

## Marching Orders

### Scripture

“. . . LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; He [who] does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He [who] swears to his own hurt and does not change; He [who] does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these [things] shall never be moved.” (Psalms 15:1-5 NKJV)

### Commentary

Jesus said, “. . . The first of all the commandments [is]: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This [is] the first commandment. “And the second, like [it, is] this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31 NKJV)

The Lord has given us our marching orders. Clearly we are to love God and others. This is not complicated; however, the flesh is strong. It is so strong that following these orders is impossible without the Holy Spirit of God empowering the believer. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV).

How shall the believer accomplish this without daily preparations? I tell you it is impossible. Oh you might think that yesterday was not too bad, or even the day before, however, as you remove yourself from the Word the scale changes. If you could look forward in time you would likely say, “I could never go that far.” The problem is we can only look back, and when we have been slothful, the lens we see through is cloudy.

The only way to protect ourselves from slipping into this lethargy is to compare ourselves against the perfect standard of God’s Word. Furthermore, comparing our attitudes and actions, as they relate to the two great commandments, would be most prudent. This must be our constant vigil. Allow your daily devotions to slip, and your attitudes and actions will follow.

“. . . How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!” (Psalms 119:9-11 NKJV)