

Available Adjustable Accountable

We all know, in terms of economic strength, what a “Triple A Rating” is to a country's economy. But what does a “Triple A Rating” mean to a believer? If you are a believer and you have a “Triple A Rating” what does that mean? It's important to understand what this means because a nation's spiritual condition is directly related to the spiritual condition of the Christian community.

So let's start with a story¹

A NURSE took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside of an elderly man and announced, "Your son is here." She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened. Heavily sedated because of the pain from his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse waited, and then brought a chair so the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the dimly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering words of love and strength.

Occasionally, the nurse suggested that he move away and rest awhile, but he refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises—the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along toward dawn the old man took his last breath. There was no struggle, only a peaceful passing away. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. He observed her quietly as she fulfilled her duties.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son—knowing how much he needed me—I stayed."

What a touching story. What a privilege for the Marine to be there in this old man's time of need.

It emphasizes the fact that very often God allows us to fill a need, even though we cannot understand the “why and wherefore” at that moment.

¹ DeVern Fromke, *Father is looking for those ...* pp. 22-24

You see, the important thing is for us to simply offer ourselves to Him to be available, adjustable and accountable.

And that is what the believer's "Triple A Rating" is all about – being Available, Adjustable and Accountable.

And the real principle here is not that we have to know or understand when God places an opportunity before us, but our simple obedience to God.

Often we want to understand so we can choose our obedience to God. Instead of trusting and immediately obeying God's prompting, we allow our unenlightened minds to intrude before we obey, or choose not to obey. This unfortunately is a common and universal failure among God's children, and that has a lot to do with why the world is in the spiritual mess it's in.

Father God is looking for those who are listening and who will hear, trust and obey – without questioning or delaying. He's looking for those who are triple rated – the Available, Adjustable and Accountable.

Delayed obedience is disobedience. Partial obedience is disobedience.

Let's look at one example from God's word which tells us about the price of disobedience (and remember partial obedience is disobedience).

1 Sam 15:1-23 ... Then Samuel said to Saul, *"The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the Lord. ² Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"*

⁴ Then Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah. ⁵ Saul came to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the valley. ⁶ Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, go down from among the Amalekites, so that I do not destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the sons of Israel when they came up from Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷ So Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is east of Egypt. ⁸ He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

¹⁰ Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹ "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the Lord all night. ¹² Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal." ¹³ Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have carried out the command of the Lord." ¹⁴ But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" ¹⁵ Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people

spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed.”¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Wait, and let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak!”

¹⁷ Samuel said, “Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the Lord anointed you king over Israel,¹⁸ and the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.’¹⁹ Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”

²⁰ Then Saul said to Samuel, “I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.²¹ But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”²² Samuel said, “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.²³ “For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king.”

This clearly states that God is totally against partial disobedience which is none other than disobedience.

So the question is, are we obedient to God’s leadings. How available, adjustable and accountable are we? How available are we for divine encounters? Do we wake up each morning and ask the Lord to use us as His witness, or in some manner to be a blessing to others in need. Do we miss opportunities because we are not attentive to His voice? Do we miss opportunities through delayed or partial or total disobedience?

Let’s listen to another story².

This is a story about one of God's servants who boarded a plane. He had just finished a very exhausting week and was looking forward to some quiet time relaxing during the flight.

But God had other plans. In his row, the window seat was occupied by a (clearly) limited young lad and between them in the middle seat was an obviously successful businessman who immediately opened his laptop computer to do some work.

They were hardly off the runway, when the young lad turned to the businessman and asked, "Sir, do you brush your teeth?"

There was a moment of uncomfortable silence...until the man graciously answered, "Yes, I do...every morning...why do you ask?"

"Well, your teeth will fall out if you don't," was the lad's quick response.

A few moments passed, and the next question came... "Do you fly in airplanes very much?"

² DeVern Fromke, Father is looking for those ... pp. 29-31

Though the businessman clearly disliked being interrupted, he again courteously replied, "Yes, I do fly every week."

The boy seemed satisfied and waited several minutes before asking his next question, "Sir, do you go to church?" The question from the lad next to the window really needed an answer.

So the man carefully answered, "Yes, I go to church sometimes, but may I ask why you are so interested?"

The servant of God who had quietly listened to their conversation had not become involved, but he pondered what the lad's answer might be. Then it came—with much emphasis, "Well, it isn't enough to go to church, you really need to love Jesus. I hope you do...would you ask the man next to you if he loves Jesus?"

What a strained silence—and awkward moment—as the business man turned to the boy and whispered, "I think you had better do that."

So the young lad leaned over to get the attention of the servant of God (who had overheard the entire episode with much delight)... "Sir, do you love Jesus?"

The servant of God recognized his opportunity, so he was quick to respond, as his broad smile met the face of the businessman. "Yes, I do love Him—very much; in fact, He is my real purpose for living."

It was in that moment he realized God had maneuvered this divine encounter. Without hesitation, the businessman admitted that this unusual question was one he could not answer but that had really troubled him for months. For the next hour he opened his heart and the servant of God was keenly aware that God had placed him in the right seat at the right time. Not only were many deep questions answered, but that seeking businessman was urged to trust Christ as his personal Lord and Savior...without delay. Eternity will reveal what happened!

This story serves to demonstrate that God will help us to fill the deep need in another—if we live expectantly – if we are available – and quietly wait for Him to open doors.

If you seek to be a God-pleaser more than a man-pleaser, to fear God and not man, God can arrange circumstances. Whenever we dare to follow the immediate impulse of the Holy Spirit we will be used by God; but if we start to analyze the situation or personal consequences we will squirm out of becoming available.

2 Chr 16:9 ... *"For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."*

2 Tim 4:2 ... *"be ready in season and out of season."*

The eyes of the Lord look everywhere to find available, expectant, humble, adjustable, willing vessels whom He can empower and use to fulfil His plans to bring salvation, healing, deliverance or whatever help is needed to those in need. And remember He has promised us His strong support!

So are you and I Available, Adjustable and Accountable? If we are, God will use us to transform the lives of the people God puts across our paths. This is the only way the lost will come to salvation. This is how our nation's spiritual state will be changed. As believers in Christ we have the Life and the Light – we are accountable to God for what we do with it.

So let's be "Triple A Rated" believers! Let's be Available, Adjustable and Accountable to God. Let's live to bless! Live to bring glory to God!