

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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How Did We Get Here?

Where do we go from here?

Fellow Americans, as a nation, where do we go from here? Well let's see ... what will the history of man tell us?

There were two other cities that were in drastic trouble, impending destruction on the horizon. News of their vile doings had come before the Throne of God. He came down to see if there was any substance to the report given to Him. (Gen. 18:20-21 KJV by reference) On His way to Sodom and Gomorrah, He stopped by Abraham's dwelling. A most interesting series of events ensued. There came of it the following interchange.

The Lord shared with Abraham His intention to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham, concerned for the fate of his nephew Lot and his family, had a most urgent question. "Will You destroy the righteous with the wicked?" (v23) Abraham proceeded to petition to save Sodom if perchance there were at least 10 righteous persons, between the two cities. You know the story.

What I found most peculiar was that the Lord tolerated this exhaustive parade of inquiries. I know that the Lord is far more gracious than I; but I was

How Did We Get Here?

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The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

God is *Not* Coming!

Have you ever been in a situation when you felt helpless? You may have had to deal with health issues, relationship challenges, upheaval on the job, or a dire financial dilemma. Depending on the severity of the circumstances, these types of trials can torment the soul. And, they can wipe you out spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, and physically.

As believers, and therefore leaders in our environments, it is common for us to turn to God during times of crisis. We are indeed encouraged to do so by scriptures like Psalms 46:1 (KJV Ref.) that says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Faith in God's ability to deliver us is a basic tenet of Christianity. There is, however, a principle we want to understand. I'll use a personal experience to illustrate this concept.

Recently my family and I had to confront a nagging financial issue. I'll be honest and tell you that it was frustrating to not have the funds to cover some basic necessities while pursuing the work God has instructed us to do. Well, being the mature Christians that we are (at least from our perspective); we brought the problem before God in prayer. And, we decreed that we would **wait** on *Him* to deliver us.

Days went by and nothing happened. Weeks passed and we saw no signs of change in our finances. Finally, God whispered to me, "I am not *coming*." Confused and somewhat saddened, I engaged in discussion with God about that message. During our conversation, God said again, "I am not *coming*." This time He didn't just stop there. He went on to say, "Joyce, you act like you

are waiting for the cavalry to rush in and rescue you from this difficult situation. You would love to open your mailbox and find a big fat check from an unexpected source. “I thought for a moment, “Yeah, that’s kind of what I was hoping for.” He then said, “Forget about it. The cavalry (God) ... is ... not ... *coming!*”

God took the time to explain that He cannot “*come*” to a believer. This is an impossibility. Why? Because God is already “*here.*” He is always “*here.*” Therefore, he cannot “*come.*” Referring back to Psalms 46:1, God said that he is a “*present*” help in time of trouble. Our conversation went on for a couple of hours, but I will spare you the details. Basically, He reminded me that every single day I wake up, I already have everything I need for that day. If I have planned to do something for which I have no resources (i.e., money, time, energy, etc.), I am to change my plans to align with the resources God has already provided for that day.

In my family’s situation, this meant that I had to seek God’s wisdom as to how (and when) I should address this issue of lack of finances. When I did this, he gave me the plan. The funds did not arrive mysteriously in time for me to pay the important item I was concerned about, by the due date. Instead, God had me re-arrange some other priorities and utilize a few additional resources he supplied (in forms I would not have thought about). As a result, we were able to handle the dilemma before the end of the month (although it was after the due date).

While this was very challenging, God reminded me that as believers, we are to *wait* on him in terms of seeking his counsel, but “*waiting*” does not necessarily mean to stop all activity on the part of the believer. We often have to continue to move forward with what God has made available to us at a given time. If God has not provided the resources to cover a particular item, then it may not be time for that item to be addressed. In any case, God will give us the instructions we need as we seek him daily.

Now, I can rest in the experiential knowledge of the principle that “God is not *coming.*” Why? He is ever present with me. And that’s good news. ☺☺☺

Leadership Living, Inc., Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO

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becoming weary of Abraham’s questions (and I was just a spectator; imagine if he were asking me, whew!). Thankfully, I’ve matured some since then and have come to appreciate the fact that the Lord did hear Abraham’s entreaties. This speaks volumes for the hope we have of being heard.

I asked the Lord, why He endured and conceded to Abraham’s petitions. I had to know. As you will appreciate, I was most enriched by the response I received. I hope you will be, too.

The reason the Lord agreed to spare the twin cities was because ... Oh, I’ll let Him tell you what He said.

God: “JoAnn, there are a great many laws and principles in My Kingdom, that you have yet to learn. There is a law regarding Public Justice; we’ll call it *The Just for the Unjust*. It is seen most effectively in acts of prayer and intercession. The reason I agreed to spare Sodom and Gomorrah for the sake of ten righteous persons was because I knew that had they existed they could have changed the whole course of history for those two cities. If they would have interceded for the cities and prayed for a change of heart for the people of those cities; I would have heard them, and answered their prayers. This is not only true for Sodom and Gomorrah; it is an eternal truth. It is effective wherever applied. See James 5:16b ... the effectual fervent prayers of the righteous avails much (*makes great things available*). In the prophetic foretelling of the coming Christ, you see “... by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, he shall bear their iniquities .. and make intercession for the transgressors.” (Is 53:11-12 KJV paraphrased) Because of Christ’s intercession, John was able to say, For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, and whosoever believes on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. (3:16 KJV)”

I know...I know, that sounds like quite a large responsibility for just ten people, doesn’t it? May I challenge each of you?

Is it possible that our lack of faith in the power of prayer and intercession is the reason we do not take up this burden for our nation? Is it also possible that we have our roles confused? It is our responsibility to pray,

obey and trust God. It's God's responsibility to influence change in the hearts of men. We have the easy part. You'll remember that the Lord was going to destroy another city, Nineveh. The Lord sent Jonah, to warn them (Jonah 3). The people of Nineveh repented and changed; the Lord spared the city. Amazing, huh?!? Salvation belongs to the Lord. (Ps. 3:8 KJV by reference)

In 2 Chron.7:13-14 What God has given us is a very powerful promise. He says that if our disobedience wreaks havoc of our nation; and the people of God humble themselves, pray, seek the face of God and repent He promised to heal our land. Repent? You say, "why should I repent?" Good question and I'm glad you asked. We as the people of God repent for the condition of our nation; because our Lord teaches that the favor (or disfavor) of a nation is a reflection on the people of God.

And such is the case for our America. The success of our days ahead, will be determined by the posture of the Christian; not the strength of the White House. The fundamental troubles of our nation are not legislative, therefore it cannot be fixed via invoking new legislature or by policy making. Immorality, lack of ethics and brazen disregard for the Sovereignty of God is responsible for our current plight. The foundational challenge we face, is one of the heart. And only God can change the hearts of man. But we can help. Our scriptures teach us that righteousness exalts a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people (Prov. 14:34). Since charity does her first work at home, we admonish you to allow the Lord to change your heart. Then begin to pray for your fellowmen, that the light of God's truth in Jesus Christ will enlighten their hearts. It may be that the Lord would be pleased to restore and perhaps lengthen the tranquility of our nation. I'll go first, will you join me? <◇ KJV ◇>

DIAMONDS



Love: Agape vs. Phileo

What is the difference between Agape and Phileo love?

Answer: Phileo is a response caused by the delighting of the senses. Whereas Agape is an aggressor seeking an object.
- Dr. Jack Hyles (1926-2001)



What Does it Mean to Raise Your Hands?

By David L. White

All scriptures are paraphrased from the King James Bible

You've probably heard it before, such symbolisms as "if you want to be healed you need to raise your hands;" "if you want to be free just raise your hands" and the like. I don't mind telling you that such euphemisms concern me. It would seem to trivialize the Grace of God. Is this how I get my healing? Is this what freedom has come to? Please don't get me wrong, I like to raise my hands. I'm just wondering if healing and freedom might not require a bit more than just this.

John 8:32 teaches us that "... you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

I'm sure this verse is familiar to many, as it is a frequently quoted portion of scripture. During my studies, I came to see that this verse has an interesting causal relationship to the preceding verse. I wondered why I hadn't heard verse 31 quoted with the same frequency of verse 32.

John 8:31 says "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, if you continue in My word, then are you My disciples indeed; and"

Here we have a conditional statement disconnected from its necessary condition; which of course makes it somewhat void or impotent. For instance if I say "I'll buy you dinner," that is an unconditional offering. On the other hand, to say "If you'll help me finish this project, I'll buy you dinner" has a conditional element. There is a dependent relationship between these two events. You can not separate the dependent clause from its condition and still have the fullness of the truth.

Where does the healing come from? How, then, can we experience freedom?

Well, we see here that the Lord didn't say that if we raised our hands that we would be free. There are a series of conditions and dependencies inherent in this promise. "If we continue in His word;" If we make His word the rule by which we live, then are we His disciples. Upon meeting the prerequisites for discipleship, we then qualify to know truth. We must forsake our own definitions of truth, discipleship, freedom, and healing, etc. and embrace God's definitions.

"Continuing in His word" must become a way of life. If discipleship becomes our lifestyle; **then** we can be made free. "How free?" you ask. Free in your spirit, soul and body; free to walk in His blessings; and free to experience the inescapable pleasure of His movement in your life. His blessing does indeed overcome you.

Now you can still "raise your hands." This is how you "raise your hands." When you return blessing to those who curse you; this is how you "raise your hands." When you don't defile your temple; this is how you "raise your hands." When you stand by the truth in love; this is how you "raise your hands." Now I admonish you to ... **RAISE YOUR HANDS.**



JEWELS



WORSHIP is the submission of all of our nature to God. It's the quickening of conscience by His Holiness, the nourishment of mind by His Truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His Love and the submission of the will to His Purpose.

All of this gathered up in adoration is the greatest expression of which we are capable. Worship binds you on the inside. – by Arch Bishop Wm. Temple (Quoted by Ravi Zacharias in *Exclusive Truth in a Pluralistic Society*)



A Journey to Intimacy

What is God up to in this World?

The Journey Continues – A Paradigm Shift

This is a most intriguing portion of my journey to intimacy with God.

One of my "sons" shared with me a revelation on the Lord's Prayer written in the first person narrative. It begins "I am your Father, Who is in heaven..." It is a most beautiful gift.

As I read and meditated on this beautiful piece of work, I begin to see it continue to undergo a metamorphosis that has resulted in a most powerful paradigm for me. I'd like to share some of it with you, if you don't mind.

A Metamorphosis of the Lord's Prayer

I am your Heavenly Father, Whose name you are to regard as HOLY. My kingdom has been established and My will IS being done in the earth, just as it IS being done in heaven. Daily I supply you with a revelation of Myself; I AM to you bread sufficient for your needs. My rules on forgiveness are very simple. It's an all-or-nothing proposition. You forgive, I forgive. You don't forgive, I don't forgive. In this case, I take My cues from you. Let's be crystal clear on this, there are no points of negotiation here. Now regarding temptation; evil does not tempt Me; and if you follow Me, I will bring you to the place where evil does not tempt you either. I will deliver you either from (or through) the attempts of the evil one. Trust that I AM able to do it. Everything belongs to Me; the kingdom, the power and the glory, are all Mine.

I'm not as smart as some of you, so as you can appreciate, two points of this disclosure required further clarity.

- 1) **"My will IS being done in the earth, just as it IS being done in heaven"** Here is just a portion of His response to me. He said, JoAnn in order to understand the seeming chaos that you're seeing in your world, you must first respect that all My

laws work in complete agreement with each other. There is no conflict between them. *You* may misunderstand them, but *they* will never “misunderstand” each other. You can see this when you look at how the Laws of Aerodynamics and the Law of Gravity cooperate. One law holds you down; the other law enables you to ascend to great heights. But in order to do either, you have to operate within the parameters of the respective law. Or look at the cooperation between Light and Darkness. Light has the preeminence and Darkness only rules in the absence of Light. There is no confusion between them. The laws were established “in the beginning” and they continue as ordained. Regarding man: in Deuteronomy chapter 28, I was very clear on my expectations of man. That being said, My will is certainly being done in the earth, and what I AM asking you is whether or not you want to be a part of what I AM doing in the earth.

- 2) **“... and if you follow Me, I will bring you to the place where evil does not tempt you either.”** We are all familiar with how seemingly difficult it can be to abstain from the appearance of evil. And now the Lord is telling us that there is a place of dwelling where evil won't be a source of temptation for us. I could not wait to understand this. He said, you cannot *live* in darkness and *walk* in the light. And it is not reasonable to expect that you can. Evil is tempting to you when you have an appetite for evil. (James 1:13-14) When you have no appetite for evil, you cannot be tempted with evil. Of course, I asked how to get to this place of dwelling. Here is a portion of the response I received. Develop a lifestyle that encompasses these principles:

- Love the Lord with all of your heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37)
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart (Prov. 3:5)
- Delight yourself in the Lord, and He'll give your heart new desires (Ps. 37:4)
- Seek first to have the Lord's righteousness govern your heart (Matt.6:33)

There was a great deal more enlightenment; I wanted to share just a bit of it with you. Until the next edition, may the Lord watch over you and keep you with His tender mercies. < KdV >



Special Feature (Meditation)

By Sharon Patton (with minor adaptations)

And the Lord said to my heart...rest my daughter, for you have mighty kingdoms to lead. In your rest you will find the strength and wisdom necessary to carry out the assignments I have given you. Rest, my daughter, and take comfort in the sound of my voice. For when you awake, you will be in another world; the world I have called you into. In this world, those assigned to you will welcome you. They will bring with them your sword and the provisions of your assignments and the talents they have been given to pour into you. You, my daughter, will glow with the beauty of heaven, and speak with the voice of an angel, and the rivers of my blessing will flow out of your veins to a hungry and hurting world. For you, my daughter will wake to an absolute knowledge of My authority over your life, and your obedience to that authority will unlock many doors that have been closed. You wonder why you were made the way that you are. You are perfectly designed for what you are assigned to do. Rest, My daughter, rest...and wake up to "Heaven on Earth."

January 25, 2009



My Personal Creed as a Child of God

- JoAnn White

Who we are as Christians, determines what we do.

Example: I am created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26); therefore I am committed to love the Lord with all of my heart, soul, strength and mind and my neighbor as my self (Luke 10:27). Now that I know who (and whose) I am; I no longer engage in contrary actions and attitudes of the heart. For this same reason I am also committed to refraining from lying, stealing, committing adultery, coveting, engaging in idolatry, dishonoring my parents, etc. (Deut 5:16-21) I am committed to meekness, pureness of heart, the giving of mercy (Matt. 5).

(Inspired by lecture by Ravi Zacharias entitled: *Leadership Seminar Workshop- Session 1*)

< KdV >

Are You Sure?

If you are not certain of your standing with Jesus Christ, I'd admonish you to consider a few things:

- 1) Every man has an appointment with death; after that the Judgment. (Heb. 9:27 KJV) Because He has appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness... (Acts 17:31 KJV)
- 2) We are required to love the Lord with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength ... and our neighbor as our self. (Matt. 22:37-40 KJV)
- 3) Every one of us will give an account of himself to God. (Rom 14:12 KJV) God will judge every man according to his deeds. (Rom. 2:6 KJV)
- 4) All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23 KJV)
- 5) God commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30 KJV)
- 6) Jesus Christ has come that we might have abundant life. (John 10:10 KJV) And to save us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess 1:10 KJV)
- 7) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, whoever believes on Him shall have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV)
- 8) Repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be forgiven. (Acts 3:19 KJV)

Be Sure

✧ SUMMARY ✧

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How Did We Get Here

We as the people of God repent for the condition of our nation; because our Lord teaches that the favor (or disfavor) of a nation is a reflection on the people of God.

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The Leadership Corner

He cannot “*come*” to a believer. Because God is already “*here*.” He is always “*here*.” God said that he is a “*present*” help in time of trouble.

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Raise Your Hands

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