

“STAND STRAIGHT!”

JOHN 13:31-38

Life happens. We're actively living for God as we motor down the highway. But without a moment's notice, we find ourselves incapacitated on the side of the road as cars zoom by and we sit idly by. Truth is, every one of us will experience lulls and breaks and quandaries along the spiritual route as we seek to live for Jesus.

STAYING VERTICAL

① Your P _____: The _____ of God (13:31-32)

It's really rather difficult to miss this marquee mantra for our existence (Mt. 5:16; Rom. 11:36; 15:6; 1 Cor. 6:20; 10:31; 2 Cor. 1:20; 4:15; Eph. 1:12,14; Phil. 1:11; 2:11; 1 Pt. 2:12; 4:16).

Focused on His _____ will enable us to not be fixated on our _____.

_____ → our English word for “glory.”

② Your P _____: The _____ of God (13:33)

“Have it your way” may be the marketing motto of Burger King, but it's the default response of humanity.

_____ - _____ often creeps into our hearts.

Embrace the abundance of “one another” statements in the New Testament!

③ Your P _____: The _____ of God (13:34-35)

Thankfully, we don't need to manufacture this commodity since it is poured out in our hearts (Romans 5:5).

God never calls us to do what He has not equipped us to do. So go _____.

④ Your P _____: The _____ of God (13:36-38)

Notice the compassion of Christ as He speaks to this disciple, not with harsh, critical, annoyed overtones but with a sensitive, caring, tolerant attitude.

Peter's _____ proclamation is followed with enduring _____ by the longsuffering Savior.

The One who had a verbal cache infinitely greater than ours did not resort to blast away the one in front of Him.

CONCLUSION

These eight verses insert four essentials for all of us to stay vertical in our spiritual walk. Sooner and not usually later, life hits hard and what we believe is tested. At these fork-in-the-road encounters, do not keep your eyes on the rear view mirror. Indeed, the very best is up ahead.

Remember Who is with you. Remember Who hasn't abandoned you. Remember Who still has a plan for your life. And remember Who has encountered all you will ever experience and fully understands.