

Y.R.P. – The Test We All Must Take

"He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun." - Psalm 37:6

As a Christ-follower grows in trusting obedience and love, God often brings a test that seems uncharacteristically cruel. The test: being wrongfully judged by those closest to you. This test cannot be passed over by simply gutting it out. It is one of those tests the Savior had to experience Himself when being tried by the court of public opinion, the religious community, and the government of His day. His response to the government was silence. His response to the religious establishment was to not say a mumbling word. To the rest of His accusers, He remained quiet and left vindication to the Father. He lived out the commandment He gave to the disciples:

"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." (Luke 6:35)

How do you respond when you are accused or mistreated for no reason? Do you listen quietly, or do you justify each and every action? Most of us take pride in doing what is right and expect the same from others, especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. Jesus knew that if you were to be a true follower of His, you would enter this test eventually. This is a very necessary part of living out faith in Christ. Living in a fallen world gives ample opportunity to be wronged, misunderstood, and judged. When God permits a measured assault against one of His children, it is to find out if he/she truly believes in the power of cross and the support of the scriptures. The cross is where each of us is given the opportunity to die to our pride, our ego, and our reputations. When our Heavenly Father allows a measured assault upon us, it is to find out if we sincerely believe that the power of the cross and the support of the scriptures is sufficient. God wants to see if we will seek to rescue ourselves. Jesus said if we die with Him, we will be raised with Him (*Romans 6:8; II Timothy 2:11*).

When God allows Satan to bring a measured assault against you, ask God for the grace to cling to the cross and the scriptures. Let the pride and arrogance that Jesus wants to remove from our lives be crucified. When was the last time you gave God thanks for the opportunity to be crucified with Christ? When you allow God to fight your battles, then your innocence will radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.

P2R (Point 2 Remember): *"Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do."* – Bruce Lee