

# ALAN TAYLOR

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## Having More of God

I have yet to find one person who does not want more of God. In fact, if you ask every Born Again Christian that you know if they would like to be a person who lives the way that scripture instructs us, your answer will always be, "YES". Would you like to live a life of prayer and fasting? "Yes," would be their answer. Would you like to live holy in your thoughts and actions? "Yes," would be their answer. Would you like to be free of pride and selfishness? "Yes," would be their answer. However most people have given up on trying, because they stopped believing they can live that life.

In all my years of ministry and working with all kinds of people with all kinds of problems, I have yet to meet one who does not long to have more of God in their life. I've had unwed mothers ask for help on how not to repeat the same mistakes. Drug addicts who shoot drugs into their veins ask how to stop. Wife-abusers ask how to stop being angry. Cancer patients plead for help. Suicidal people wanting to be rescued. There are many out there in our churches today that are going around in circles wanting to be free, yet seemingly never being able to walk it out. They have tried everything and still end up with the same problems. Most of our church answers rely on will power and personal strength to change. The problem with telling a drug addict to quit by his own ability is that HE has already tried that.

Jesus' freedom is for everyone! His victory is for every area in our lives. We have many believers who have settled for a watered down life style because they don't feel that they can get free or they got tired of trying. We have to hide our weakness so people won't think we are not spiritual. The way to victory is the same for each of us, and is available to everyone. The strong and the weak alike must both walk the same path that Christ has given us and not our own. We have failed too many people and cast them aside because of wrong doctrine. Those who cannot fit the image that we preach and cannot muster enough personal strength to change, simply pretend to be someone they are not or quit all together. The world is full of people who gave up on pursuing holiness, but still want God.

I began to feel responsible for each one who asked for help. What if I was not helping, but hurting them? I heard one time that a preacher must be like a nurse. Always leave the people better off when you're done with them than when they came to you. I knew that even the worst drunk, the rapist and the murderer all should be able to walk into God and into Holiness. However the true answer to freedom could not come from our own strength since then we would have to leave so many behind.

I remember an experience I had when I was 23. It was just after a service I attended and I felt led to go home and pray. As I began to pray the Spirit of the Lord entered my room. It felt like I was having a father, son talk and He was sitting on the bed next to me. It was as if He was asking me what road I would choose in life. The question on my heart was, "Will you choose the High Call of God or choose to be a normal Christian?" It seemed like a simple question and it had a simple answer. Before I could get the answer out of my mouth, He began to show me the price that I would have to pay to walk in the High Call of God. I saw the life style of simplicity and selflessness that I would have to live - how my life would revolve around His will, and not mine. I saw the hours of prayer and days of fasting required to walk in all that He had for me.

My answer changed: I said “Lord it is impossible for me to live like this. I want to be that man but I’m not disciplined enough to do it.” I said, “Lord, it’s not even in me to be that type of man. I’m not strong enough.” Then after a few moments of thought I asked for help. I told God “I can’t do this: it is impossible for me to do this. I choose the High Call of God but only if you help me.”

Immediately He left the room. That was all He needed to hear. I realized that day that God does not need perfection or even our strength to help us walk into Him. In Philippians 1:6 it tells us “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Every day the Holy Ghost will work to lead you down a path of holiness, down a road called the High Call of God. All that He needs is our willingness to follow and obey.

I have changed a lot since my meeting with God and have watched how piece-by-piece together we have removed things from me and He has placed things in me, helping me become that man who can walk with Him. **Romans 8:13** says, “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” Many people have a life of holiness simply by denying their flesh with their own strength; however, true holiness is so much deeper than just not doing things. It is a fruit that is birthed through your spirit and not just strength to deny your flesh.

I have yet to find anyone to say “No, I do not want more of God”. Yet, many have said “No, I can’t be that person who He wants me to be.” When we look honestly at ourselves and look at who we need to become, many have quit. If we only rely on our own ability and strength, very few could ever fulfill our call. The moment you accepted Christ, you received by the new nature the ability to be no longer bound to sin. However your flesh doesn’t want you to submit to your spirit and this is where the fight is. You are fighting against the will of your flesh and even if you fall, get back up and keep going. God will never quit on you. Don’t get discouraged if you feel it is impossible.

Do not fear or feel too far behind. God will meet you right where you are and will lead you by the hand. We all have to start somewhere. He will walk you step by step into glory. His will is for us to go from Glory to Glory and not from pit to pit. I want to encourage you today to go for it. Keep doing the things that change you and you will change. I didn’t have enough strength to quit doing some things in my life but I did have enough strength to pray in the Holy Ghost.

God’s heart for you is victory. He desires for each one of us to have more of Him. His goal is for us to be just like Jesus. Everything we need to change is available in us right now, so just begin. Don’t be like so many others and quit before you start. Don’t be afraid of failing; God is on your side. If you and I will just follow Him and use the tools that He has given us, we cannot fail. Let’s keep praying in the Holy Spirit and spending time with Him each day. If we don’t quit seeking Him, we can not fail and we will win.

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