

PENIEL

My Ministry Minute From The Heart Of The Founder

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I Am Living In The Committed Mode

And they said unto Him, Art Thou the Christ that should come, or should we look for another?

Matthew 11:3-6

An airplane is a “weight-carrying” vehicle that possesses the capability of travelling through the atmosphere at an unbelievable speed and with pinpoint accuracy. The plane is supported by the dynamic action of air against its surface or by its own buoyancy. During take-off, passengers are thrust back and forth in their seats and shuffled about like they are on a roller coaster. That being a fact, it is strongly advised that one prepare for pending departure agitation – better known as turbulence.

Those of us who are frequent flyers will readily confirm that it is not unusual for the passenger to experience turbulence. In fact, it is expected to happen during take off. No Wait! It may very well take place during the actual flight. Oh yes! Let’s not forget that there is a very high probability that some shaking is likely to occur during landing. In other words, turbulence can take place at anytime throughout the flight experience.

I am told that when a plane taxis down the runway, increasingly picking up speed, that there is a departure point when the aircraft **MUST** take off. It has to do with the plane’s force, speed, and momentum. That’s right, no matter what the consequences of continuing may be, the pilot cannot abort, even if he wants to because all systems are “GO” - and there is absolutely no turning back.

And guess what! Pilots have a “Code Word” used when they have reached the ‘point of no return’. The word is “committed.” Listen as the pilot responds to the Radio Control Tower: “Yes Sir, I clearly understand what you are saying, but at this point, regardless of the outcome, we are in the Committed Mode!”

Whew! Well, finally the plane has departed and within a matter of minutes, the traveler is thousands of feet in the air. He is soaring so fast and so smooth, that he feels as if he is actually standing still. High above is the grandeur of the opulent heavens. It is so awesome and intimidating that it can actually be terrifying. In contrast, an intense and contemplative look below reveals an irresistible sight that is also captivating to even the most experienced of flyers.

There you are, high in the air trying to digest all of this splendor, but you have noticed something. Now I know why the Lord told us to “Look up.” Because things below are totally distorted. Buildings, trees, and cars are so small that they look like children’s toys; highways and railroad tracks appear to be thin lines; acres and acres of land look like mere blocks and are seen in their totality from where you sit. Indeed, one does not perceive things the way they really are from this position – things simply are not as they appear. Hum ... where did I hear this before?



“...things below are totally distorted.”



“...all systems are ‘GO!’ - and there is absolutely no turning back.”

Anyway, this brings me to my thought for this issue. It is no secret that we are facing critical and even scary times. We face challenges that are purposely directed at Christians and are strategically targeted for shaking the very foundation of our faith; much like John the Baptist in this portion of scripture. John found himself in prison not because he had committed a crime or even because he had violated a moral code; he had been arrested for believing and propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was absorbed by his faith in the Lord, and was convicted because of the good news which he declared. He preached that Jesus is the Christ, the only Son of the Living God, that He is the Messiah of which the Old Testament had promised and that through Him our eternity is forever settled and secure. His message was his passion.

Over the years, I have pondered John's confusion at this point in his life and I must admit that I have secretly thought that it was a little late for John to ask this crucial question: "Is this the Christ, or shall we look for another?" After all, John had progressively gained so much force and momentum, that at this stage, even if he decided to recant, the results would probably be the same. Yes sadly, as I see it, at this point in time, the murder of John was eminent. All things considered, this definitely was not the time for him to doubt whether he was working for the right team or not.

Just think about it! John had successfully passed through the thrusting and quaking period of his experience. The turbulence and shaking, resulting from his calling, had not been enough to cause him to lose his grip. But now he was trying to analyze his situation from a place where everything that he believed in, was beginning to look ambiguous, indistinguishable and distorted. God's divine power in the past had proven to be greater than man's problems. But now, plagued by doubt, John's confidence in Christ had become weak and uncertain.



What John was saying and feeling was overwhelmingly influenced by his inaccurate interpretation of his present situation. He was beginning to feel that his message of repentance and assurance had lost its authenticity and its strength. John was actually pondering the unthinkable: Was Jesus who He said He was – or was there some other god that he should be trusting? But he had been locked in these circumstances that had no way of escape. He certainly had gained the velocity and the momentum to keep the wheels turning at the rapid speed that would bring about an inevitable conclusion. Yes indeed, he was in the "committed" stage and all systems were "Go".

Now I am better able to understand the profound message that Jesus sent to John. He does not address his question with a "Yes" or "No" answer, rather He is very specific. He understands that from where John is sitting, his vision has become distorted and his thinking has been contaminated. He knows that John is responding to what he is seeing from an abnormal and unreliable position. But Jesus (Wonderful Jesus) puts things back into focus for him. Jesus simply and calmly says:

^[4] ... Go and show John AGAIN those things which ye do hear and see:

^[5] The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

^[6] And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. (Matthew 11:4-6)

I love verse four. Jesus is saying that John has already experienced the ultimate TRUTH and on this very foundation he can confidently hang his faith. Most of us can relate to John's dilemma. Uncertainty plagues us from time to time, but we have the blessed assurance that He is faithful to refocus us on what is real. I rejoice because I am certain that during those times when my faith is challenged, I have a "truth base" that will surely prevail against every lie of the enemy.

Friend, you may be bombarded with ingenious innuendoes and outright confrontational rhetoric that blatantly disrespects the Deity and Omnipotence of our God. Man, with his incompetent, inept and ineffective religions continues to vacillate from one theory to another. They wander from one god to another; ever motivated by what they see and what they feel. Man has placed his eternity in his carnal understanding. He recruits others to join him in his folly. No thank you! It is not until man allows Jesus to send His piercing personal message to the soul, that he will understand that our lives have a divine assignment and purpose. Any other explanation or interpretation is totally inaccurate and is an inspired deception.

But thank God we are not deceived! We stand steadfast and unmovable in our faith. We fully believe and understand that the trials that we are going through today are for a reason and just for a season – and that they will accomplish a greater testimony of the power and grace of God. Furthermore we are adamant in our declaration, to a misinformed world, that our trials do not define the power that is in our God. Blessed Child of God, let us diligently work to guard our hearts from this world's counsel of what is true and of what has value. Let us determine that we will not envy the wicked and run after the 'bling-bling' which will not satisfy.

I personally plan to join my mother around the throne of God. I have too much invested. It is not in my heart to abandon my faith. I am willing to entrust my very life in the One that I know is altogether worthy. I guess you can say that I am in "the Committed Mode" – all systems are "GO!"

My Ministry Minute
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