

Episode Three Notes

God is our great reward: Genesis 15:1

Two things that we all require: Security and significance: Both are covered in this verse

I am your shield: I am your security (doesn't matter where you work or if you work)

I am your reward: I am your significance. Your significance doesn't depend on where you work, where you live, what you know, etc. I am your significance.

If He is my Reward, then I initially thought I should have a great feeling. But that isn't it. The Bible says that God is a consuming fire; He is light; He is love.

His consuming fire destroys that which is not of Him and purifies that which is of Him

His light gets rid of all darkness

His love: characterized by the following:

Love=joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control (Galatians 5)

Joy: The consciousness of His love

Peace: The confidence of His love

Patience: The habit of His love

Kindness: The activity of His love

Goodness: the quality of His love

Faithfulness: The quantity of His love

Gentleness: The tone of His love

Self-control: The victory of His love

Having Him as my reward actually causes me to fall short, if I stop there. Those thoughts are focused on ME: my joy, my patience, my confidence of His love. Rather, to have Him as my reward really should be to have His love in me as well as through me.

A person who was irritated with Dr. Spann: The Lord says that people are irritated with Him too without cause; but I love them anyway. So should we. With God as my reward, I can then do that. He can manifest His love through me to those who are irritated with me.

Second story: Dr. Spann did something for someone but they never noticed. The Lord said, "They never noticed, did they?" The Lord said, "That's the same with ME. They never say thanks; they never notice Me. But I love them anyway."

Third thing: Complaining. Someone who is complaining even though all had been done appropriately. The Lord showed Richard that people complain all the time to Him and He loves them anyway.

Some of the key things the Lord has taught him about Himself have been difficult times: fired, cancer, out of money. He uses these prime times to teach us these truths about Him.

Hebrews 12:3: "For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls." (NKJV)

But doesn't this mean I am a "doormat"?

No, that is defensive, that is self-focused. Instead we should go above and beyond by welcoming them to your home and cleaning off the front porch. It's going above and beyond and doing whatever is necessary to achieve their eternal good in Christ. Christ didn't see Himself as a doormat. Hebrews 12:2: For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross.

He has counted the cost (Luke 14). It's not us who are counting the cost; it is Christ who has already counted the cross. We are to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. It is a positive aspect for the good of others rather than thinking of how it affects us.