



October 2011

Shrubs

Spiritual Naval Gazer

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR WALK WITH JESUS?

What are you doing with the TALENTS, GIFTS, EXPERIENCES and TRAINING God has given you?

I have walked with you when you were on fire for the Lord.
Served with you in and on mission when you burned with enthusiasm for Jesus.
Many have witnessed your gifts of preaching, service or worship in action.
I've sat with you when God's Spirit fell in times of prayer.
I knew you in times when you were selfless.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Have you become a sad-eyed religious person?
Are you self-absorbed with cares & hurts?
Do you murmur about how unfair life (and God) is?
Is your life no longer about Christ & the Cross?
Do you just sit around and wait for someone to recommend the next book or method to lift your droopy spirit?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

It is amazing how upset most Christians get when they are reminded of the cost and demands of Jesus and the Cross, that calls them out of their flabby spiritual culture and reminds them to "deny themselves and pick up their cross...daily and follow Him!

Have you become a Spiritual Naval Gazer?
Is your mantra, "I have so many problems...this is my Cross to bear!"

**LISTEN!!!! Daily problems are NOT crosses to bear!
They are nothing more than daily problems!**

Bearing your cross is the pain brought on by

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- ~ Living out His will
- ~ Using your gifts for His pleasure
- ~ Earnestly seeking His Kingdom
- ~ Denying yourself

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

I have sat with you in amazing times of prayer.
I have witnessed God use you in your selflessness.
I have seen people blessed by your gifts in action.
I remember times when you were all about Him.
I saw times you loved the Word, Devotions and Solitude.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

Is it time for you to:

- CONFESS TO THE LORD... your over sensitiveness?
- ACKNOWLEDGE TO JESUS...your self-absorption?
- RE-OFFER YOUR GIFTS...of preaching and service to Him?
- REPENT...of dullness of heart towards prayer and the Bible?
- GET OVER OFFENSES BY OTHERS...and give mercy?

My mentor M.T. Sellers used to say...

"There are too many people pumping gas who should be preaching the Gospel and too many preaching the Gospel who should be pumping gas."

We are told to love the Lord God with all our heart, soul & mind. Out of this love, get up, give like you used to. GO! There are people in this world who need your help to point them to Christ!

"Jesus said to them all, 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" *John 9:23*

Speaking the truth in love and praying you return to your first love,

Brad

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