

RELIGIOUS AND OTHER DIFFERENCES

"Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him". (Gen 4:8)

Thus after Adam and Eve's fall in the garden, the first great sorrow that penetrated their souls was the death of their son. What a horrible and tragic event to happen. I have lost my father and my mother and I felt a sense of great loss. Those who have lost a son or daughter for what ever reason say that is perhaps one of the greatest losses one can endure. I can not imagine the pain Adam and his wife experienced. One son is dead and the other one an outcast, cursed of God.

What caused such a tragedy, religion, how to worship, doctrine, differences of opinion, or other religious issues? We have the first murder in history over religious differences. It is sad to say and I know it breaks God's heart but the same thing is happening in our world today. It is not just Islam and Christianity or Jews and Gentiles, against each other but Christian against Christian, church against church, members of the same church against each another.

Many of the world's greatest atrocities have been committed in the name of religion. Is it no wonder that the on looking world is turned off by the actions of many who call themselves Christians? Someone once said that in the early church those who witnessed true Christianity exclaimed, "my how they love one another." Today, as they look at the many church splits, the battles over doctrinal issues, and such hatred coming from the Christian community they are saying, "my how they must hate each other."

It is no wonder that the church in general has lost her power to influence the world for God and has had to resort to political lobbyist, lawyers, legal maneuvers, and other means to attempt to accomplish Gods will on this earth. There was a time all she had to do was get on her knees and pray and the whole world was turned up side down. She had Gods ear and He responded to her cries and whole cities, kingdoms, and yes nations were moved. It is said, that Mary Queen of Scotts stated that she feared John Knox and his prayers more than all the armies of Europe. Prayer from a body of true believers endeavoring "to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" can change the world. I believe this is the type of prayer that James spoke of in his epistle when he said, "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Another translation of this scripture says, "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available -- dynamic in its workings." (James 5:16)

If there ever was a time when the body of Christ needed to enter into this powerful type of praying it is NOW! As Jesus said, "a house divided against its self cannot stand." Jesus prayed, "That they (we believers in Christ) may be ONE even as WE (the Father and the Son) are one." What must God do to wake the Christian community up, and stir us into fervent prayer?

"The god of this world", "Satan", "the prince of the power of the air", "the spirit that is now at work in the children of disobedience," has divided and conquered more believers in this day and time than perhaps in any other time in history. It reminds me of Saul on the way to Damascus in his great religious effort of pleasing his God. He was destroying Christians and having them imprisoned honestly believing that he was doing Gods work. He was no doubt pleased with himself and thought that he was pleasing God until he met Jesus Christ. I believe a lot of religious people, even Christians are doing the same thing today and that they need a divine revelation of just who Jesus Christ is.

Most Christians I know would never believe that by their mouths, attitudes and actions they are actually hindering, dividing and destroying Gods work in their communities but they are. They are also hindering the unity of the Spirit of God in their own lives and the lives of others. May God wake us up and bring us all to repentance so that our nation can be saved. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds....." God said for me to, "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins." - Pastor Lewis

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (1 John 3:11-12)
Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of (Korah) Core. (Jude 1:11)

A Levite, the son of Izhar, the brother of Amram, the father of Moses and Aaron (Ex. 6:21). The institution of the Aaronic priesthood and the Levitical service at Sinai was a great religious revolution. The old priesthood of the heads of families passed away. This gave rise to murmurings and discontent, while the Israelites were encamped at Kadesh for the first time, which came to a head in a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, headed by Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Two hundred and fifty princes, "men of renown" i.e., well-known men from among the other tribes, joined this conspiracy. The whole company demanded of Moses and Aaron that the old state of things should be restored, alleging that "they took too much upon them" (Num. 16:1-3). On the morning after the outbreak, Korah and his associates presented themselves at the door of the tabernacle, and "took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon." But immediately "fire from the Lord" burst forth and destroyed them all (Num. 16:35). Dathan and Abiram "came out and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children," and it came to pass "that the ground clave asunder that was under them; and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up." A plague thereafter began among the people who sympathized in the rebellion, and was only stayed by Aaron's appearing between the living and the dead, and making "an atonement for the people" (Num. 16:47).
The descendants of the sons of Korah who did not participate in the rebellion afterwards rose to eminence in the Levitical service.

Children's letters to God:

Dear GOD,
Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. ---Larry

Dear GOD,
I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. ---Nan