

Words That Hinder & Words That Help Our Growth – Part 2 | Compromise

Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it. I hope the test won't show that we have failed. But if it comes to that, we'd rather the test showed our failure than yours. We're rooting for the truth to win out in you. We couldn't possibly do otherwise. We don't just put up with our limitations; we celebrate them, and then go on to celebrate every strength, every triumph of the truth in you. We pray hard that it will all come together in your lives.

2 Corinthians 13:5-9 (MSG)

The Answer From Jesus For Compromise:

*The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat." But Jesus said, "You feed them." "With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!" "How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out." They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish. Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. **They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.***

Mark 6:30-42 (NLT)

- **Compromise becomes easier when we justify it because we are tired or have an unfulfilled need. V30-V31**
- **Jesus teaches us that the answer to compromise is compassion. V34**
- **Compromise makes us want to run from responsibility. V36**

- **Compromise makes us look to ourselves instead of to God to meet overwhelming needs. V37**

Jesus' Answer:

1. **Jesus asks even though He knows what He is going to do.**
2. **Jesus demands even though it seems impossible. "You feed them." V37**
3. **Jesus prepares even though He doesn't need preparation. "What do you have?" V38 Go and find out...**
4. **Jesus structures discipline even though He lacks none. "Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass." V39**
5. **Jesus brings order before He brings blessing. V40**
6. **Jesus prays before He acts. V41**
7. **Jesus gives it to others to distribute. V41**

Reflection:

- **Jesus does all of these things before He multiplies anything. Are you better than Jesus?**
- **What arena of compromise in your life is limiting God's multiplication of the little you have?**
- **Jesus is not interested in how big the need is or how small your supply is. He is still saying to us: "You feed them..."**
- **Where are you compromising that is hindering your progress? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you and allow others to speak to you.**
- **Whatever you compromise to keep you will lose and you will diminish God's anointing in your life!**

*Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. **And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.** If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. **You are not that important. Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct. Those who are***

*taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them. **Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.***

Galatians 6:1-10 (NLT)