.info, The Mark of the Beast, chap 15)

Friends, God wants to give us a glorious new life that will never end. Do you want it? If you do, Jesus is waiting to show you the path of self-denial that leads to eternal life; so you may walk in it. Heaven is real, eternal life on the new earth is real. May you choose today to die daily for an eternal and greater joy ahead. Be intentional, and live for Jesus a true Christian life of total surrender and holiness. Is heaven in your heart? If it is, live for it.

Then by His grace, you will see His face, not in shame but in righteousness.
Amen.

Yours in the blessed hope.
Edem Fabrice Ameyou

To See His Face Ministries Intl