

CHIEF MINISTRIES

May 2015

There is only one real question for the believer: How does God view my discipleship?

During the years of the Clinton administration and now the Obama administration, I have developed a dull weariness with public opinion. News and talk shows then presented gossipy editorials of viewpoint and irresolution. Today the “lame” stream media just patently goes along with everything going on around us like “this is the way it's supposed to be”. -- Governmental decisions that is. Church leaders and theologians also opined and theorized. But rarely does anyone set forth the presence of Divine viewpoint. I believe that those who remain the quietest do so because they see with the eyes of God and measure our national sin with the plumb line of God's expectations.

No culture is quite as blind as those who will not see. No Christian is quite as dead as one whose vitality has been sapped by being out of touch with God. So many things established to do noble and sacrificial service in obedience to God degenerate into little more than ladders of egotistical advancement. Denominations founded on giving and missions, have ended up little more than religious clubs protecting their vested interests. Church leaders of today live shackled to luxury. Have you heard about the 60+ million dollar jet wanted by a certain current evangelist? It's getting ridiculous! People are dying and going to hell and our pulpits are filled with barons of power with nothing but empty lives and weak preaching to define their competitive, non-compassionate lives. Their service to God is hurried and pretended. Whatever happened to the Holy Spirit?

I'm afraid that a lot of what we see today in church claims to be Spirit Filled and it's cowardly at best. In trying to be trendy and relevant, we've replaced spiritual anointing with what makes us comfortable. Cool music, God-in-a-box theology, sermons and programs that sound great but are lacking spiritual punch.

If we are full of the Spirit, the nine charismata should be operating in the church on a regular basis. I Corinthians 12:8-10 says, *“For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.”*

When will our eyes be opened, O Lord? Or are we simply content to accept the norm - what we've tolerated.

Perhaps the weightiest of all personal vision is to see with the eyes of God. To know what God wants of ourselves not to mention the nation, but to have seemingly zero ability to make that happen, inevitably leading to brokenness. Perfect! We are to be just that! Matthew 21:44 says,

"And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder". Who never throws himself on the mercy of Christ shall be broken and made contrite. Psalms 34:18, *"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit";* 147:3, *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."* But...whoever rejects His mercy shall be completely crushed. The Greek here – Likmao refers to being scattered like chaff. This also refers to the dispersion of the nation of Israel throughout the Bible. It's happening to our nation right now. Our courts, upholding gay marriage, our president making statements about America no longer being a Christian nation. The first step towards healing always lies in the admission of our illness. Israel, in moments of decline did not consider its ways wicked, so healing was not possible. Is America on the same path? The church - "the sleeping giant" needs to wake up! If the Church were being the Church, we wouldn't have so many problems in our nation. Jesus's Sermon on the Mount speaks of giving to the needy, prayer and fasting. I can't prove this with hard numbers, but it's likely that many Christians aren't giving to the poor. It's probable that most Christians aren't praying for our nation. And I'm quite sure that most Christians aren't fasting. We really aren't serving as salt and light.

Oswald Chambers felt that we ought to feel the pain of our sins if we were to convince ourselves we took our sin seriously. He says, "The entrance into the kingdom is through the pains of repentance crashing into man's respectable goodness, then the Holy Ghost, who produces these agonies, begins the formation of the Son of God in one's life."

The unceasing Niagara of opinion polls during all our nation's scandals by congressmen and presidents never seem to ask, "Does God have an opinion on this?" If He does, maybe we should alter our opinion to match His? Perhaps it is the greatest of hypocrisies to swear presidents into office with their hand on the Bible, when those presidents never again open that Bible to pursue God's moral objectives.

Among all Christians there is not much notable living, but here and there arises a man or woman whose discipleship begins the day by asking, "Lord, what will you have me to do?" Such a question prescribes a way of living for that day and such a way of living describes a way of life. Only heaven's view will guide us to joyous, error-free obedience. And only Godly living will enable us to see our lives as they should be lived, desiring for God's world call it should become.

In Tokyo Japan there is a city ordinance that no skyscraper can be erected that shuts off anyone's view of the sun. They feel that for some time during any given day, everyone has a right to see the sun. Long ago God gave me the conviction that I must try to help people end their emptiness. It seems to me that everyone has the right to "see the Son." Don't block their view!

The difference between what God wants for us and what we ultimately become rests in how we break those appetites that chain us to selfish lifestyles and selfish life goals. The steps to freedom are simple but always demanding. First, our focus needs to be on hungering after what God wants rather than merely trying to quit what He doesn't want. Second, we must live close to the heart of God. Finally, we must live in abundant inwardness until we can see the kind of world God wants to exist and endeavor to be the kind of Christian God wants us to be.

Most of us don't intentionally renounce God's vision for our life. We lose the vision through neglect. When we are born again we seem to catch the significance of are worth both to God and

to ourselves. We become disobedient to that vision when we begin to live as though it cannot be obtained.

When we accept God's vision for our lives, we pray. But it may be that we expect too much instant revelation from our prayers. We pray for a fiery chariot in the morning and want to be riding to church in it by nightfall. Prayer is not to impress others or God. The goal in prayer is to give oneself away.

Living the God-life is all that ever can satisfy us. Of course, those who see what it is and know what God wants must weep from time to time. But weeping over the waywardness of those around you is the nature of our living and loving God. Loving was why He sent His son. Calvary is not a very complex solution to human sin, but it cost God all He had. And Calvary was God's crying place. To change a world is to spend everything and then wait and weep.....

I feel the greatest sin in today's church is prayerlessness. I believe were living in the last days, when, like the apostle Paul said, *"Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, slanderers, unrestrained, fierce, despisers of those who are good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying its power. Turn away from such people (2 Timothy 3:2-5 MEV)*

I believe we're living at the end of the age when, as Jesus said; *"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars....For nation will rise it up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines, epidemics and earthquakes in various places....Because iniquity will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:5-14)

Let us find ourselves being the most powerful disciple Jesus ever encountered. By humbling ourselves and praying and turning from our wicked ways. Then He will hear us and forgive us and heal our land....

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Chief

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