

# MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Why Isn't God's Word Working For Me?

Dear Friend,

We humans are so predictable. We gravitate towards the things we like and avoid those we don't. It should be no shock that we do the same thing when it comes to the parts of the Bible we like. I wouldn't be surprised to discover that a large percentage of Christian's Bibles show more wear on pages containing promises of blessings rather than on the pages outlining things considered unpleasant to our flesh.

For example, if I asked you where I could find verses promising my healing or prosperity most likely you would be able to quote either the references or the verses themselves. But, what if I asked you where I might find one verse in which Jesus told me to love my enemies, could anyone tell me exactly where that verse might be found? Or, how about telling me where I could find a verse about forgiving those who spitefully use me?

I believe I could come up with a significant number of subjects just like these, which we tend to avoid. These verses instructing us to do the things our flesh resists are just as true as the verses that promise us blessings. In fact, in many instances, the reason believers aren't seeing the manifestation of the blessings the Bible says belong to them is because they have avoided the verses viewed as less desirable, which directly impact their receiving of the promised blessings.

In order for us to answer the question; "Why isn't God's Word working for me?", we need to give attention to those verses we want to avoid. Settle it once and for all; the problem is not with God or His Word. If we are struggling to receive from God the deficiency is on our side of the equation and not God's.

As far as God is concerned being a member of His family and living according to His Word is all one big package deal. There are no exceptions, no substitutions, and no side deals to be made with God. In today's vernacular we might say it is a "take it or leave it" proposition and if you "take it" then you take **all** of it not just the parts you like. That being the case, it might be good for us to contemplate

what we agreed to when we made Jesus Christ Lord of our life, because our flesh was only interested in one side of the equation; -- not going to hell for eternity.

Many of us are ignorant of how God views us as His born again children and what His expectations are for us. In our ignorance, we continue to try and shove a square peg in a round hole. The square peg is the inaccurate way we envision ourselves, whereas, the round hole is God's Word that spells out what now belongs to us as His children. Until we picture ourselves as God does and stop identifying with the old man we used to be, the blessings of God will continue to elude us.

Let's begin with the new birth. When we accept the Lordship of Jesus something major takes place that we must understand if we are to experience all the benefits God has made available to us. For lack of a better term, it's as though the moment we said yes to Jesus, God did a complete overhaul on us from the inside out that much of the Body of Christ remains oblivious to. You may have already begun to understand the magnitude of this overhaul and have stopped seeing your rebirth as only a "get out of hell free" pass. But, have you accepted the following statement as a reality in your life? **By saying "yes" to Jesus I have relinquished my life to Him just as He relinquished His life for me.** (Galatians 2:20)

***"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."***

Saying "yes" to Jesus is saying; "Yes I identify with You, Jesus, in your death." The person we used to be prior to coming to Jesus dies the death of the cross in Christ. Praise God, just as Jesus rose from the dead, we too are reborn as sons of God. What we must understand is that the life we now live is not our own. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

***"What? Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? (20) For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."***

**Here is where the great divide takes place**, Christians continuing to live for themselves instead of acknowledging that their life is no longer their own. Until a Christian sees their old man dead and the ownership of their lives becoming

God's, they will continue to struggle as they hold onto the person they used to be while trying to possess the promises that now belong to them as children of God.

The transition, or transformation, begins by the renewing of our minds to the truth of who we have become. Paul explained it this way. (Romans 12:1-2)

***“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”***

By presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice we are refusing to any longer identify with the man we used to be. By renewing our mind we undergo a transformation that causes us to begin to look like Him, sound like Him, and do the same things He did when He walked on this earth.

In this, I believe the Body of Christ in the earth has experienced a monumental oversight. By promoting the new birth as a “fire insurance policy” that keeps people out of hell, we have given “converts” a misleading picture of the born again experience. We have given people the idea that by simply repeating a few words they are saved from an eternity in hell and can now go on being the person they have always been. How does that thinking fit this verse? (Colossians 3:3)

***“For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”***

Experiencing all the blessings in God's Word requires us to stop identifying with the old person we used to be. Regarding your old man dead and continuing to offer your body a living sacrifice is our only option if we truly want to experience the blessing of God in our life. This is not a one-time event it's a lifestyle. Daily we are making choices whether or not we are going to continue to offer our body a living sacrifice. Daily we are deciding how much transformation we are willing to allow to take place in our lives. **To the degree we keep our bodies on the altar and we continue to renew our minds with God's Word is the degree that God's blessings can manifest in our lives.**

I have found that the more I'm willing to relinquish my rights to go my own way and choose His ways as outlined in His Word, the more I experience His blessings in my life just as He promised. So many believers are sadly crying out for God's promises and yet they are living their life with absolutely no thought whatsoever of **offering their bodies a living sacrifice, or in the**

**transformation process that comes by the renewing of the mind.** I believe this is why it appears that God's promises are not working for them.

This can be applied to every area of life where believers refuse to envision themselves in the light of God's Word. **"Mark, I have rights!"** That's exactly the problem. We must realize that we gave up the rights to our life when we made Jesus Christ our Lord. **"But, nobody told me this, Mark!"** Ignorance is no excuse. God gave us His Word and His Holy Spirit has been sent to teach us what the Word says. We have a reborn human spirit that now has the capacity to understand the things of God.

For those who think they have it all figured out and life is humming right along, don't be deceived. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. If a person lives their entire life for themselves and only tries to squeeze God into whatever area is left over they are in for a rude awakening, if not in this life in the one to come. Once we stand before Jesus and our life's choices are examined in the light of His plan for us, we might wish we had chosen His path of transformation rather than having lived our life for ourselves.

So, if God's Word and His promises to us don't seem to be working in our lives today the problem isn't with God. He has done everything He will ever do to insure we have all we need in this life and in the life to come. Are we only interested in the "bless me" verses and turn a blind eye to the verses that outline our responsibility as born again children of God?

When we are sick are we running around looking for the most anointed person we can find to lay hands on us and get the devil off our backs? Have we made **all our own decisions** about our jobs, our homes, our lives and now we want God's blessings on all our decisions even though He was never part of the decision making process? All of these reasons speak to why it doesn't seem to be working.

The solution is simple. Put that body back up on the altar and continue making it a living sacrifice. Stop identifying with who you were before Jesus and renew your mind to who you have become as a child of God. When you view yourself as the Word of God says you are and begin to live according to how He said we are to live you will undoubtedly experience the results God's Word says you will have. This does not in any way require you to be perfect. God knows we are not perfect. The key is not perfection the key is to head in the direction God's Word says to go with all our hearts and allow the Holy Ghost to correct us and teach us and guide us into all truth. (John 16:13)

***“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth...”***

~ Jesus Loves You!

*Mark Jenkins*