

# Are You C-L-E-A-R?

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## **Are you C-L-E-A-R?**

Music is at its best when the lyrics of the song grab the heart of the listener and paint a picture. I love the words to the old Judy Collins song, I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW. You can't help but feel happy and free when you hear them. Copyright rules don't allow me to write them here so if you've forgotten the lyrics, pull out that old tape or do a Google search. Pay attention because there is a deeper message to that song then you may have originally thought.

The familiar lines to this song paint a true picture of how we would like our lives to be! Is it possible? If Christ had not intended for us to live seeing clearly, He wouldn't have inspired Peter to write in I Peter 2:9: "The reason I am chosen is to set out His wonderful acts, display the virtues and perfections of Christ, who called me out of darkness (confusion, cloudiness, lack of clarity, untruthfulness) into His Light. (Amplified Bible)

It's obvious when we read the Word, God never wanted us to walk around dazed and confused. Yet, many of us, even those who have been believers for a long time, have come to accept that state of mind and become very familiar with the question/prayer, "God, what's your will?" The problem with that prayer is we keep asking it over and over again. Even when we think we know the answer we tend to question or allow our own doubts and fears to bring about more confusion.

Life will bring rainy days. The dark clouds of those seasons can prevent clear vision or blind us as the song says. Our journey will not be always smooth. There will be obstacles in our way, many of which we don't see or aren't expecting. Life will bring pain. We will be faced with discouragement and bad feelings. It is reality. There is no denying it. No one is exempt.

The question is, in the middle of it all, how do we get and maintain clarity in our lives? How do we work through the season of the storm without drowning? How do we see and move beyond the pain of our past or present situation? How do we recognize the things that are in our path that our meant to trip us up and keep us from running our "best" race? How do we open the eyes of our hearts and minds so that the dark clouds don't prevent us from seeing the bright SON-Shiny day (the purposes and plans for good and not evil) that God promises us in Jeremiah 29:11? *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

God has laid out a plan for becoming  
C-L-E-A-R.

## **C**onfess your shortcomings.

The first step to becoming clear is admitting you aren't. We often think of sin in terms of the obvious—adultery, lying, stealing, etc. The Bible makes it clear that sin is also anything that does not come from faith. Faith is a result of belief the truthfulness of God.

Look at the things that aren't working in your life. Examine your expectations and beliefs about that issue. Ask yourself, "Where am I failing to live as God intended in this area? What does God say about this problem?"

1 John 1:9 says if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God's forgiveness and transformation is necessary to clean up our heart and clear our mind. It is the step that takes what is old and creates something new. We are all sinners and much like the alcoholic the first step to recovery is admitting we have a problem.

## **L**ive in the Light.

A dark room will remain dark until someone flips the light switch or lights a candle. The Bible speaks to the issue of Light in John 8:11-13: "When **Jesus** spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the **light** of the **world**. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life."

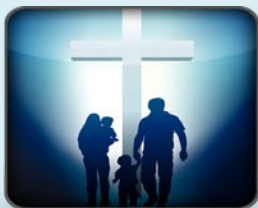
If we want to see, think, feel and act with clarity, we must continually expose ourselves (past, present, and future), to the light of Christ.

Many of us go through life wearing a mask. We try to hide our flaws, our emotions, our sadness, and anything else that makes us uncomfortable or might cause someone to think less of us. We are afraid to be vulnerable—to be REAL. The areas of our lives that we want to change must be faced head on. We must be willing lay aside our fear and bring the dark areas to Christ, expose them to the light of His Word and let Him bring change.

Sometimes, the things we examine may not be pretty and may even be scary to look at but as we place them into the hands of a loving heavenly Father, they will be transformed by His light. We will be able to see the treasure and the gift in every ugly thing we are or

situation we have experienced when we see it in His light.

Ask yourself: What am I trying to hide from God, me, or others? What do I need to bring into the light? What is stopping me from being real?



## **E**xhibit His Character

Character is a result of our values. Values are a key component to living a successful, Christ-filled life.

In order to live a life full of the character of Christ we must first learn what that character is. Christ was the ultimate expression of the character of God. He expressed His values and God's character everywhere He went, and in everything He taught, and in everything He did.

If we are to follow the example of God through Christ we need to observe *II Tim. 2:15*. "**Study** to show yourself

*approved unto God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed, rightly discerning the word of truth.* “ There is a saying that we are five years from today, a product of what we read and who we associate ourselves with. There is no better model of character than Jesus Christ.

**Committing** to a life of spiritual discipline, including study, prayer and fasting, meditation, silence, and worship, then **submitting** ourselves to the teachings of Jesus through the Scriptures is a key component of a clear and successful life. II Tim. 3:15-17 contains this passage. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* Being spiritually disciplined does not have to take hours each day. However, it is our responsibility to **study, learn,** and then **choose** to live out that knowledge with the help of Christ.

Ask yourself: What do I value? Where does my character not match Christ's? What could I do to change?

## **A**ffirm His Word

God has given us a promise. *“(Making One's Calling and Election Sure) His divine power has given us **everything** we **need** for **life** and **godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” II Peter 1:3(The Message)*

How often do we choose not to believe that? To live an overcoming, victorious life, clear in purpose and mission, we must acknowledge that God has given us the tools we need to deal with life and live whole.

We are bombarded with negative voices from many different sources and experiences. Many of us have been told we can't do something. We've been influenced by the often subtle, negative sayings that skew our thinking and invade our minds. These messages play over and over in our heads and raise doubt, fear, insecurity, and often paralyze us even though we want to move.

Satan loves to mess with our heads. He will continually use those messages and lies of his own to defeat us and sabotage us. His objective is to keep us confused about who Christ is and throwing up barriers to try to keep us from living a full, Christ-centered, purpose driven life. He knows how effective and successful we will be if we are free so he runs around



trying to devour our freedom, our mission, our focus and ultimately convinces us to settle for a less than the authentic life Christ has called us to live.

This noise often drowns out the song in our heart, our unique symphony, the song the whole world is waiting for us to sing. The good news is that we can turn it around. We can record a new message, change the recording, and be free to sing “a new song.” *Romans 12:2* “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (*The Message*)

It is a scientific fact that your brain records the messages you’ve heard. It can’t discern between a lie and the truth. Not only do we listen to the powerful voices in our heads, we speak negative things over ourselves. Only you can erase the tape. You can transform your life by recording (hiding) and speaking God’s word. Begin to take the promises of God and scripture and speak them audibly over your life. For example: Instead of saying, “I can’t do that,” speak the truth. *Philippians 4:13*: “*I can do **all things** through Christ which strengthens me.*”

Write down scriptures that apply to what you are dealing with or want to change and begin to speak them audibly as “I am” statements. The word for I Am means

“BE”. If you want to BE you need to speak it into existence and drown out the lies that have held you back.

Ask yourself: What are the negative voices I have been listening to? What truth from God could I believe instead? What could I do to remind myself to replace the lies with the truth of God’s word?

## **R**emain Focused

A champion runner keeps his eye on the finish line of a race. He may be aware of others on the track but if he wants to run his best race he can’t be distracted. The same is true with us. We each have a race to run, a mission to accomplish.

If we want to be successful, we have to stay focused. We must know who we are, where we are going, and how we are going to get there. We need to understand our mission, and chart the course by setting the goals to get us there. We need to have a clear path, free from obstacles so we don’t stumble and fall.

Keeping the end result (what we envision), prize, or reward for running the race and winning in front of us, will help us stay motivated. That vision will help us be willing to endure and overcome the challenges of the race and give us the stamina to finish it. Jesus was

willing to go through anything, even a cruel and vicious death because He knew the joy of His people being restored to fellowship with the Father was worth it all.

*Hebrews 12:1 & 2: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Just like Jesus, and those who have gone before us, we can run our race and learn to sing our unique song. We can be all we were meant to be. We just need to remain CLEAR. When we do our days will be full of the **SONshine**.

Ask yourself: Where have I not been focused on an eternal perspective? What obstacles have caused me to lose focus? How could I look beyond the obstacles and run a good race?

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*Marian Struble is the founder and CEO of The Connection Factor and Moms On Mission. She is a Certified Christian Life Coach--Connected Life Coaching. She specializes in spiritual discovery and development, leadership training and development in the church, successful home based business, personal life mission, and dealing with loss, change or transition.*

*She is an author/speaker/teacher leading a wide variety of workshops, retreats, seminars, across denominations.*

*She has a passion for connecting people of all ages to God, their true selves, and others, inspiring them to live an intimate, Christ-centered life that will make a difference.*

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