

Two Types of People Who Bring Delight to God

by Zac Poonen

God delights in people who give cheerfully and honestly, and values their freedom and fellowship with Him.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "True Holiness"

Description

Zac Poonen preaches on how God delights in a cheerful giver, emphasizing the importance of giving freely and joyfully without compulsion or seeking rewards. He highlights the contrast between being filled with the Holy Spirit, which leads to self-control, and demon-possession, which results in the loss of self-control. Poonen also stresses the significance of honesty in our relationship with God, stating that true holiness begins with honesty and confession of sin, not pretense or covering up. He warns against calling sin by other names and encourages a genuine, transparent walk in the light.

Transcript

1. God Delights in a Cheerful Giver

"God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

This is why God gives man total freedom - both before and after conversion, and after being filled with the Spirit.

If we are like God, we also will not seek to control others or pressurise them. We will give them freedom to be different from us, to have different views from ours and to grow spiritually at their own pace.

All compulsion of any sort is from the devil.

The Holy Spirit fills people, whereas demons possess people. The difference is this: When the Holy Spirit fills anyone, He still gives that person freedom to do whatever he wants. But when demons possess people, they rob them of their freedom and control them. The fruit of being filled with the Spirit is self-control Gal. 5:22, 23). Demon-possession, however, results in the loss of self-control.

We must remember that any work that we do for God, that is NOT done cheerfully, joyfully, freely and voluntarily is a dead work. Any work done for God for a reward or for a salary is also a dead work. Any money given to God under pressure from others has no value at all, as far as God is concerned!!

God values a little done cheerfully for Him far more than a great deal done under compulsion or done merely to ease one's conscience.

2. God Delights in Honest People

"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..." (1 Jn.1:7).

To walk in the light means, first of all, that we hide nothing from God. We tell Him everything, exactly as it is. I am convinced that the first step towards God is honesty. God detests those who are insincere. Jesus spoke against hypocrites more than He spoke against anyone else.

God does not ask us to be holy or perfect first of all but to be honest. This is the starting point of true holiness. And from this spring flows everything else. And if there is one thing that is really easy for anyone of us to do, it is to be honest. So, confess sin immediately to God. Don't call sinful thoughts by "decent" names. Don't say "I was only admiring the beauty of God's creation" when actually you lusted adulterously with your eyes. Don't call "anger" as "righteous indignation". You will never get victory over sin if you are dishonest.

And don't ever call "sin", "a mistake", because Jesus' blood can cleanse you from all your sins, but not from your mistakes!! He does not cleanse dishonest people.

There is hope only for honest people. "He who covers his sin will never prosper..." (Prov. 28:13).

Why did Jesus say that there was more hope for prostitutes and for thieves to enter God's kingdom than for religious leaders (Matt. 21:31)? because prostitutes and thieves make no pretense of being holy.

Many young people are turned away from churches because church-members give them the impression that they themselves have no struggles. And so those young people think, "That holy bunch of people will never understand our problems!!" If this true of us, then we are unlike Christ Who drew sinners to Himself.

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