

GENTLE SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

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CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ~ MAKING DISCIPLES ~ EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY

RESISTANCE OR REPENTANCE?

Part 4—Discipleship Series By Rayola Kelley

As you know, I have been doing a series of articles involving discipleship. As Christians, we have been commissioned to preach the Gospel and make disciples or followers of Jesus. We have developed many methods to preach the Gospel, but discipleship is greatly lacking. As a result, many Christians have been left to try and figure out what it means to truly follow Jesus.

It is hard for people to understand what real discipleship entails. For example, when you go to a discipleship class at a church, it may consist of teaching people the doctrines of the church. This may be informative, but it is not discipleship.



Discipleship entails an investment that can take place in a group setting, but it also proves to be very affective when it takes place one-on-one. The main goal of true discipleship is to make a person familiar with the character and ways of God. It is from this premise that people are able to properly discern spiritual matters and to grow up in the ways of God. Therefore, one cannot properly disciple a person if he or she does not know the God of the Bible.

If people do not know the character and ways of God, they will fail to properly see or understand Scriptural instructions. For example, people do not understand the devastation of sin because they do not have a proper perspective of God's holiness. Therefore, it is vital that Chris-

tians be challenged and led into knowledge of the true God of heaven.

It is in light of understanding God's character that one can begin to understand his or her scriptural responsibilities. One of our first and main responsibilities throughout our walk is repentance. Repentance from dead works is the first doctrine mentioned in the principle *doctrine* of Christ in *Hebrews 6:1-2*.

This brings us to a very important consideration. How would repentance from dead works translate into our lives? To me, John the Baptist brings this into focus. In *Mark 1:4* we are given this insight: "*John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*" First of all, John pointed to the fact that repentance is a type of baptism in the sense that one must totally be immersed in this act to ensure that sins are remitted.

In *Luke 3*, it is recorded that John warned people to flee from the wrath to come, and that they were to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. In other words, flee from the destructive path you are on, and prove you have repented by obvious changes in attitude and practices. When John was asked by people as to what they should do to produce such fruits, John told them to be benevolent towards the needs of others, honorable in their practices, and to not abuse position, power or status at the expense of those less fortunate. Clearly, as those who were truly repentant fled from the old, they were to embrace that which represented the opposite of their old way of doing. Jesus explained what people were to embrace in their repentance: "*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe the gospel*" (*Mark 1:15*).

We know that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Therefore, the main reason we repent of the old is to embrace God's salvation. When John the Baptist hit the scene, repentance was the main emphasis of

his preaching. After all, people had to first repent from their old ways to ensure that their sins would be remitted, allowing them to properly embrace the reality of the kingdom of heaven (*Matthew 3:2; Mark 1:4*). Jesus summarized the necessity of repentance in this simple way: "*I tell you, Nay, But, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*" (*Luke 13:3, 5*). This explains why repentance is necessary. You cannot embrace the kingdom of God and be saved unless you first repent.

Repent or perish puts into perspective the need for all of us to come to true repentance from that which is dead, doomed and destructive. The command to repent in order to avoid perishing in our sins seems simple enough. However, I have found that repentance can prove to be an impossible feat unless the inward environment of man is right.

One of the things that is fascinating to me is watching people moan and cry over their sins, failures and spiritual condition, but once the tears dry up, the people go on their way without any sign of change. Keep in mind, repentance is all about change, but not just change in what a person is doing, but change in his or her attitude about matters, as well as transformation of the mind and disposition. In other words, repentance involves a complete change of the inward man that will manifest itself in one's attitude and lifestyle.

Such a change involves changing direction to not only face the light of Jesus at the point of redemption and the forgiveness of sins, but to come into agreement with God as to what constitutes righteousness, and to begin to walk in the light, ensuring inward cleansing from all sin and spiritual reconciliation (*1 John 1:3-9; 3:4-10*).

However, there must be a right environment to ensure true repentance. A person must be prepared to come to the place of repentance (*Hebrews 12:17*). When you study the place of repentance, you realize that it is humility. There is no real repentance without coming in humility to God. Such a place means that one is able to truly repent.

Such repentance involves a right heart condition, the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and a willingness to change perception, attitude and conduct. Without heart change and the conviction of the Spirit, people will not be prepared to be broken over the devastation that sin has wrought in their lives and in their relationship with God.

It is important to point out that people may feel sorry about sin, but if they are not broken by it, true repentance will be missing from the equation. Remorse and repentance are two different responses. Paul speaks of both in *2 Corinthians 7:10*. Remorse is worldly sorrow that will lead to destruction, while true repentance is godly, and will lead to salvation. Remorse may show tears, but it serves as a cloak that hides the person's prideful resistance in agreeing with God about his or her wicked attitude or action. True repentance recognizes that the person has offended God, and must take the appropriate responsibility to seek the necessary forgiveness.

Worldly remorse not only hides behind four major disguises, but it has the ability to delude the person who cannot discern the real spirit behind his or her outward display of remorse. The first disguise that worldly remorse hides behind is that of compliance. This is where a person appears to *comply* by quickly agreeing with the wrong that has been done or is being done. These people give the appearance of being wise in their compliance, but sadly there is no real fruit of repentance that confirms that the inner man of the person has been transformed. This type of individual continues on with their same attitudes and behavior.

Keep in mind, the intent of repentance is to truly change one's lifestyle. Changing lifestyle requires change in understanding, attitude, approach, and behavior. This process of changing begins with coming to a real understanding of a matter. In order to do this, we must understand the intent of something. For example, we must see sin for what it is, and understand that it results in some type of death to the quality of life or in relationships. Such understanding means we will not just know

of a matter, or about a matter, we will know it as a reality. When something becomes a reality, we are able to adjust our behavior according to it, thereby changing our attitude and approach towards it.

When one complies, he or she usually agrees for the sake of peace or fake nobility making him or her appear as being wise. But, such an individual lacks the conviction and power of the Holy Spirit to change his or her mind and attitude; therefore, he or she is operating in the same destructive cycles. These individuals will not truly repent by giving up their right to the way they think. This type of person simply resists changing his or her perception to truly come to a place of repentance.

There are those who *reform* outwardly by adjusting to the perception of others, but inwardly resist casting their emotional sentiment aside in order to discipline their behavior and change their stubborn attitude about something. They hold on to their right to feel a certain way, as they resist being vulnerable. But, each person must first become transparent if he or she is going to come into a place of complete agreement with God about a matter, ensuring godly repentance.

Some people *perform* to give an impression that there has been some change. However, behind the image is a fierce resistance to submit to any terms other than theirs. Nor will these people admit there is any wrong that must be confronted in their way of doing. In a way, this performance becomes a clever game in which this type of individual sees whether he or she can entice others to agree with his or her particular take on reality.

Finally, you have people who will *conform* outwardly in order to control their environment. They basically throw you a bone, while maintaining their right to resist any change outside of their particular understanding about a matter. The bone is to silence you as they continue down the same path.

When these different types of people are faced with consequences for their inward resistance against that which is honorable, righteous, real, and true, they can only express worldly remorse. Clearly, they have not come to humility in order to properly repent. The remorse is simply an outward show revealing that the person lacks

any real intent of changing how he or she approaches something. Sadly, these four ways of expressing worldly remorse represent the ways of death.

We need to know how to discern ourselves. Because of pride, we can believe we are repenting, when in fact we are resisting coming to our Lord in humility and brokenness. In such a state, we will run around the gate, claiming we want to do what is right, but we refuse to enter the narrow gate of repentance. Therefore, nothing changes in our inner man. Granted, we may convince ourselves we want change, but we want circumstances, environments, people, and reality to change or adjust around us, but we do not want to change. In essence, we do not want to face the depths of our sin and be broken by it as we come into a state of humility. Such humility will bring us to a place of transparency and true repentance.

What about you? Are you still operating according to an appearance of repentance, or have you established a place of true repentance in the spirit of humility, where you can immediately come, seeking to find forgiveness for your sins, reconciliation with the Father, and restoration of heart, soul and mind?

QUOTES FROM WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

"Prosperity hardens the heart; unlimited power is always abused, instead of being an instrument for spreading happiness; selfish habits grow all by themselves, while if we form unselfish habits at all, it is slow, hard work; those who talk the best about virtue are often the very people least influenced by virtue, the ones who are distracted from moral conduct by the most trivial things, even though they recommend morality so highly to others. Often we find the purest evil, the most unadulterated selfishness in the people who pride themselves on their morality. Normally, our selfish pleasures must at least be purchased with our guilt and remorse, but apparently, these people can enjoy the unique delights of selfishness without feeling guilty, since they have convinced themselves that they are walking such a virtuous path."

—"Real Christianity" page 32

DOCTRINES OF CHRIST, DOCTRINES OF DEVILS

By Jeannette Haley

Does the word “doctrine” bring to mind long, boring sermons, old dusty theological books, and depressing church dogma? If so, you’re not alone. Many people view doctrine as something hard to learn, and harder yet to live up to. Causing people to get all excited about doctrine is sort of like trying to persuade a kid who is used to a diet of sugary carbohydrates that eating green vegetables is fun.

Just how important is doctrine anyway? Hasn’t the Church been around long enough to know what’s right and what’s wrong? Besides, the world has changed a lot since the Bible was written, so why bother with a lot of in-depth teaching on doctrine when it’s more fun to have a happy hip hop music service, followed by an upbeat “positive” message that pumps up our sagging self-esteem?

Of course, the answers are found in God’s unchanging Word. (You knew that was coming, didn’t you?) Check out 2 *John* 9, which says: “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*” Don’t like that verse? Let’s try another one. How about *John* 7:16, straight from the lips of Jesus: “*My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*” So, we see that the doctrine Jesus taught is from God. Doctrine, by the way, simply means instruction. Therefore, if God has given all mankind, including you and me, instruction through His written Word, the living Word, (*John* 1:1) and by the Holy Spirit, don’t you think we should be eager to receive His instruction (doctrine)?

Going back to 2 *John* 9 we can read it forward and backward and still not escape the fact that if we transgress (disobey) the doctrine (Word) of God, and fail to abide (dwell) in Christ’s doctrine (instructions on how to conduct ourselves), we do not have God. We can play church, learn how to talk Christianese, put on our best religious face, and jump through all the mandated church hoops, but until we truly humble ourselves and come

to God on His terms, we are still lost in our sins.

“Well,” you may protest, “God’s love is unconditional so it really doesn’t matter if I live my life the way I want to live it. After all, I believe in God, and I believe in Jesus, so all I have to do is just love everybody, and I’ll be okay.” If you think this way, I can tell you right now that you are wrong, and on your way to hell. First, where in the Bible does it say that God’s love is “unconditional?” Secondly, show me where you can remain the lord of your life, instead of making Jesus Lord of your life, and be saved? Third, what does loving everybody have to do with obedience to the doctrine of Christ? There is often more love passed around by sinners in a bar than in the church, sad to say. But, that doesn’t make such people saints.

If you want to learn the doctrine of Christ, then you, *yourself*, must read, study, meditate upon, and memorize the Word of God for *yourself*. You must sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him. You must allow yourself to be taught by the Holy Spirit. (See 1 *John* 2:27.) If you get your doctrine from any other source than from the Word of God itself, and the Holy Spirit Himself, then you are a sitting duck for deception.

You may be one of the many who depends on TBN or some other “god” station for your daily dose of doctrine. If you are, I can assure you that your doctrinal foundation is built on sand, and I can also assure you that your foundation won’t stand when the storms of life hit. If you have bought into the “positive confession” or “word of faith” doctrines, your foundation is likewise sand. Perhaps your religious philosophies come from Christian fiction or worse yet (if that’s possible) through any number of the New Age books that have found their way into the homes and minds of professing Christians. Maybe your belief system is based on a confusing jumble of “prophecies” and twisted teachings of the “apostles” and “prophets” from the Latter Rain Revival or Dominionist camp. Maybe you have formulated your doctrine from bits and pieces from some, or all, of the above. God help you if you have! (See 1 *Thessalonians* 5:12.)

Jesus is the Cornerstone of the

true Christian foundation. If we don’t get Him right, then we are not going to get anything right. You may choose to believe doctrine that sounds good, or doctrine that feels good. You may decide to believe the doctrine that your favorite author or TV personality teaches because it suits you. You may even believe doctrine that, on the surface, appears to be the truth to your way of thinking, but all of these sources of doctrine will fail you in the end. There is only one way, one truth and one life, not many ways or many truths leading to the real life in Christ. If the Jesus of the Bible is not the Cornerstone, and the Foundation of our lives (not just our “religious” life, but our whole life) then we are doomed. If we fail to be established in Spirit and in Truth, then our perspective, our spirit and our understanding will be perverted. We will remain in spiritual darkness, thus deceiving ourselves.

The one thing that will set us up faster than anything else to be deceived is our *pride*. We think we are so smart. We think we can figure it out ourselves. But, in this cocky frame of mind, all we will end up with is a confusing jumble of disconnected religious platitudes, man’s philosophies and Satanic lies. Do you really think it’s worth it?

The thing is, even a child can understand, receive and believe the doctrines of Christ because they, in their innocence, keep it simple. When presented with the Gospel, everything, to a child, begins and ends with Jesus. They understand that Jesus is the source of all life and truth. He invites us in *Matthew* 11:28, 29: “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*” (Emphasis added.) Are the doctrines you live by making your burden heavy? Think about it. If they are too hard to bear, then you didn’t learn them from Jesus, but from some other source.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Corinth, warned: “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he*

that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4. (Emphasis added.)

This brings us to the doctrines of devils. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron" 1 Timothy 4:1, 2. Folks, we are in the "latter times," and people en masse are departing from the [true] faith, and they are giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. Why? Again, the answer is pride. Pride demands its own way to appease the flesh with its lusts. Pride blinds people to the fact that sin must be dealt with in one's life. Pride is self-serving and selfish. Pride may pretend to be operating in "love" by throwing a bone to others from time to time, but underneath the charade is a hard heart of hatred towards all that real Christianity stands for. Pride resists the claims of Christ, resists Jesus as Lord of one's life, and resists true repentance and repentance. The result is described for us again, by the Apostle Paul: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" 2 Timothy 4:3, 4.

Religious pride produces a variety of grotesque spiritual deformities in a person's life that work against all that is pure, holy and godly. Such is the spirit of antichrist—that spirit working tirelessly to turn true seekers of the Lord Jesus Christ aside from the straight and narrow road of true Christianity on to the glittering path of supernatural experiences that deceive and delude. As Jesse Penn Lewis wrote in her book, "War on the Saints," ". . . the peril is supernatural. And those who are in danger are the spiritual children of God, who are not often deceived by the world or the flesh, but who are open to all they can learn of spiritual things and who have a sincere longing to be more spiritual

and more advanced in the knowledge of God.

"Deception by doctrines does not concern the world as much as the church. Evil spirits would not urge spiritual Christians into open sin such as murder, drinking, gambling, etc., but would plan deception in the form of teaching and doctrines. Yet, believers do not realize that deception from teaching and doctrines allows evil spirits to oppress a deceived person as much as through sin.

"All teachings originating from deceiving spirits weaken the authority of the Scriptures, distort the teaching in the Scriptures, add the thoughts of men to the Scriptures, [and] put the Scriptures entirely aside."

The bottom line to Satan's goal to prepare the way for his one-world government is to mock the Person and work of Jesus Christ through his seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. Admittedly, his kingdom of darkness is spreading over the face of the earth at a rapid rate thanks to his false apostles, false prophets, false teachers and healers with their false doctrines and lying signs and wonders.

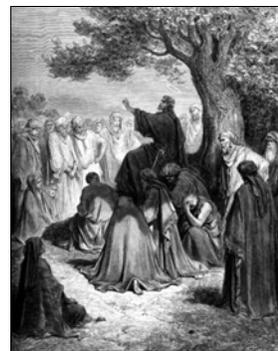
Remember, Satan comes as an "angel of light" and his ministers appear as "ministers of righteousness." (Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.) As Christians, we are told to "put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" Ephesians 6:11. In 2 Thessalonians 2:9 we read that Satan works with "all power and signs and lying wonders." The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in the church at Corinth: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (Emphasis added) The question is, if you are one of those who are either on the fence, spiritually speaking, or in step with the so-called "new thing" that God is doing, are you a match for the god of this world?

Tampering with God's Word in order to make God into something He is not, or to mold Jesus into another "Jesus," or to introduce a spirit other than the Holy Spirit seems to be the

norm of our day. However, as Dave Hunt wrote in The Berean Call, July 2008: "We must stand up for God's truth and not compromise. Sadly, we have Christian leaders today who not only disobey but even dare to revise what God had clearly written in His Word!

"We cannot make what we think will be acceptable 'small adjustments' to God's way of salvation. If we tamper in the slightest with the gospel, we are despising God's Word and jeopardizing the eternal destiny of souls! The unchanging and unchangeable 'gospel of Christ [not the latest revision of it]...is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth [it]' (Rom 1:16). This is the only way of salvation. Jesus said that for anyone to 'see [and] enter into the kingdom of God [i.e., be saved] he...must be born again' (Jn 3:3, 5, 7). Peter declares that we are 'born again...by the word of God...which by the gospel is preached' (1 Pt 1:23-25)."

Which doctrine are you receiving and living by? Is it the doctrine of Christ, or the doctrines of demons? Which has the greatest influence upon you? The choice is yours.



TRIALS ARE MEDICINES

"Trials are medicines which our gracious and wise Physician prescribes because we need them; and he proportions the frequency and weight of them to what the case requires. Let us trust his skill and thank him for his prescription."

--Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist and theologian

"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."
—Psalm 119:67

RAYOLA'S Q & A CORNER

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

Q: *I am struggling with what it means to be saved. I have accepted Jesus as my Savior, but I do not sense any real changes in my life, which concerns me since I am considered a new creation. Although this question may seem silly, how do I know I am saved?*

A: Your question is not silly. In fact, I wonder how many Christians are struggling with this very same issue, but are afraid to ask the question or have received platitudes when they have pursued it.

We need to consider what salvation is. It is mainly deliverance. Salvation works in three arenas. First of all, we have been saved. This points to being delivered from the influence, workings and activities of sin. Sin places us in a state of death, which will influence our preferences, will be present in all we do, and surrounds us in the activities of the world. This salvation occurs at the point of mentally accepting that Jesus' death on the cross took away our sins, and acknowledging His work and Lordship, which expresses itself through confession.

The next point of salvation is that we are presently being saved. This means that we are being delivered from the inclination, ways and tendencies of the old life that can easily entice, entrap and enslave us back into the old ways of sin and death. This old life has to do with our fallen state or disposition. Jesus' redemption clearly calls us to repentance with the purpose of truly addressing our sins, but the call to discipleship addresses our disposition. It is important to understand that when we accept what Jesus did for us, we must then receive His very life by faith. In other words, we will be living His life in our earthly tabernacles, rather than our life (*Matthew 16:24; Galatians 2:20*).

Receiving the life of Christ in this way points to being born again of a new disposition or life. This means we are given a new heart and spirit. The heart will be inclined towards

God in obedience, and the new spirit, which has been scripturally identified as being His Spirit, will enable us to interact with God on a spiritual level, as well as establish an inner witness of our new status as a child of God, and serve as a seal of our redemption identifying us to our future inheritance. Since we have been bestowed with a new disposition, we are now considered a new creation. However, this life of Christ must be worked in us through putting off the old in order to replace it with the new. Hence enters the Apostle Paul's exhortation for us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (*Ezekiel 36:26-27* refer to *Hebrews 8:10; John 1:12; 3:3, 5; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:11-14; Philippians 2:12; Colossians 3:6-10*).

This brings us to the final work of salvation. We will be saved from the present world to experience the fullness of the life of Christ in the next world. To ensure such deliverance we must overcome the world through submission to the will of God. This requires us to believe that the Bible is God's Word; therefore we must assimilate it in our lives as food in order to follow Jesus through obedience into the ways of righteousness.

With the understanding of how salvation works, we can come to terms with what it means to know if we are saved. To accept Jesus' redemption, receive His life as a reality into our hearts, and believe His Word about salvation points to active faith. We do not *feel* that we are saved; rather we *choose* to believe we are saved because of the Word of God. Believing a matter is more than having an intellectual acknowledgement; it is a matter of knowing something in your heart as being true and completed. Believe has the same connotation as amen or "so be it".

Such belief produces a walk or a life that lines up to what has been received as truth. This is how change and transformation take place in the Christian. We are inwardly being changed into the likeness of Jesus by His life, while the Holy Spirit transforms our minds or attitudes. Such changes may be slight at first, but eventually the Christian will be able to note that his or her attitudes about matters are changing, along with behavior. Initially, Chris-

tians have a limited understanding of salvation, but as they grow in the knowledge of Jesus, the work of salvation becomes a blessed reality.

I hope this gives you some insight into the issue of your salvation.

THE PLACE OF COVENANT New e-Book By Rayola Kelley (Excerpt)

Viable intentions also speak of people's motivation. In Christian terms, motivation points to the type of spirit in which a person will be operating. Without the motivation, there will be no real intent or resolve to carry a matter out. People may have some kind of goal in mind, but they have no real intent to carry it out because the spirit or motive is missing. The reason for this is because such individuals do not deal in reality. These people deal in grandiose ideas, where in their day-dreaming, life is either bowing down to them or falling into their lap. However, there is no connection being made to their present situation. People who operate in such a false way often suffer from anger and depression. As they wait for their fantasy or dream to fall into their lap, life with its lessons and opportunities passes them by, leaving them in depression or despair.

It is okay to have dreams as long as people realize that it will take genuine intent to connect them to such desires. Simply put, they must work towards such dreams by paying the necessary price to secure them. This is how dreams become a reality. People must connect to their present reality, design a plan according to their dream, and begin to walk it out in every day experiences.

This brings us to covenant. God's covenants reveal His intent towards man. *Jeremiah 29:11* gives us this insight into God's intention towards us: "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*" God clearly knows His intention towards His people. It is for peace, not evil. Therefore, as His children, we can be confident as to the end result of His commitment towards us.

<http://www.gentleshepherd.com/ebooks/christianebooks/gsmbooks>.

EMAILS & LETTERS

"I . . . want to say that your newsletter was great this month as usual and very timely. [July issue.] Oh yeah the scripture in Deut. should that have been chapter 28 instead of 27? My daughter caught that one so I cannot take the credit." - AR (GSM: Thanks for the correction!)

"Can you please add my sister to the daily Devotional list? They have been a huge blessing to me and my walk with the Lord." - WV

"We are both enjoying the devotionals and the newsletter was so good! Our friend is also enjoying devotionals and I pass on to him the newsletters. He is so smart and informed about so many things and he is really finding your writings to be a blessing and a source of wisdom." - MT

[The truth, in the] "NEWS LETTER.. VERY GOOD...Hope people will heed what it says. I sent that and lots of other info to my friend that's going to FL to this awful thing...And she said...Thanks...But she is still going. So I guess all we can do is warn. And leave it there. But it hurts to think what she's going into...And has already picked up from them." - OH

"I'm the one who owes Rayola and you a huge **thank you** - if it weren't for the Lord bringing your ministry into my life back in late 2001 in answer to a simple prayer to learn the Truth, who knows where I would be spiritually right now. I have struggled through your teachings while struggling with self and the flesh as well as the devil - they're deep like Paul's teachings but yet simple once you start to understand them and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work renewing and regenerating your soul.

"Your commitment and faithfulness to the sheep reflect that of the Lord's and you are truly a hidden, precious gem within the Body of Christ. If I truly win Christ in the end it'll be because of strong, mature Christians like yourselves who are constantly challenging us with the TRUTH." - WV

"I am soooooo thoroughly enjoying this whole series on FLESH! I love it when FLESH is exposed for all that it is! Nice job, Gals!!" - FL

THEY HAVE ALL LEARNED IN ONE SCHOOL

(J. C. Ryle, "Having the Spirit")

All who have the Spirit--are **taught** by Him. He is called in Scripture, "The Spirit of wisdom and revelation." It was the promise of the Lord Jesus, "He shall teach you all things." "He shall guide you into all truth."

We are all by nature ignorant of spiritual truth. "The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God--they are foolishness to him." Our eyes are blinded. We neither know God, nor Christ, nor ourselves, nor the world, nor sin, nor heaven, nor hell--as we ought. We see everything under false colors.

The Spirit alters entirely this state of things. He opens the eyes of our understandings. He illumines us. He calls us out of darkness into marvelous light. He takes away the veil. He shines into our hearts, and makes us see things as they really are! No wonder that all true Christians are so remarkably agreed upon the essentials of true religion! The reason is, that they have all learned in one school--the school of the Holy Spirit. No wonder that true Christians can understand each other at once, and find common ground of fellowship! They have been taught the same language, by One whose lessons are never forgotten!

QUOTABLE QUOTES

If Christianity is to receive a rejuvenation, it must be by other means than any now being used. If the Church in the second half of this century is to recover from the injuries she suffered in the first half, there must appear a new type of preacher. The proper, ruler-of-the-synagogue type will never do. Neither will the priestly type of man who carries out his duties, takes his pay and asks no questions, nor the smooth-talking pastoral type who knows how to make the Christian religion acceptable to everyone. All these have been tried and found wanting.

Another kind of religious leader must arise among us. He must be of the old prophet type, a man who has seen visions of God and has heard a voice from the Throne. When he comes (and I pray God there will be not one but

many), he will stand in flat contradiction to everything our smirking, smooth civilization holds dear. He will contradict, denounce and protest in the name of God and will earn the hatred and opposition of a large segment of Christendom. Such a man is likely to be lean, rugged, blunt-spoken and a little bit angry with the world. He will love Christ and the souls of men to the point of willingness to die for the glory of the One and the salvation of the other. But he will fear nothing that breathes with mortal breath.

--A. W. Tozer, The Size of the Soul, 128-129.

Strange as it may seem, the danger today is greater for the fervent Christian than for the lukewarm and the self-satisfied. The seeker after God's best things is eager to hear anyone who offers a way by which he can obtain them. He longs for some new experience, some elevated view of truth, some operation of the Spirit that will raise him above the dead level of religious mediocrity he sees all around him, and for this reason he is ready to give a sympathetic ear to the new and the wonderful in religion, particularly if it is presented by someone with an attractive personality and a reputation for superior godliness.

Now our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, has not left His flock to the mercy of the wolves. He has given us the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit and natural powers of observation, and He expects us to avail ourselves of their help constantly. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good," said Paul (I Thess. 5:21). "Beloved, believe not every spirit," wrote John, "but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1). "Beware of false prophets," our Lord warned, "which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15). Then He added the word by which they may be tested, "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

--A.W. Tozer
(Tozer, How to Try the Spirits).