

Make Sure God Is At the Controls

I had a few minutes before Church this Sunday, so I moseyed over to the Children's class. I wasn't scheduled to teach, but I always like to tousle a few mop tops before the service. Just as I arrived a visitor came through the back door, looking around, sort of wary, like they tend to be. Eager to put him at ease I stuck out a hand and said cheerfully, "Good morning, my name's Guy."

Suddenly he threw back against the wall in a fright. His eye balls popped out on stems like an old crawfish. I didn't realize it, but because of my southern drawl he thought I'd said, "Good morning, my name's GOD!"

"What?" he gasped and swallowed hard.

"I'm Guy," I repeated, "I'm glad you came today."

A bead of sweat popped up on his forehead.

"Ya ya ya you're God?" he gulped.

I guess he was hoping for someone a little more impressive. Either way, his eyes were sure bugging. Mine were too when once I found out what he thought I'd said!

After we got all that straightened out, I skedaddled over to join the praise team in the prayer room. I'd had my fill of meeting and greeting for one day.

I sat down and began to rattle off my prayers silently to the Lord, going through my regular list like a kid in Santa's lap. When I got to the part about how I wanted Him to use me, a still small voice rose up in me and asked, "Well, have you figured it out yet? Are you Guy? Or are you God?"

I was nearly floored.

"Surely you know my heart Lord," I pleaded.

I prayed, but I couldn't get it off my mind. Had I let the cares of this life inch me back into a place where I am more concerned with building my own kingdom than His? I began to examine myself and I asked God to forgive me if I'd lost my focus.

As we came out to play the first song I couldn't believe my eyes. The first song on the list was entitled "You Are God". I just laughed and whispered, "You sure are!" I sang that song with a little extra conviction that morning. The Lord sure has a way of driving His points across.

It's not that we necessarily mean to, but it's awful easy to lose focus nowadays. We live in such a fast food society. 'Have it your way! Just do it! No interest, no payments until you're in over your head!' It's like we're constantly being bombarded by the devil's own 24hr shopping infomercial. "Get your own genuine imitation faux costume jewelry ball and chain now, before they're gone!"

If we're not careful we can become so mesmerized by the world's sales pitch we never take the time to cultivate the eternal pearl of a great price that God wants to grow within us. Eventually we find ourselves cluttered, unfulfilled, and unproductive, like fools chasing a vapor. In other words, if God is your co-pilot, I would seriously suggest switching seats!

God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. He wants so desperately for His children to enjoy them. The 28th Chapter of Deuteronomy lists many of the blessings He promises will overtake us if we listen and obey Him. But He said "overtake". How can something overtake you if you are chasing it? Jesus taught, *(But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well. Matthew 6:33 CEV).*

God's promises are yes and amen for those who keep their eye on the prize, the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Only in seeking the Lord and His will for our lives will we find the true fulfillment that our hearts are longing for. In chasing the blessing instead of the Blessor we miss our whole purpose of our life, and the best gift of all, a real relationship with Jesus. Don't you dare trade your birthright for a bowl of soup like Esau. Don't walk away sad like the rich young ruler.

But anyway- For meet and greet purposes, I think I'll change my name to Purvis.
I don't need anymore confusion in my life. -Guy Sheffield 3-14-06