



TC's Thoughts for Discussion

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It is false religion that thrives on hyperspiritualized mysticism. Although He is spirit, none of God's discernible characteristics are mystical or hyperspiritual. They're purely intellectual and pragmatic. He is the original scientist, physicist, astronomer, mathematician, chemist, logistician, physician, sociologist and psychologist. His written Word depicts him, always, as logical, sensible, objective, practical and reasonable. That message is demonstrably consistent throughout the Bible. Spirituality and mysticism are clearly NOT mindsets that can lead believers to the knowledge of God.

- > "MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF [righteousnes?] [sincerity?] [worship?] [hyper-spirituality?] [prayer?] [holiness?] [regular church attendance?] [believing "what 'we' believe"?] [faith?] [getting "truly 'saved'"?] KNOWLEDGE." —Hosea 4:6

But aren't we "spiritual" creatures? Isn't it the Holy Spirit that is to lead us into all Truth? Aren't we told that we must worship God in spirit and in truth? At 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul told Timothy to study to show himself approved. Why do you think he didn't instruct Timothy to pray for increased knowledge and understanding and for God's approval? Wouldn't that have been more *spiritual*?

Sensible men acknowledge that God's logic, sensibility, objectivity and reasoning exist on a plane to which we can aspire and admire but never attain. The Old Testament records His attempt to teach men logic, sensibility, objectivity and RATIONAL thinking. His message, there, is also consistent. It is reasonable. It is logical. It is simple. It is law. This is the essence of it:

- > "These are the boundaries for your behavior. Stay within them and you will enjoy my blessings and my protection. Step one foot outside those boundaries and you're on your own."

Does that sound even remotely *spiritual* to you?

In what ways do God's New Testament messages differ? They don't. At Matthew 5:18, Jesus insisted that not even one jot nor tittle of Old Testament Law was to pass away with the dispensation of grace. Analyze the content of the Sermon On The Mount. Logical? Sensible? Objective? Reasonable? Is it mystical? Is it *spiritual*? Not! Dissect all the other recorded teaching and communicating events of Jesus: Are they predominantly mystical/spiritual or are they pragmatic? If you've been objective in your analysis, you have concluded that the essence of His message is practical and always characterized by sound reasoning; not mysticism—and never by hyperspirituality.

Then, why did most of Jesus' hearers (and most of today's churchgoers) not "get it?" That would be the fault of Human Nature, a.k.a. The Sin Nature: As predictably as streams of water after a rain, The Sin Nature defaults to the course of least resistance and the most comfort. The course of least resistance for mankind is subjective, *feelings*-based reasoning. Passive, it requires no work. Christ-like objective reasoning requires work:

- > "Yea, if thou criest out for knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. —Proverbs 2:3-5

When you rely on your *feelings* for reasoning, you become susceptible to many "other spirits" that can cause you to *feel* almost like The Holy Spirit made you feel when He first drew you to repentance. Therein lie the wages of your Human Nature—Death. Wouldn't it be, thence, reasonable to conclude with a degree of certainty that thinking and "doing what comes naturally" is suicide?

- > "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" —1 Timothy 4:1
- > "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." —1 John 4:1
- > "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." —Paul, at Philippians 2:5
- > "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND..." —Paul, at Romans 12:2
- > "God's gift of a sound MIND is a terrible thing to waste." —*yours truly*

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain



Those Christians who're to discover truth will have adopted the MINDset of those Acts 17:11 Bereans.

Clearly, we are to join our hearts and MINDS together for the purpose of gaining original truth and then acting on it, to fulfill the mission that Jesus assigned to The Church. Most readers will be surprised to learn that the mission Jesus prescribed is SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT from the mission the visible church currently pursues. Follow this link to learn HOW that mission differs: www.DYPK.org/BLOG/0089.pdf

Need more sound scriptural substance? Examine Jesus' post-wilderness-experience temptation: With each of his attempts to gain control of Jesus, Satan intelligently appealed, not to his intellect, but to his FEELINGS. With equal brilliance Jesus forced himself to ignore those feelings and to respond using only his MIND. How did he do that?

- A. He reminded himself that God's word is in writing.
- B. He reminded himself that it is in writing for a critical primary purpose—so that those who will resolve to cast off denominational dogma and to demand original truth need never be betrayed by FEELINGS.
- C. He forced himself to rely totally on what is written. Jesus' feelings (i.e.: his spirit) bore witness of extreme weakness and hunger and thirst. But he responded rationally, "It is written..."

Satan enticed Jesus to be subjective. Jesus chose objectivity. Satan enticed Jesus to consider his feelings (i.e.: his broken spirit). Jesus chose to use his MIND. Satan enticed Jesus to rationalize. Jesus chose to be rational. He chose to reason logically and to be practical, not "spiritual," in responding. Why did he do that? He had but one primary purpose—to establish a very clear and critical precedent for you and me.

If, with tears flowing fancifully down your face you sing, "To be like Jesus, To be like Jesus. That's all I want: to be like him," consider yourself now fully informed: Jesus never permitted his feelings to interfere with his thinking. Want to be like him? That's how. To be a Disciple one must become like Jesus. To become like Jesus, one must THINK like Jesus thinks. Now you know how Jesus thinks.

Of my favorite quotes this one, from Vince Lombardi, is prominent: "Gentlemen, this is a football." I have *massaged* it some, to yield this: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is the Bible. The critical parts of its message are plainly written. Unlike the U. S. Constitution, they need no expert 'interpreters.' If you are literate, learn to read God's written Word objectively; i.e.: as-if-no-one-had-ever-explained-what-it-means."

- > "The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." —Alvin Toffler

Yes, it is by the drawing of The Spirit that a man comes into relationship with God. But it is by the active (as opposed to passive) exercise of that man's intellect that he studies to show himself approved by God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed. If that same man were to submit passively to religious mysticism and hyperspirituality he would be easily duped into error and damnation by a very real spirit that MIMICS the "feelings" he experienced at the time of his initial drawing by The Spirit. (You may want to read that long sentence again, more than once, to grasp its critical message.)

To qualify as "sound," a doctrine must enjoy the clear support of a reasonable collection of objectively comprehended scriptures, each within its rationally perceived context. All else is either pure heresy, pagan mysticism or wishful dreaming ...rainbows and unicorns.

The Holy Spirit drew you, initially, by engaging your heart. When you responded by accepting Christ, that was just a start! It's a scriptural fact that those who stop there will NOT become Christ's Disciples. (Questions about that? Please ask.) The visible church has done a splendid job of making BELIEVERS. That's a shame! Why? Because The Great Commission [Matthew 28:19,20] has nothing at all to do with making Believers: Jesus commanded us to make DISCIPLES of those who've already heard the Gospel message and believed it. Who's doing that? Don't you hear a new "salvation" sermon every Sunday?

Here's a critical question for every member of the Christian clergy: Of what possible value is a church filled to overflowing with BELIEVERS...???

Because God has already engaged your heart, we of the **Link1**^(TM) Bible Research Team hope to engage your mind and then your heart. God has given you the spirit of a sound mind, too, hasn't He? As you read and discover, please take several short breaks to do what those more-noble Bereans of Acts 17:11 did.

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Post a comment or question or just read what others are saying: www.DYPK.org/apps/blog.

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