

FEAST OF TABERNACLES
DAY 6 ... LIVING THE LIFE
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A lot of the world around us is false ... image ... appearance ... not always genuine or authentic. Think celebrities ... politicians ... world leaders. Keen to look good.

The reality is often very different. What occurs behind closed doors?

Keeping up appearances is vital to many people. Yet ... if that's not truly who we are ... then there is a danger of our image slipping ... or the stress of trying to maintain the façade.

A further danger is that we could even deceive ourselves!

Revelation 3:14-22 (NKJV)

14 **“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,**
‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the
Beginning of the creation of God:

15 **“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.**

16 So then, **because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

17 Because **you say, “I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing”—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—**

18 **I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.**

19 **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.** (*Philips ... “shake off your complacency and repent”*)

20 **Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**

21 ***To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.***

22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ’ ”

How should we be?

2 Timothy 1:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, a beloved son:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. *(No mention of the personage of the Holy Spirit ...because “he” doesn't exist)*

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,

4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,

5 when I call to remembrance **the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.** *(Their way of life wasn't an act ... they weren't pious!! They weren't out to impress the minister. They had genuine ... authentic ... real faith)*

It wasn't an act ... to look pious to other people (or God).

Someone who lives their life fully in line with their beliefs ... values ... in this case ... Godly values.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!** *(Not authentic faith! Watch out for this type of person ... and above all ... don't be one!!)*

2 Timothy 3:5 (NET)

5 **They will maintain the outward appearance of religion but will have repudiated its power. So avoid people like these.**

2 Timothy 3:5 (PHILIPS)

5 “They will maintain a façade of religion ...”

Watch out for them. And DON'T BE ONE!

The Apostle Paul was no doubt a deeply religious man ... but was genuine ... authentic ... real.

2 Timothy 3:10-13 (NKJV)

10 **But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, (Paul was authentic. What you see is what you get) purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,**

11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 **Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

13 **But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.** *(Don't just present an image to other people)*

Watch for “impostors”.

A warning to believers.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (NKJV)

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2 **Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

3 **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;**

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (*People will turn away from the truth. We need to check ourselves that we are “real”*)

Not authentic ... not true. I can “tick the boxes” ... I’m listening/hearing/viewing ... and/or attending. But false ... not genuine ... it’s not the unfeigned faith. Deception is dangerous.

All of us need to occasionally examine ourselves. Not be hypocritical ... not to condemn ourselves ... but just “kick the tyres” ... “shake the door” ... just checking we’re real.

Luke 6:46-49 (NKJV)

46 **“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? (Pretence/image)**

47 **Whoever comes to Me**, and **hears My sayings** and **does them**, I will show you whom he is like:

48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

49 **But he who heard (came to Jesus and listened to Him) and did nothing (when the storm came and checked that person’s life ...it found that it wasn’t authentic ... and it was ruined) is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation**, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

Jeremiah 7:1-10 (NKJV)

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,

2 “Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, ‘**Hear the word of the Lord**, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the Lord!’ ”

3 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “**Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.**

4 **Do not trust in these lying words, saying, ‘The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these.’ (Nothing can happen to me ... because I belong to the one true church)**

5 “For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour,

6 if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt,

7 then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

8 **Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit.**

9 **Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know,**

10 **and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name,** and say, “We are delivered to do all these abominations”?

Jeremiah 7:12-15 (NKJV)

12 **But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.**

13 And now, **because you have done all these works,**” says the Lord, “and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer,

14 **therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.**

15 And **I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren—the whole posterity of Ephraim.** *(They had deceived themselves ... they looked like God’s people ... but they weren’t!! God is looking at our heart)*

They had deceived themselves. They had the outward appearance of religion ... “members” ... they knew the Sabbath ... the Holy Days ... knew about unclean meats.

God is not impressed by outward appearance ... head knowledge. Just “doing” religious things of no value ... if ... out heart is not in it.

God wants UNFEIGNED FAITH.

Micah 6:6-8 (NKJV)

6 With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before the High God?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
With calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has shown you, O man, what is good;

And **what does the Lord require of you**

But to do justly,

To love mercy,

And to walk humbly with your God?

God is not interested in “religious offerings”.

God looks at the heart. Relying on external activities (even Sabbaths ... turning up at Feast services ... a bit of lackadaisical prayer ... isn't what God enjoys).

What kind of life are we living ... on a day-to-day basis? Religious façade ... or living out the actions of a good heart?

Malachi 1:6-14 (NKJV)

6 “A son honours his father,

And a servant his master.

If then I am the Father,

Where is My honour?

And if I am a Master,

Where is My reverence?

Says the Lord of hosts

To you priests who despise My name.

Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’

7 “**You offer defiled food on My altar,**

But say,

‘In what way have we defiled You?’

By saying,

‘The table of the Lord is contemptible.’

8 And when **you offer the blind as a sacrifice,**

Is it not evil?

And when **you offer the lame and sick,**

Is it not evil?

Offer it then to your governor!

Would he be pleased with you?

Would he accept you favourably?”

Says the Lord of hosts.

9 **“But now entreat God's favour,
That He may be gracious to us.**

While this is being done by your hands,
Will He accept you favourably?”

Says the Lord of hosts.

10 “Who is there even among you who would shut the doors,
So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain?

I have no pleasure in you,”

Says the Lord of hosts,

“Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down,
My name shall be great among the Gentiles;
In every place incense shall be offered to My name,
And a pure offering;

For ***My name shall be great among the nations,***”

Says the Lord of hosts. ***(God's name wasn't great amongst the
priests)***

12 **“But you profane it,**

In that you say,

‘The table of the Lord is defiled;

And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.’

13 You also say,

‘Oh, what a weariness!’

And you sneer at it,”

Says the Lord of hosts.

“And ***you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick;***

Thus you bring an offering!

Should I accept this from your hand?”

Says the Lord.

14 “But ***cursed be the deceiver***

Who has in his flock a male,

And takes a vow,

But ***sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished***— ***(complete and utter
disrespect)***

For I am a great King,”

Says the Lord of hosts,

“And ***My name is to be feared among the nations.*** ***(We should
be respectful of God's ways. Not just “spinning things”)***

We can't offer mediocre service.

These were "religious" people ... but hypocrites ... it was all "feigned faith".

They had a terrible attitude ... total disrespect and lack of reverence towards God.

God wants us to be genuine in our faith ... in our walk with Him. Choosing His way because we agree with it ... we're respectful of our Father ... share His views ... we're authentic.

Not spinning ... working at our "appearance" ... but inwardly our heart is not in it.

Matthew 6:1-6 (NKJV)

1 **"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.** Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 Therefore, **when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men.** (*We should do good things because that is the good thing to do*) Assuredly, **I say to you, they have their reward.**

3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. (*Not a façade ... not a pretence*)

5 "And **when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites.** For **they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men.** (*"Spinning their image"*)

Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

6 But you, **when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.** (*The very opposite of a façade ... an image*)

Matthew 6:16-18 (NKJV)

16 "Moreover, **when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance.** For they disfigure their faces that they may

appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, **I say to you, they have their reward.**

17 But you, **when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,**
18 **so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, (shunning the appearance of religion)** but to your Father who is in the secret place; and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

Matthew 23:13-28 (NKJV)

13 “But **woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

14 **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

15 “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

16 “**Woe to you, blind guides,** who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’

17 **Fools and blind!** For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?

18 And, “Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’

19 **Fools and blind!** For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?

20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it.

21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it.

22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

23 “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

24 **Blind guides,** who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

25 “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.

26 **Blind Pharisee,** first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27 “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.

28 **Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

When Pharisees looked in a mirror ... they saw an image that appeared righteous. They deceived themselves. WE MUSTN'T.

We need genuine unfeigned faith ... not a façade. Who we are ... more than what we do?

Acts 19:8-9 (NKJV)

8 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

9 But when **some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way** before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

Acts 19:23 (NKJV)

23 **And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. (The Way Of Life ... not just presenting an image)**

It’s our way ... of all of our life (not the religious “bit” ... and the “secular”bit).

None of us is perfect. But this should be an aspiration for us.

We should really live our lives like Jesus.

1 John 2:3-6 (NKJV)

3 **Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

4 **He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

5 But **whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.**

6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (*Our way of life should be just like Jesus*)

If Jesus lives in us ... and we respond ... we'll be changed ... from the inside ... out. Not making an effort to "look good" ... but ... authentic ... unfeigned ... FROM THE HEART.

Luke 18:9-14 (NKJV)

9 Also **He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:**

10 "**Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.** (*Temple ... church today*)

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, (*NB: he prayed with himself ... not with God*) **'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.**

12 **I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'**

13 **And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'**

14 I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

The Pharisee prayed ... fasted ... but it didn't count. It was all image ... external ... with poor motives.

It needs to be genuine ... from the heart.

We can look at how we are doing ... individual actions ... performance based? But though our actions are important ... the bigger question is really about who we are ... living ... breathing ... genuine.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1 **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.** (*We want to be authentic ... with unfeigned faith. Live your lives before God*)

Romans 12:1 (MSG)

1 **So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.**

So. Look in the mirror. Are we authentic ... or feigned?