

"TEACHING AND TRAINING BY GOD HIMSELF"

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A Christian who is spiritually trained and taught by God, and so, has grown and developed in the Truth of His Word, can then judge or discern the all things and circumstances in their true light (the apostle Paul explained 1 Cor. 2:14-15) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ⁵But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one."

That would be true of everyone who has grown and developed by God's grace into the image of Jesus Christ, for they will see everything at its face value, and so, not be judged by others around them. They will also realize the terrible conditions that exist today, in a world where blind leaders are leading those blinded from the Truth (because they do not accept nor believe in the resurrected Christ). (2 Cor.4:4) "the veil has been on the hearts of those who are on the way to perdition, ⁴ in whom the god of this present age has blinded their unbelieving minds, so as to shut out the sunshine of the Good News of the glory of the Christ, who is the image of God."

The disciples came to Jesus one time and told Him that the scribes and Pharisees were much offended by something that He had said to them. Jesus replied to His disciples "Let them alone." What He meant was, 'what is the difference whether they are offended or not'; 'I presented the full Truth to them but they will not accept it', 'and they are only hindering others from accepting the Truth'; 'they are simply blind leaders of the blind' (he said Luke 6:39), 'and both will fall into the ditch.'

Our only hope for Eternity is to be taught and trained by God to the place where we can receive an understanding of the Gospel, which is (and should be) the all-important thing in every person's life. We must be developed in the true Christian life by God Himself, if we ever hope to receive any true knowledge or amount of anything (that is in God's will for us.)

Let us consider the instruments and various circumstances that God uses to train and develop us in His Truth (the late Pastor said). Also, that God will use other people to enlighten us to His Truth, so we should be willing to listen, and then to discern (with God's promised guidance), whether they are giving

us right teaching or advice to be followed. God has ordained some men to give true doctrine about the Truth of the power of the resurrected Christ, and Jesus said (Luke 10:16), "he that despiseth me despiseth Him that sent me." God will enable a spiritually trained and 'taught by God Christian,' to discern if they are being given His real Truth (or a false substitute doctrine which omits trusting on the power of the 'resurrected Christ' for circumstances and things in one's life).

As an example, King Asa was highly insulted when Hanani the prophet told him that he had made a mistake when he sought help from Ben-Hadad, instead of seeking help from the Lord. (2 Chron. 16) He was so angry that he put the prophet in prison.

However, the words of that prophet were the words of God Himself as conveyed to Asa by the prophet. He was only God's mouthpiece, so when Asa so handled the prophet as he did, that was a direct disobedience to God.

King Asa had been prosperous (spiritually and otherwise) in the earlier part of his life, but when he when he went to man for help (instead of turning to God), he began to lose spiritual ground right away; he then put the prophet in prison, and in a short time he became diseased in his feet, and the disease became worse. The injury that he caused to the messenger of God was the cause of his disease, and he (like many professing Christians today), sent for the physicians. The end result was "they buried him with his fathers".

He received an eternal reward for sin, because he did not repent of those sins, when he could have received a reward for righteousness if he had continued in his trust on God, instead of turning to man. (John 5:28-29) "Wonder not at this. For a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and will come forth— they who have done what is right to the resurrection of Life, and they whose actions have been evil to the resurrection of judgement" Asa refused to receive the message of the Lord, Who, in His tender love sent to him by the mouth of the prophet.

God uses some men to be teachers, and He uses His Word, so we cannot be too familiar with the Word of God, nor could we read, meditate, and study it too often or too much. We should spend as much time on it as we can spare; praying that God will give us eyes to see, ears to hear His Word, and a heart that is willing to believe, ... because if we read the Word in our own

wisdom and strength, we will not receive a real knowledge of God (and His love for us, that compels Him to want to prepare us for our Salvation (and protect us from eternal destruction to torment in the Lake of Fire). As God opens our eyes and hearts to understand His Word, we will see the wondrous things that emerge from His law, and our heart will be enabled to understand and receive all of that from Him.

If we follow God's plan to trust on Him for understanding and 'spiritual light', God's Word will be the most interesting and enjoyable Word that we ever read. The Holy Spirit can truly give us an appetite to know God's Word, and if there is one thing we need above any other thing in these closing days, that would be to have a keen appetite for the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit can give that to us, as we depend upon Him, and as we read our eyes will be opened, and step by step we will be led into the whole Truth of God, and so, be enabled to to embrace the Truth in its fulness. As we are taught by the Spirit of God, and we embrace the teaching, it will lay the foundation for our complete deliverance from sin. We will become righteous by God's grace and guidance, and we can be very much used by God to be a 'Christian light' for others to see and follow. (Matt. 5:16) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

In the case of Cornelius, he listened to a few minutes teaching of the Truths of God's Word (as in the Bible) on the merits of the Atonement work of Jesus Christ, and while he listened to the words that Peter was inspired to give to him, he was delivered from his sins, and made a new man spiritually.

We should thank God that we have the written Word of God, and as we read and understand and trust on it, our sins will disappear, infirmities disappear, and our burdens be lifted. (Matt.11:28) "Come to me all you toiling and burdened ones, and I will give you rest."

We need not wonder that Satan tries to keep us in ignorance of God's Word, as he tries to make our household duties so heavy, our workload hard, etc..., and for those things to seem to be more important than reading the Word of God. However, that is one thing we cannot afford to neglect nor leave undone. Whether we be husband, wife, son, daughter, mother or father, we cannot afford to neglect God's Word. It took God forty years to teach Israel "that man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

The most important thing in their lives was the Word of God. So let us never forget that one of the most important instruments that the Holy Spirit uses to teach us, is that most

precious Word of God, to set people free from sin and to keep them free. God's Word (spoken by Jesus) says, "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). That is something that is most wonderful, if we can read a Book and be delivered from my sins, sorrows, and infirmities, just by reading and believing what it says (so that we can follow it).

The late Pastor recalled and related to a man he knew of who was reading from Romans chapter 10, while he was passing through one of the darkest periods of his life, where it says (vs.8-10) "The Message is close to you, in your mouth and in your heart;" that is, the Message which we are publishing about the faith— that if with your mouth you confess Jesus as Lord and in your heart believe that God brought Him back to life, you shall be saved. For with the heart men believe and obtain righteousness, and with the mouth they make confession and obtain salvation."

About daylight the man awoke and that Word came to his mind very emphatically, "The Message is close to you" (or "The Word is nigh thee"). Since he was going through a very dark cloud in his life, he, at first pondered what those words meant, ... but then the answer came to him, that is, if he really believed that Jesus was raised from the dead, he would be delivered from his temptation and the hard place he had been experiencing.

We are also given a wonderful passage of Scripture to enlighten us all to the power of faith on God, (Mark 11:22-23) "Jesus said to them, "Have faith in God.³ In solemn truth I tell you that if any one shall say to this mountain, 'Remove, and hurl thyself into the sea,' and has no doubt about it in his heart, but steadfastly believes that what he says will happen, it shall be granted him. That is why I tell you, as to whatever you pray and make request for, if you believe that you have received it, it shall be yours.⁵ But whenever you stand praying, if you have a grievance against any one, forgive it, so that your Father in Heaven may also forgive you your offences."

The man decided to take that 'step of faith', and saying, "in the Name of Jesus Christ this dark cloud must pass away, Satan must be rebuked in Jesus' Name."

He testified later, saying, that the whole temptation passed over and away from him, and he was fully delivered from the power of Satan, just through meditating on the Word of God; and why should he not have done so? Is the Word of God not powerful enough to do these things for us?

The Truth will indeed set us free as we apply it properly, but we must get on Scriptural grounds if we desire to be protected from the attacks of Satan. We must deliberately place ourselves in that 'secret place of the Most High, as we are taught (Psalm 91:1). Therefore, we need to carefully consider

the verses of that Psalm given by which we can claim our protection by faith, (Psalm 91:2-4)"I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." "Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His Truth shall be your shield and buckler."

'His Truth' means His Word, which is to be our shield and buckler, so it is our 'means of protection' from every attack of Satan. God's Word is a shield which will quench every fiery dart of the 'evil one'. We not only receive knowledge well worth knowing from studying the Word of God, but we receive knowledge that will enable us to never be caught in any trap of the devil. It will keep Satan from getting a foothold in our spiritual life, and not allow him to attack our body, so we can easily see the importance of God's Word, and the value we should put on studying it so that we profit from understanding and believing to trust on it.

As we take hold of the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will use it for us as a mighty weapon to cause and enable us to stand against all the fiery darts of the evil one,... and so, we become victors on the field, and victorious through the Name of Jesus Christ. That is what God will do for us with His Word, through the teaching of His Spirit within our heart and mind.

We also learn from God's Word, that He uses some men as instruments of His to spread the Truth of His Word (Ephes.4:11-13) "And He Himself appointed some to be Apostles, some to be Prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers, in order fully to equip His people for the work of serving—for the building up of Christ's body— till we all of us arrive at oneness in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and at mature manhood and the stature of full-grown men in Christ."

The 'gifts of the Spirit' are mentioned in (1 Cor.12:), and one of those 'gifts of the Spirit' is the gift of teaching, which God will give to sincerely committed Pastors and teachers to feed and help people to understand the Word of God. So, we can see from God's Word that it is God's Spirit who uses those whom He appoints, to explain what that Word of His means,... but we must never forget that He is the supreme Teacher. Men are only used as instruments of God, but He is the greatest Teacher and the Head Master of the school of spiritual learning.

We need to (and must) be very careful in regard to the question of correct teaching of God's Word, that is, how we listen and to whom we listen. We are told not listen nor accept a wrong teaching (that is, any other teaching aside from 'the teaching of Christ', (that which Jesus and His apostles and true

disciples have made known to us),... and to not even 'bid them God-speed' ('farewell'). "He who bids him "farewell' is a sharer in his evil deeds." (we are warned 2 John 1:10-11). There has been great trouble, sorrow, and destruction coming upon people who have accepted false teachers.

If we would compare the ministers of today with those of Bible times (both Old and New Testament), we would find there are many more false teachers than we thought or imagined. We must not compare nor measure them by their talk nor their intellect;... but rather, by the Word of God, which means just what it says. They will tell you when you ask them about trusting the Lord for health and healing of your body,.. "well I believe the Lord heals in some special cases, but the 'days of miracles' are past."

"I would hope to God that their eyes would be opened to see the whole Truth (the late Pastor lamented), even as the eyes of Elisha's servant were opened to see the chariots of God in their defense;... so that they might preach that Truth."

"When we realize this ourselves, we will infinitely appreciate the value of God's Word and Truth more than ever, and so, we will become an instrument in God's hands, to help pluck people from that eternal burning torment in the 'Lake of Fire' If God has helped us to see the Truth of His Word, we should be glad to help somebody else."

We are warned by Jesus in a Sermon on the Mount to beware of false prophets (teachers) who come to us in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matt.7:15). They are the ones who rob people of their money, and give nothing in return. Ministers who are false teachers, are not "Taught and Trained by God, Himself" (and we are not to be deceived by their 'multitude of words'), as Jesus warned (Matt.6:7). We do not want to become part of the 'blind leading the blind', when we have every divine right to be 'Taught and Trained by God, Himself, and led by the Holy Spirit of God.

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