

The Bishop's Corner

Are you "All in God?"

Praise the Lord Saints,

"Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.'" (Mark 12:41-44, NKJV).

We must give our whole livelihood to God as the poor widow gave hers. When we pay our tithes and offerings, it is not about the amount of money we put in, but rather the mindset we have when we are giving. We must have the same mind the poor widow had when she put in all that she had, willing to give her all—her whole livelihood. She put God first. Christ had this mind, and we must have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8) and set our affections on things above (Colossians 3:1-4) to be "All in God." Recognize the devil's evil thoughts sent to weaken your mind and rebuke him.

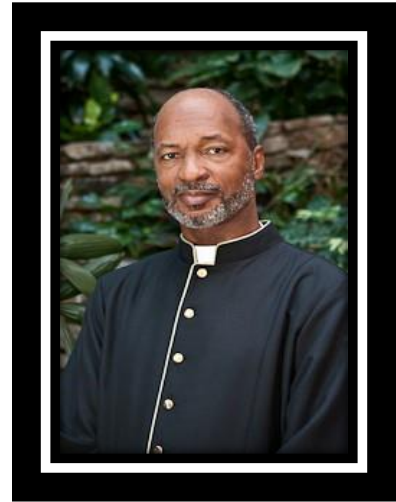
Paul tells the Jews that they are not under the law but the Spirit and not to have confidence in the flesh but follow the Spirit. "For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3, NKJV). Many of our experiences have strengthened us in the flesh and not in the Spirit because we did not allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us through them. It does not matter what type of life we had before we got saved because when Christ came into our life, everything changed for the better. We must always grow in the Lord.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?'" (Matthew 16:24-26, NKJV) We must deny ourselves and make sure that we have not put everything in our life above Christ. Jesus came all the way from heaven to die for our sins and we cannot come across town to serve Him because everything always eats into God's time and not our time. The easiest thing we can do in the Lord is to go to church, and that is the thing that the devil fights us the most in doing. Do not let anything cause you not to hold fast to the Lord.

We need to have a pure mind and be unspotted from the world (James 1:27), because God knows all about us, so we can stop pretending that we are more spiritual than we are. The devil only has power over the saints because they let him since greater is he (the Holy Spirit) that is in us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). We must overcome the world, repent, and get right with God. If we do not watch for Jesus, when He comes we will not be ready. The reward we are going to get is from heaven and we will not come up short if we give God our all. (Revelation 22:12)

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."