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## Who sets the boundaries?

January 5, 2004

Passions Narration

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Setting boundaries. What a wonderful concept. God and I were actually discussing this subject recently and he was saying there are limits to 'faith' at present. For example he would not enjoy it if someone snuffed out the sun or destroyed the world. These would be things that would be beyond our power in Christ. Are all things possible? Yes. Are all things good? No. And so if a person is gifted with all faith to move mountains at will they still need love. We are not talking about just any kind of love either but godly love. Agape love. Having that kind of love is difficult enough but when you add unlimited faith? Then I believe that person could move mountains.

But then we get to a subject that I am still struggling with. This desire to please people.

Though faith may not be the central issue it still is an important one. One reason is everyone has an opinion. For example I believe God is preparing me to present a simplified gospel. Now when you say that some people can't see the wisdom of it. They want to add this or that to it. But when you are trying to reach someone for Christ they don't need to know all the add-ons right away. They just need to hear the basic message. I'm probably not saying this right but maybe again I am. I think part of it is my own struggle with my own upbringing. We spend a lifetime learning the basics and now God is teaching me the simple version as I near the latter half of my life. Is this crazy? And if it is God why did He take so long to speak to me about it? Maybe cause I never listened before. But to be honest? I think its because I already had all the answers. And a lot of other preachers, leaders and people in charge think the same way. Once they learn something they can't imagine there is anything new to learn. And from someone who claims God

himself is teaching them?

You see, already I'm worrying about what others will think or say. Yet standing firm on the word and presenting a gospel that is so simple even a child will understand. In a sense what I'm doing now is working out the things God has shared with me so that I will understand even clearer. I've noticed everyday is not filled with huge revelations. But God does seem to fill in a lot of blanks. I know we cover a dozen different areas some nights. Last night for example I just spent time thanking God for the ability to speak to Him. It has been a desire of mine for most of my life. I've heard that the Bible says its supposed to happen but as I had mentioned before it was not one of those everyday things. And because Pastors took the scripture, "My sheep hear my voice" as to only when it was needed, I figured I was wrong. God spoke to me in orders or statements or the rare encouragement. But then I read about those like Moses or the Prophets who could seem to talk to God whenever they wanted. That didn't make sense to me. And Even Jesus indicated a daily communication. So to reach a place where I could actually talk to God and hear back. That was beyond what I had dreamed yet been everything for which I hoped. All I know is that while I was telling God this I had such a peace come over me.

One of the things I mentioned last night to God is now that I had faith in him what was next? Joyce Meyers comes on Sunday mornings and she said something I believe was meant for me. She said once you reached this place of faith then you must stand in it. I guess a good word for that would be endurance. Its not something we like to talk about. I know that Paul mentioned this as well when he was in chains. It was then Paul was known for his powerful preaching and endurance of suffering. I think I can understand that better then most people, what it means to endure in suffering. And as Paul mentioned today it is better to live and to share Christ but if he is to die he knows that he will receive Christ and that is even better for him.

So how does one endure in the midst of suffering? I know that I am enduring but it is not enjoyable. Why? Because the body hurts, the soul is also in need of healing. It is interesting because as the mind prospers with spiritual knowledge there is pain that goes soul deep. I know that only God can heal that. But until he does then I must endure.

