

# **CONTINUING THE “GREEN LETTERS”**

**FALL : 2023 - SPRING: 2024**

**CHAPTER 57, pg. 257-260**

**02/28/2024**

## **57 - KEEP LOOKING DOWN!**

*CHAPTER PRINCIPLE: The believer is to function in everyday living from his position of being seated in Christ Jesus in the heavens at the Father’s right hand.*

*METHODOLOGY: The believer uses the two movements of faith to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in learning to be holy and godly. This will give him the right motive for bearing fruit.*

### **THE TWO MOVEMENTS OF FAITH: HEARING AND DOING**

**HEARING:** “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” “He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says”

Joh 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." (NKJV)

2Ti 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

2Ti 3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, (NKJV)

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

*To hear is to listen intently to learn the message of God that is the words of life. It is to be committed to this message from God drowning out all distractions that might take you from it. It is to listen intently that you may keep those words fully. This word is so important that it stands true even if met defiantly by the world of supposed rational thought or against your own personal will and desire.*

*The Holy Spirit of God illuminates the mind of the one who listens to both teach and confirm the word of God as both true and transformative. He puts that word into the mind of the hearer! John 16:13-14; 1 Cor 2:9-16; 1 John 2:20, 27*

*The one who hears and is taught by the Spirit is convinced of the veracity, accuracy and sufficiency of the word. He then RECKONS this to be true and it becomes part of his life. He is ready to ACT on it now.*

*What that Spirit-instructed hearer has RECKONED to be true is impactful on his life to be a disciple of Christ. The Spirit then begins to impart to him the proper MOTIVES to cooperate with God (synergism) to be holy as God is holy and to be godly. Those motives are: LOVE MOTIVE, HATE MOTIVE, FAITH MOTIVE, DEATH MOTIVE, LIFE MOTIVE. These lead to the DOING that makes faith a living work of God*

*DOING: “Jas 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves Jas 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”*

*Doing is to put into practice the application of the truths his hearing has convinced him. Doing is OBEDIENCE to the commands of Christ. But doing properly is full cooperation with Christ rather than independent actions done from the old man.*

*Living faith motivates, urges and creates works for the individual to participate with God to accomplish.*

*If his motives are self-centered and narcissistic, done to be acknowledged by those around him or even to satisfy his own ego, he has his reward the moment the deed is done. He should expect no praise by God or even acknowledgement he did them. They are stemming his need to be self-justified. He is using the “old man” manner of doing them, serving in his own strength and ability to do God’s will.*

*That had already been condemned in Christ's death. He may be grateful and humbled by Christ's death but his desire to repay Christ for what he did is offensive to God and His gift. If they are done to be penitent and demonstrate how sorry he is for being a sinner in the first place, they are still unworthy of the praise of God. He is trying to obligate God to see he was actually worthy of Christ's death. That defies God's grace, love and compassion, reducing Christ's death as without meaning or godly value.*

*If, however, his motives are formed and driven by the Spirit of God, lasting fruit and praise to God is accomplished. God is honored, the Christ is glorified, and the doer receives the praise of God. The MOTIVES created by the Spirit of God in the submitted doer are:*

*LOVE MOTIVE: The Spirit imparts His love for Christ into the heart of the doer and that doer is moved by that love to love Christ, His brethren, His neighbor and even His enemy in the same way He was loved. It is Christ's love that was given to Him and he is using it to love whatever the present object of need may be. He is using the love of God to love others. That love is pure and needs no human acknowledgement.*

*HATE MOTIVE The believing doer is no longer fooled by the wily nature of the remnants of the "old man". The actions of the old man in him had been condemned by Christ's death. He has been rendered inoperative in the believer's life. Yet his habits (sin resident in the flesh) will still rear their ugly head to appear righteous and good. The awakened, believing doer recognizes these habits for the enemy to his soul they truly are. He hates that life since it defies God and is offensive to Him. Joh 12:25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (NKJV) He sides with God and takes*

*up the case against that sinful life and frees the Holy Spirit to conform him to Christ.*

*FAITH MOTIVE This is the thinking life of the one who wants to serve God. He takes those things He has RECKONED to be true and from God and considers them in their context for his daily walk and thought life. He considers himself dead to sin and alive to God. He then considers the implication of those truths and acts on them. He considers that God has completely forgiven him and stops bringing up his previous life with its guilt. He ceases to let the adversary of his soul continue to stifle him with his accusations. He considers that He is alive in Christ and lets the life of Christ work through him.*

*DEATH MOTIVE He knows he is in the constant process of learning to die to himself. New things arise daily of areas that had been under dominion to the old man and therefore to those who are no gods. He takes up his cross daily and let's the Holy Spirit purify him of unclean motives. He practices humility and repentance daily. He trusts the work of God to make him just like our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

*LIFE MOTIVE Here is his highest motive! He now knows that he is hidden with Christ in God; he is "in Christ"; this world is not his home and that he is a citizen of heaven. He lives from heaven now and he is to "keep looking down", i.e. he stops thinking of the things that would make his life "easier" (number to the things of God) and considers what the kingdom is really all about. He is NOT motivated by earthly pleasures but on pleasing Christ, knowing that is eternal and all else is passing away. Working from his "new birth" position in heaven he can begin to cooperate with the work of God on this planet to hasten the coming King and his Kingdom.*