

Passivity

Outline

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What is being passive?

Definition: Accepting or allowing what happens or what others say or do, without active response or resistance.

Synonyms: tolerant, yielding, resigned to, inactive, timid

Antonyms: assertive, active, aggressive, resistant, intolerant, temperate, belief, steadfast, bold, fearless.

Does passiveness = defeat or lead to defeat?

Where does passivity come from?

- Public education indoctrinates / cultivates passivity into the hearts of men for the purpose of managing the masses/people.
 - *The curriculum required by the government and in many accredited home schooling programs: science, math, social studies, history, and language/grammar is design to lead us to be tolerant and accepting or at the very least dominated by natural realm.
- Natural education: what we learn from our 5 senses; focusing on the natural, ie. physical. (The body has symptoms, address them from the natural and they will be healed?)
- Church doctrines: Extreme Sovereignty, God doesn't heal everyone. Must be living right to receive from God, ie: performance based acceptance, legalism. Miracles passed away with disciples (we cannot expect to do or see them). The devil is only in third world countries. etc.

Any information that our heart receives through instruction of any kind that moves our focus to the natural/carnal realm creates passivity or at the very least insensitivity towards the spiritual things (both of God and the devil).

Jesus never addressed anything from the natural first, including sickness. He dealt with the root cause - spiritual oppression, Acts 10:38. The natural was a peripheral (fruit) issue, not the root!

Only addressing the symptom from the natural renders one passive to the root cause. Being focused on the natural (carnal) allows the enemy to kill, steal & destroy, John 10:10; 6:63; Romans 8:6.

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Accepting a 'word' contrary to the Word of God renders us passive to resisting the fruit that comes with that word;

- "I've always been this way"
- "This runs (ruins) in our family"
- "Everyone else does this... or... is like this..."
- "There is no cure for this disease"
- "It's just part of being over 50...."
- "The doctor said...."

The children of Israel were rendered passive when they received a word the "evil report" of the 10 spies (the majority), Numbers 13:26-14:10.

Oppressive circumstances can bring passivity to the surface: i.e. response to a prolonged sickness or difficult situation can cause one to resign themselves to managing the sickness or situation.

The man at the pool of Bethesda, John 5

The blind man, John 9

The crippled man, Acts 3

Why is it important to recognize passivity?

Passivity is often a root of the issue that we are dealing with that has sprung out of the seed of a lie sown by the devil (lie = unworthy, unloved, a failure, no good, God not trustworthy, need more than Jesus provided, etc).

The devil wants us to focus on the symptom or the circumstances of the issue so that the root of the destruction can remain. ie. we modify our behavior, change our diet, stop eating certain foods, start taking herbs and vitamins, change our confession, buy a sports car, etc, instead of dealing with the root cause.

The devil doesn't want us to think he is the source of the trouble, because we have power over him. So all of the thoughts/lies he speaks to us are designed to divert our attention away from the root cause, so that the destruction remains. *It is not the symptom itself, but what we think about it, that can move our heart away from the true source of the symptom.*

Example: Military uses diversionary tactics to capture/conquer their enemy.

Explain the different fronts used to draw their attention to the diversion while the stronger force meets no resistance as they conquer them from an unexpected direction (we actual believe the lie is true, that is a stronghold, 2 Corinthians 10:5).

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Diversionary tactics of the devil: Get us to focus on the noise: the information that our natural body is speaking to us, so we miss the source of the noise, the devil. The man in John 5, the noise was in his mind "...I have no man to help me.."; same with man in John 9, "... God does not hear sinners...".

One can be very active/aggressive but passive at the same time.

Examples:

Protesting some social issue, trying to keep the whole law, politically correct language not wanting to offend anyone.

Strife and contention does not appear passive but they actually are fruit of not actively standing against the devil, the fruit it produces confusion, frustration, offense and defensiveness reveal its source, James 3:14-16; Proverbs 13:10a

Even commanding and confession can play into the hands of the enemy to bring frustration and despair, if, it is not a fruit of belief, Hebrews 11:13.

The devil wants to keep us ignorant to or distracted from the real issue: the root cause is coming from him.

Too often the devil uses our brothers and sisters in Christ to perpetuate this through prayers and 'words' that put the blame or burden of deliverance on you; "...you should.. you need to... if you will start... don't say that..."

Jesus' followers knew and taught what the source of our trouble is...

James 4:7 Submit yourself therefore to God *resist the devil* and he will flee from you.

submit- to yield to, be obedient to, be subject unto

Examples: Luke 2:51 shows Jesus subject to his parents

Luke 10:17,20 devils subject unto us through thy name

Romans 8:7 carnal mind not subject to Law of God

resist- actively stand against, unyielding, intolerant against, be in opposition to

Examples: Ephesians 6:13 to withstand in the evil day (having done all is just believing)

2 Timothy 4:15 greatly withstood our words

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1Peter 5:8,9 Be sober, be vigilant; because *your adversary the devil*, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

... resist stedfast in the faith..- it takes the word of God to have faith and our belief in that word, to be stedfast, Romans 10:17, Matthew 17:20.

Show timeline of issue.....root, fruit, more fruit.

Should passivity be a characteristic of Christianity? Is God passive? What is the motive behind the passive response? Often it is a fear of rejection or loss or offense, etc.

Was Jesus passive in his life here on earth?

Looking at our example, Jesus' life:

- His childhood, Luke 2:42-50
- Throwing people out of Temple- Mark 11:15-17
- Calling people serpents, scorpions, fools, blind guides, hypocrite.Mt.23
- His crucifixion / trial is He actively responding? John 10:17-18 lay down my life, Lamentations "...I gave my cheeks to the smitters..." Scripture must be fulfilled: Mt 26:51-54; Jn. 19:28, 12:27, 13:28
- Jesus' Love is not passive, see 1 Corinthians 13

Compassion does not equal passivity

Obedience is not passive

Cooperation is not passive

Faith is not passive

Belief is not passive

Hebrews 12:1-4

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto ***Jesus the author and finisher of faith***; who for the joy that was set before him *endured the cross*, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that *endured such contradiction of sinners against himself*, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet *resisted unto blood, striving against sin ...*

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Running a race, ie. Patience / endurance, marathon or a sprint, both need endurance.

Jesus is *the* author and finisher of faith (He ran & won the race).

Abraham is called the Father of faith but Jesus lived faith without error! He demonstrated what it should be in life to death and resurrection!

What was Jesus' focus, it was *not* on present circumstances.

John 8:32 ...you shall know the truth and it will set you free...

Truth, adhered to, continued in or acted on removes passivity and our cooperation (submission to God) with that truth releases freedom.

Circumstances or past experience can hinder us from receiving truth.

Peter was corrected in a vision in Acts 10:15 "Don't call common what God has cleansed". His experience up to that point held him captive to the law.

Jeremiah was corrected by the Father when he evaluated himself by his present, known, ability, Jeremiah 1:6-8.

What about us? ... therefore don't call sick what God has said is whole/ healed. No matter what our past experience has been, when God reveals His way, don't stick with the past.

Only experience established by truth is worthy to live by!

All experience gained thru the natural man is at it's very best unreliable, Psalms 39:5

Jesus said (without qualification) "the flesh (natural) profits nothing..." it's only the Spirit that gives life. John 6:63

There are natural laws that God established that govern our physical bodies here on earth, but we should not let them have dominion over the laws of the Spirit, Romans 8:2.

ie: Romans 8:11 the body is mortal (dying), but the Spirit can preserve and give life to it.

In John 2 Jesus changed water into wine: water is H₂O and minerals according to natural laws, but by the Spirit, it was made into wine.

The law given to Israel through Moses appeared on the surface as laws only to govern the outward actions of natural man. But, Jesus revealed to us the Spirit of the law (Romans. 2:14-15; 7:12,14), the heart of the Father. Designed by God to govern our heart/motive and if received would change the outward behavior of the natural man, which would keep the law.

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Uncertainty about what God has provided for us in Christ will keep us from boldly living or walking in the spirit, which leaves only our flesh to live by and that renders us passive against the lies of the devil.

Uncertainty breeds passivity!

Look at Peter's life from his denial of Jesus to his baptism in HS for power.

- He is fearful to admit that he knows Jesus, thinking that he would be taken captive, too. Fear of rejection, the authorities and ultimately, death.
- Even after resurrection and receiving the indwelling spirit for salvation he remains passive. Not knowing what to do goes back to what was familiar to him, fishing.
- Acts 2:14-38, 4:19-21, 5:29 Once anointed by HS he steps out in boldness, no fear of what others might think of his association with Jesus! Even when thrown in jail he holds fast to his faith and speaks boldly to the authorities, he once feared.
- Galatians 2:11-13 What caused Peter to lose his boldness, rendering him passive to the idea that he needed to keep a law?
- Where did Peter's response come from, after all those years of ministry?
- No mention of the miraculous through Peter at Galatia: had this passivity hindered his faith? Keeping a law for acceptance does not inspire faith. (Every seed reproduces after its own kind, Genesis 1:11,12; Matthew 7:17,18).

Compare with Acts 11, 15.

What influence did the 'James gang' have on Peter?

Those Jews zealous to keep the law?

Why were they trying to keep the Law? They were uncertain as whether the sacrifice of Jesus was enough. Did Jesus' resurrection forever remove the 'need' to keep a law for salvation, (which was never required in the first place, Habakkuk 2:4)?

Look at the influence it had on all in that fellowship;

Peter's response brought division into the group.

It sowed doubt into Barnabas to the point he separated himself, too.

It put a difference between Jew and Gentile, (something God had told Peter was not to be there; "don't call unclean what I have cleansed").
and so on.....

Why didn't it cause Paul to divide himself away, too?

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Contrast Paul: he too like Peter was brought up in the synagogue, keeping the law. However, Paul went beyond Peter in learning the law into all of its details. Yet both were motivated by a lie: fear of rejection, not being accepted with man or God. Same lie; their response... opposite ends of the same stick.

Paul's background in God;

Before his salvation - Acts 22:3, 26:5; Philippians 3:5,6; Galatians 1:13,14; 1 Timothy 1:13

After his salvation - Philippians 3:7-10; Galatians 1:11,12,15-17; 2:20; 1 Timothy 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4,10

Transformation through Word converts us to live as who we actually are, a new creation, righteous (bold as a lion)... Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Proverbs 28:1b

Whatever fully persuaded Paul, removed all passivity from him.

Paul's revelation of Jesus Christ fulfilling the law fully persuaded him that there was nothing required of him to "do or keep" to be accepted with God! Jesus did all that for him! All the works were accomplished. He was now accepted on the merits of Jesus' faith, Galatians 2:16-21, 3:13, Romans 5:1,

Paul's testimony; I am persuaded.....

Romans 8:33-39; 14:5,14; 2 Timothy 1:12,13; Philippians 3:8-14; Hebrews 13:5,6

The key to overcoming passivity is being fully persuaded in what the word of God declares concerning our situation or circumstance.

Remaining sick when God has made us whole in Christ Jesus is often an issue of passivity due to a lack of being fully persuaded.

Why do we remain unpersuaded?

- lack of knowledge of Word of God.
- focused on the symptoms (waiting on a visible change to believe)
- have our trust in the "arm of the flesh" (waiting on the manifestation)
- lies we believe about ourselves
- mental assent
- not addressing the root of the issue
- "...cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things choke the word and it becomes barren and unfruitful..."

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What is the cure for passivity?

- Renewing the mind/heart Romans 12:2; Proverbs 4:20-22
- As we think in our heart that's the way we 'are'... Proverbs 23:7
- Move our focus away from the lies to the truth (tear down strongholds), 2 Corinthians 4:18, 5:7, 10:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:25,26.
- Break agreement with the need to be accepted by God and/or people (including family), that is fueling passivity Gal.1:10,4:16-18; Acts5:29
- Become fully persuaded in who you are in Christ and all that he has accomplished for you Gal.2:20; Col.2:10
- Read the rest of Galatians, it goes to the point why he even mentioned the incident with Peter. Following it through to his conclusion, about the flesh vs the spirit.
- Read 2 Peter 1, at the end of Peter's life we see him admonishing the others with the same cure that had liberated him from the passivity. The Word of God, walking in that knowledge will deliver you from "...the corruption that is in the world through lust..." (Lust is an over-desire for anything, ie. Paul had an over-desire to gain God's acceptance and favor through his works, this was of the world and not of God.)