

Devotional: Food For Thought Series

Title: Don't Mess With My Salvation!

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Have you ever seen the car insurance commercial where the participants in various driving situations are making the following statement:

Don't Mess With My Discount!!!

One TV advertisement dealt with a pregnant women, on the way to the hospital to deliver her child, was so adamant that her husband could not go over the speed limit. Even through the pain of childbirth, she refused to give up her insurance discount. Another situation was where a man was at a red light and another guy pulled up next to him and motioned to him to drag race. Of course he responded that he did not want anything to mess with his discount.

Well, as Christians, we should be saying something similar when it comes to our salvation. Either aloud or to ourselves, we should be saying:

Don't Mess With My Salvation!!!

We should keep in mind that when we are placed in various situations that may affect our chance for salvation in our daily interactions with others, our relationship with God thru Christ should always be at the forefront. Also keep in mind that this interaction with others applies to both Christians and non-Christians.

Situations that may apply:

1. Unforgiving Spirit

When someone does something to us that causes physical or emotional scarring, we should remember that GO-TO phrase, "Don't Mess With My Salvation!" and work on replacing the anger in our heart with forgiveness. Not forgiving that person prevents your prayers from being heard. This can be confirmed in Matthew 6:14-15.

14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

2. Doing Dishonest Acts

If someone asking you to be dishonest for example to not tell the truth or take something that is not yours by deceit. Don't be afraid to tell that person, "Don't Mess With My Salvation!" One of the side effects, especially if there are other witnesses to this act is that your reputation as a Christian will be damaged. This will surely affect your ability to perform Christian outreach. Those individuals that you come in contact with on a daily basis will ascertain; why should I listen to him or her when they are not practicing what they are preaching. Let's take a look at Titus 1:15-16.

15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

3. Following The Crowd

Be careful when following the crowd. I call it the Herd Mentality. Just because the majority of a group decides to be deceitful, do the wrong thing or ignore the will of God, remember the phrase, "Don't Mess With My Salvation!" As Christians, we know that the path towards righteousness is a narrow path as stated in Matthew 7:13.

13 Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

4. Having Selfish Ambitions

We should always be looking from within and be constantly doing a self-analysis to make sure that everything that we do is not out of selfish ambitions. Sometimes we may have to tell ourselves, "Don't Mess With My Salvation!" We should be mindful that we are not doing things out of self-promotion or self-gain. We should strive to treat others like we want to be treated. In Philippians 2:3 it reads:

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

In Conclusion:

We need to be mindful of the negative effects that others have on us as well as continue to reassess ourselves daily to make sure that we are doing God's will and not our own. We want to make sure that we are not doing things that will MESS WITH OUR SALVATION! We, as children of God and followers of Christ, are commanded to spread the good news about God's kingdom through our daily actions. **Our daily actions, not just on Sundays and Wednesday night will determine how fruitful we are in our outreach efforts.**

I hope that my words have compelled those who don't have a personal relationship with God to not hesitate in starting that relationship with him. Those who do have a personal relationship with God, I pray that you continue to strengthen that relationship through your actions of love, respect and honor. Thank you for your time and I would like to thank the church leadership for giving me this opportunity to give this devotional.