

Ephesians 2:10 AMPC (10) For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Romans 5:15 NKJV But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, *much more* the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Romans 5:17 NKJV For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, *much more* those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

It is God's plan for us to experience more in our walk with Him!

But there is something that will work to keep you from experiencing the more God has planned for you.

These are our feelings.

Introduction:

As a child we let our feelings express everything. We cry when we are happy, we cry when we are mad, when you need to eat or when we don't need to eat...

Have you ever been in a situation where your feelings mislead you?

Since becoming a Christian, have you ever had those times when you did not feel like God was with you? You felt like He was busy with something else way off away from you?

Have you ever confessed a sin and repented genuinely but you did not feel like God really had forgiven you?

Have you seen that couple that is so lovey-dovey before they get married and then after they get married all of a sudden you find out that their marriage did not last, and they end up divorced and hate one another?

- ✓ One of the more difficult things we do in the human experience is learning to navigate through our **feelings**.

Childhood really is a process where we are supposed to learn that we don't make decisions based on our feelings.

How many of us had days when we did not feel like going to school.

- ✓ Sometimes our feelings can **fool** us!

God has promises in His Word that are really awesome but our feelings can sometimes be contrary to them.

- ✓ People who live by their feelings are very **selfish!**

People who live by their feelings always make selfish choices.

How many times do we hear about people making bad decisions that hurt a lot of people because they were following their feelings?

If following your feelings was a safe way to live, then why do we have classes where we teach ethics or we endeavor to create structure and order in the environments where we live and work? Why do we need to do that if all we need to do is follow our feelings in every situation?

- ✓ Even a born-again follower of Jesus Christ is capable of having really **rotten** feelings!

Some of us are under the impression that when we become a Christian that is supposed to get fixed when we become a believer.

We are not teaching you that you should not have feelings.

As a matter of fact, we are not supposed to live like Spock from Star Trek where we suppress and ignore our feelings and only live by logic

God did not give us feelings for us to snuff them out and never have them. He just never meant for us to make our decisions based on our feelings.

✓ Feelings were never meant to be **decision** makers.

Proverbs 30:21-22 NIV (21) "Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up: (22) a servant who becomes king...

This verse tells us what happens when you put something that was not meant to be the leader in the place to lead. It causes great hurt, harm and destruction.

Feelings are great but they are not supposed to be the leader in your life.

Feelings are designed to follow your decisions, not make the decisions for you.

✓ Your feelings are not **leaders**; they are followers.

Philippians 4:8-9 NLT And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (9) Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me--everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

If you want peaceful feelings, you have to learn to think right. The reason people do not have peaceful feelings is because they do not think on the right things.

- ✓ Peace comes after we learn to think **correctly**.
- ✓ What you think about will eventually **affect** your feelings.

Until you learn to think right, you will never be able to receive the fullness of what God has planned for you.

The only tool that the devil has to work against you is deception. He cannot get you to make a decision to follow him unless you are deceived. The way that he works this deception is through the power of suggestion in our minds. He will strategically try and orchestrate thoughts in your mind to get you to begin to think in a certain direction that he knows will produce certain feelings for you. If he then can get you to follow those feelings and make that decision, then he has won the battle.

This is what kept the Children of Israel in trouble most of the time.

There is the example of Children of Israel murmuring every time they ran out of water or food. Instead of knowing God has their back, they were moved by their feelings and whined and complained.

Hebrews 3:19 AMPC So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest], because of their unwillingness to adhere to and trust in and rely on God [unbelief had shut them out].

This is how he is going to come against you. He will suggest to you and if he can get you to dwell on it long enough, you will begin to have feelings along those lines and if you follow your feelings, you will get into trouble.

- ✓ God wants us to move out of feelings and over into **faith**.

Made for More – Part 2

December 10, 2023

Page 5 of 5

- ✓ Feelings are always based on what I am **seeing** and **hearing**.
- ✓ Faith is always based on what God has already **said**.
- ✓ Your feelings are meant to follow you as you **believe** and do God's Word.

When you begin to control your feelings and stop letting them dictate to you, you will begin to enter the more that God has made you for!