

I Thought it Would be Easier

Tanya Moore

Why am I like this? I've known my Savior for fifty years and I thought I would be so much better than I am. I thought the struggles to control my words and my attitudes would have diminished to nothing. I thought living the life of a Christian would be almost automatic at this point.

But the struggles are still there and very hard. Some things are better. I no longer try to live by a list of rules; I've stopped believing that other people can fill the needs that only God can fill; I don't think I'm better than others; I realize I don't have all the answers.

But I am still my own idol. I want things to be my way. I still judge other people. I still do not always speak kindly to the person I love most in the world. I am impatient.

There are times when the trying to get things right is so hard, I want to give up. I want to say, "Ok, Jesus, I know you died for me and I belong to you, but let's just leave it at that. This day-to-day stuff is more than I can handle. You go your way and I'll go mine, because the failing is hard and the guilt it causes is even harder."

But then I remember Jesus' words to his disciples, "You do not want to leave too, do you?" And Peter's reply, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:66-68).

Jesus is my only place of refuge. I can't live His life in my strength. I can't do anything right in my own strength. The struggles are constant reminders of that. I need His river of life flowing through me to give me everything I need to live. I need His Spirit to produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

I recently re-read and studied in more depth Proverbs 3:6 – "In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." I used to think (because it's what I was taught) that "acknowledge him" meant "make him known" or "teach others about him." I have never studied Hebrew, but I looked up the word "acknowledge" in a Hebrew lexicon and it is the word "yada." The definition of "yada" is to perceive, to understand, to know, to discern, to be acquainted with, to be known, to be familiar, to acquaint yourself with God on a personal level.

Lord, please show me how to live this everyday life with your Holy Spirit empowering me. As an old hymn says, "I need thee every hour."

While you are teaching me, Lord, let me just let you love me.



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