

Hero Worship Gone Wrong
(Subtitle-Who are You Truly Following and Why?)
Text-1 Kings 13: 1-32

QUESTION	MY ANSWER
Who are your life influences/influencers?	
What people are able to take you "off the course" of your goals?	
What impact do older, more experienced church people have in/on your life?	
What level of (church position) supersedes your own experience/knowledge/choices?	
How easily lead/mislead are you or have you been?	
How often do people disappoint you? How often have people disappointed you?	
Are you surprised when/if people disappoint you?	
What are/have been some consequences of being "let down by others?"	
Describe your own confidence about Jesus' call/plan for your life.	
Describe the confidence of others about Jesus' call/plan for your life.	
What is self-esteem?	
What is self-confidence?	
What does the Bible say about confidence? What are Bible examples of confidence demonstrated?	

DISCOVERY-Let's read the passages- Text-1 Kings 13 1-32

Consider these passages and their applications:

2 Peter 1:1-To those who through the righteousness of our **God and Savior** Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours...

Peter is not mentioning 2 entities. He is pairing God and Savior as one here.**

Although Peter will address false teachers/false teaching, he is likely under Roman house arrest awaiting his execution-AD64-68. His Jesus devotion has not waned.

2 Peter 1:2-Grace and peace be yours **in abundance**...

His greeting reflects Jesus' own greeting (to His disciples) and understanding of what Jesus has done for him and all believers

Peter emphasizes the Believer's "running over" blessing that comes with intimately knowing Jesus. "Greek word (epignosis) means "precise and correct knowledge."

2 Peter 1:3-His divine power has given us everything we need for **life and godliness**...

This statement recognizes that the supernatural is key for Believers' success.

And this super nature of Jesus is ALL the Believer needs for good Yahweh worship, moral excellence and virtue. This doesn't mean that Believers should be perfect but the roadmap is Jesus and publicly/obviously owning the exchange of His perfect life for us is the "secret sauce."

2 Peter 1:4-Through these, he has given us His **very great and precious promises**...

The end of this verse is an acknowledgement that the planet's immorality and corruption is a lure to Believers.

Although "born again" and "new creatures", there is a developmental roadmap/strategy to reinforce our Jesus identity. And these are promises made to Believers, not the nation of Israel in the OT. (Reference Matthew 5/6 and John 14 and John's book.)

2 Peter 1:5-6-For this very reason, **make every effort to add** to your faith...

Jesus did all the work, completed it all and paid it all; Peter understands this. However, he is emphasizing the importance of human will in the attempt to regularly honor Jesus' sacrifice.

- ✓ *Even if the gift is free, you still have to raise your hand to accept it, have to pick it up, have to claim it, have to pay the taxes on it, have to own it.*
- ✓ *Now, Peter begins the building blocks of genuine Believership.*
- ✓ *It's not ok to remain a gift claimer/possessor only*

2 Peter 1:6-7-and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance...

Peter echoes similar teaching by Paul. Living a Jesus-honoring life is like dedication to becoming a superior athlete.

- ✓ *Continue to work out your salvation-(Phil 2:12)*
- ✓ *Strict training-(1 Cor 9:24)*
- ✓ *Train yourself to be godly-(1Tim 4:7)*

2 Peter 1:8-For if you possess these qualities in **increasing measures**...

Peter is coaching Believers to NOT be ineffective and unproductive

- ✓ *Often times making the team is not the same as suiting up, getting playing time or excelling-(Think the movie "Rudy")*
- ✓ *Practice perfects practice, (rather than "practice makes perfect" which it does not.)*
- ✓ *Building muscle and muscle memory creates a positive exercise dynamic*

2 Peter 1:9-But if anyone does not have them, he is **nearsighted and blind**...

Peter strongly compares a non-achieving, no-effort Believer to a short sighted, no vision individual who has forgotten the value and importance of the possessed gift of great cost.

2 Peter 1:10-Therefore, brothers, be all the more **eager** to make your calling and election sure...

Peter instructs the Believer to actively exercise and develop abilities to confirm Jesus' decision to sacrifice His life for us.

- ✓ *Be certain the Jesus would be pleased with your life, choices, thinking, behavior-always recognizing "**when you can't, that He already has!**"*
- ✓ *You can't be or get it perfect; the accumulation of these desirable abilities will develop a humility that reminds us the attempt, the intent, the engagement is rewarded because **Jesus did all the work for us!***

2 Peter 1:11-**and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Peter has first (maybe 2nd hand) awareness of this truth – (Acts 7:55-56, Acts 12:2) in addition to the 3 ½ years spent learning about this concept with Jesus

- ✓ *The tradition of Peter's crucifixion request partially illuminates this critical belief that he promotes in this letter then practices upon his execution.*

Foey/Impossible Concepts

Word	What it should or definitively means	What we like it to mean	How do you live these in the everyday world?
Faith	Acting like something is so even when it is not so in order that it might be so simply because God said so-Dr. Tony Evans	Pretty strong belief in stuff/something	Believing the supernatural. But not ghosts, vampires, zombies. Understanding that just because your senses are unaware, there is reality beyond them
Goodness	The quality of being morally virtuous or of exceptional character	Being a pretty nice, pretty polite person. Avoiding major crimes and inappropriate behavior	Work to consider others before yourself. Then the 10 commandments become easier to embrace. It's not about your gain and how much you acquire
Knowledge	Facts, information, skills acquired by a person through experience or education	Stuff you know or can access often via Google, Wikipedia, friends, college	So, if the beginning of Wisdom is awe of Jesus/Yahweh, it becomes important to learn, know and understand as much about the Godhead as possible. It's the ultimate lasting knowledge. The rest is temporary
Self-Control	The ability to manage oneself- in particular one's emotions, desires or the expression of them in one's behavior	Avoiding fights, major disputes, not talking about religion and politics, not getting too drunk or high	It's ok to feel angry, sad, depressed, manic, homicidal but these need to be fleeting, not lingering and not acted upon in spite of what's been done to you-Hard to do! Oh, check out how Jesus nails this
Perseverance	Persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success	Outlasting you or the other guy, stick-to-it-iveness, living through tough circumstances	Staying the course until the end regardless of the apparent impediments, hurdles and cost. Remember the pay-off!!
Godliness	The quality of conforming to the laws and wishes of Yahweh Go, devoutness and moral uprightness-reflecting the kingdom of God in the course of everyday life	Being basically a good person, being spiritual, going to church, going to confession, being baptized, praying, chanting, yoga, pilgrimages, cleanliness	Publicly talking about, discussing Jesus. Joyfully recognizing the credit due to Jesus for the life, possession, health, family etc. you currently experience-good or bad
Brotherly Kindness	Mutual affection, concern for others relating to each other as spiritual beings	Doing unto others as they would do unto you. Doing first to others before they do unto you.	"Meddling" in the lives of fellow Believers to know their needs and condition. Then being involved to assist and encourage in meaningful, life mattering ways-Heb. 10:24-25
Love	Wanting what's best for someone without regard to yourself or your own gain and in spite of unreturned sentiment	Physical, emotional, psychological Intimacy with someone or something. Really, really liking someone. Passion/lust.	Wanting what's (eternally) best for someone without regard to yourself or your own gain and in spite of unreturned sentiment

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QUESTION	MY ANSWER
Who/what are your life influences/influencers?	Parents, grandparents, family, friends, teachers, social media, the News, Oprah, authors, athletes, musicians, artists, actors, politicians, magazines, TV shows, bloggers, lifestyle personalities
What people are able to take you "off the course" of your goals?	Parents, grandparents, family, friends, teachers. People who are important in/to my life (social media, the News, Oprah, authors, athletes, musicians, artists, actors, politicians, magazines, TV shows, bloggers, lifestyle personalities)
What impact do older, more experienced church people have in/on your life?	Out of general respect for their age, journey, current status, support and perceived wisdom, they might be able to greatly impact my decision making, life choices, finances, family workings. They may also affect faith relationship depending upon my level of trust
What level of (church position) supersedes your own experience/knowledge/choices?	"Certainly"-the pastor, priest, bishop, minister, reverend, missionaries supersede. Often times-the Sunday school teachers, deacons, elders, trustees, stewards, worship leaders, AWANA leaders. Maybe-the choir/praise team, ushers, church workers, long-time members, frequent attenders. Never-teens, kids, new members, absent members.
How easily lead/mislead are you or have you been?	Mostly the situation and/or the respect/trust level for the person can be a key ingredient in being lead/mislead.
How often do people disappoint you? How often have people disappointed you?	If honest, (and counting) surprisingly regularly. We expect the best and most positive interactions with and from people we trust. When it doesn't work the way we anticipate that it should, there's a lot of damage/hurt in the environment.
Are you surprised when/if people disappoint you?	If it is too difficult to admit this happens more often than we appreciate, then we're always surprised, often overwhelmed and regularly unprepared for the intensity and intimacy of people relationships.
What are/have been some consequences of being "let down by others?"	Loss of friendships, depression, difficulty trusting others, superficial interactions, anger, distancing from others,
Describe your own confidence about Jesus' call/plan for your life.	There may not be much or any. It is often excessively challenging to "plug in" or be locked in to what Jesus expects specifically from me and my life
Describe the confidence of others about Jesus' call/plan for your life.	Many times, it exceeds my own assurance. It seems that others may better believe a path for me that utilizes my gifts, talents, time and resources.
What is self-esteem?	What others know/think/feel about me directly influences how I think/feel about myself.
What is self-confidence?	What I know, how I think/feel directly influences how I think/feel about myself.
What does the Bible say about confidence? What are Bible examples of confidence demonstrated?	Philippians 1:6-I am confident of this very thing: that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the Day of Christ Jesus.