

OTHERS MAY – YOU CANNOT

Praise God that He has given His children the high calling! If God has called you to be like Jesus in all of your spirit, and if you have absolutely sold yourself to be His slave, He will take you at your word. He will wrap you up in a jealous love and will put on you such demands of obedience that He will not allow you to do things which He seems to let other good people do. Other Christians may push themselves forward, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans; but you cannot. And if you attempt to, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent. Others can brag on themselves, on their work, on their success; but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing. And if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others will be allowed to accumulate great wealth; but God may supply your needs on a daily basis because He wants you to have something far better than gold – and that is a helpless dependence on Him. The Lord may let others be honored and put forward while He keeps you hidden away in obscurity, because He wants you to produce some choice fruit for His coming glory that can be brought forth only in the shade. God will let others be great, but He will keep you small. He will let others do a work for Him and get credit for it, but He will make you toil on without knowing what you are accomplishing. And then, to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for what you have done. And all this will make your reward ten times as great when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch on you with a jealous love. He will rebuke you for wasting your time or for little words and feelings which never seem to distress other Christians. And He will not explain to you a thousand things about His dealings which may puzzle your reasoning. So make up your mind that God is sovereign and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. Settle it forever that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue or chaining your hands or closing your eyes in ways that others are not dealt with.

When you are so possessed by the living God that you are in your secret heart delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of His Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven in Jesus Christ.

Michael Esses, in “Jesus in Exodus”