

04-29-12

Putting our finger on the heart of why we fail to believe, trust, rely upon the love God has for us.

The following are just outward evidences (expressions) of not knowing and believing the love God has for you:

- worry (of any sort)
- anxiety (physically or emotionally)
- confusion
- striving to possess
- grasping for security (emotionally, physically, financially...etc.)
- unsettledness
- unable to sit quietly (without retreating to sleep)
- needing noise or business
 - constant need for entertainment

Recently I heard a man who shared an opinion I have held for years. He said he believes that the devil has distorted the benefits of the technology of this generation. We are able to record and send information more efficiently now than ever in our past. This was intended by God to be a means for being living witnesses in places we might never be able to travel and bless generations far into the future. However, due to man's restless heart, he has abused the technology and used it much like a junkie scampering off to his next fix. It is a disease of the soul. A way of drowning out the voices of God and conscience, in our ever self focused lives. There is reason for God's command, "*Be still and know I am God.*"

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls."~ Mother Teresa

Christians like these "need" their busyness, music, entertainment and noise or even sleep (the ultimate evasion). For those who are not used to it, sitting silent with God is at times unnerving and unsettling. It is like being alone at a bus stop at night with a stranger who begins to ask you questions about yourself.

- Why does he want to know?
- Who is this person?
- Am I safe?

Surely these are not questions any Christian is wondering while being alone with God! Not questions they are likely aware of no, but they are there lurking under the surface and are the cause of much of the unsettled anxiety they experience when in situations of contemplative silence.

On the other side of the equation are those who believe their relationship is air tight. Who emotionally bask in the warmth of His love many times every day. The litmus test for those dear ones is - how do I react when unexpected difficulties or tragedy strike?

Many people who live in a super warm emotional love with God, are startled by the inevitable difficulties in life:

- My employer had insufficient funds to make payroll this week, "how am I going to buy food or gas?"
- Some piece of equipment breaks and cannot be immediately replaced.
- A sudden illness or death.
- You or someone you love is robbed or property vandalized.
- A dream receives a fatal blow by a revelation that God was not in the dream to begin with.

These people are the most likely to anguish over the "why" questions.

- Why didn't you tell me this was going to happen?
- Why didn't I have an inner knowing
- Why was I so taken by surprise
- I "feel" so abandoned
- Where is God in this?

Because they were never really as close with God as they thought to begin with, these questions continue to be answered by themselves. Because they cannot afford the realization (and vulnerability) that they were not nearly as close to God as they supposed they were - they invent mechanisms and devices which answer their questions. Most of the time they place the blame on themselves.

- If I had just done....
- If I hadn't failed to do...

MUCH theology has come from "experiences" like these. We NEED to protect our belief so we invent a theory which quickly becomes fact, which addresses and answers all of questions.

Others from this camp cannot blame themselves - for that too would reveal a lack of intimacy with God, by yet another area where they had not heard the Father speak to them revealing the apparent weakness or failure which led to this catastrophe. These people tend to blame others or circumstances or the devil.

- Well, we have an enemy...
- God cannot change their will, so there was nothing He could have done to prevent this...
- It is all just the result of living in a fallen world...

Like the evolutionist with all of his "new" models developed to answer the inevitable difficulties of his belief, these Christians only take the question one step further from themselves, but still fail to answer the core question.

(If I am so close to God) - Why didn't I hear Him warn me?

Even if they get this far, it will often become an accusation rather than an question.

(If I am so close to God) - Why didn't He tell me this was coming?

To be certain, there may be times when the Lord allows you to be tested in situations of unforeseen difficulties, but that only happens to those who are close enough to be drawn away by it. In other words, a person who is subject to that sort of testing or temptation would never ask those sort of questions - BECAUSE THEY ARE CLOSE. They have something real to be drawn way FROM.

Not all circumstances in your life fall into the category of testing or temptation. Some things DO just happen. Either way, you can easily discover where you are in relation to these examples by simply examining your own life and responses to difficulties.

Sometimes it takes a genuine tragedy to defibrillate a Christian back into reality. This is because we have already boxed ourselves in and protected ourselves from every angle by our theology, that it takes something ripping the entire structure down - offering nowhere to hide, before we are willing (out of necessity) to re-evaluate our "faith".