[24] **“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.**

Matthew 6:24

[19] **Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.**

John 5:19

I have learned that two things cannot occupy the same space at the same time. It is impossible.

Often, we seek the wisdom of God’s Holy Spirit and there is no room for God’s wisdom to enter our lives. The reason being, we have our own ideas about how we want a particular situation to turn out. We only want God to co-sign what *we* desire.

Matthew 6:24 says, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” We have often read this text and applied it to the material things in our lives. Certainly, it can be applied to that as well. However, if we expand our understanding a bit, we can see how it can also touch the way we respond to God’s Holy Spirit. God wants to guide our lives. There is nothing greater in the heart of God than to have His Child listen and respond to advice. In order for that to happen we must approach God empty. We must approach God with a willingness to be filled by Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He (God) shall direct your path.”

Once there was a university professor who was known as an extremely knowledgeable person. There was much research named to him in the field of philosophy. The professor had keen interest in *Zen Buddhism* practices and wanted to learn more about it. He visited a famous Japanese Zen master to learn the pearls of Zen wisdom. When he reached the Zen master's place, his disciples took him to the room of Zen master. Zen master's physical appearance was affable, and his spirit was lofty. His face was shimmering and lot of *positive energy* could be felt around him. After welcoming his visitor, the Zen master asked the professor the reason of his visit. The professor told him the motive of visit, "I have come to ask you to teach me about Zen." The Zen master asked the professor, "You are known for your knowledge everywhere, please share something with me." The Professor started telling about his research in different fields one by one. After some time, he started sharing his knowledge about Zen. The Zen master listened to him silently for an hour. The Zen master interrupted and asked the professor if he would like to enjoy some tea.

Knowing he should accept, the professor smiled and thanked the Zen master for his generosity.

One of the Zen master's disciples disappeared and then quickly reappeared with two cups and some steaming tea. The master started pouring the tea into the cup and smiled towards the professor. The professor kept continuing sharing his knowledge on Zen to the master. The Zen master was pouring the tea slowly – slowly and the cup got filled fully. But he did not stop and kept pouring the tea in the cup. The tea started overflowing on the table.

The professor noticed it and continued to watch as it overflowed. Soon the tea started falling on the robes of professor and he could no longer restrain himself. The professor put his hand up and exclaimed, “Stop! Can’t you see? The cup is full already. It’s overflowing. No more will go in!” The Zen master did not stop and still he kept pouring tea. The professor *got angry* and rushed towards the gate. The Zen master called him, “Professor, please listen.” The professor did not stop. The master ran behind him and stopped him. The Zen master calmly explained to him the reason behind kept pouring the tea in the cup, even after it overflowed. Zen master said, “You are here to ask questions. Yet you come full. You have your own ideas and have no space. Until you have room for more, you will not accept new information. You are like that cup of tea. How can I show you Zen unless you first empty your cup?”

I have asked myself why is it so difficult for me to hear from God’s Holy Spirit? I discovered it was because I was already filled, preoccupied with my own thoughts, my own solutions, my own answers as to how a problem should be solved or a situation handled. I have learned that God speaks to the surrendered and the empty vessel. The vessel whose only desire is to be filled by Him.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool