

DIVINE INTERVENTION— NOT FLESHLY INTRUSION

Once, while perusing a highly technical article, I read how scientists had encountered a dilemma while doing micro-molecular studies. Scientists attempting to determine certain characteristics of subatomic particles discovered that their intrusion into the tiny system with scientific measuring methods altered the particle's true characteristics, thereby rendering their tests useless. The human intrusion of scientific measuring methods caused the measurements to be invalid because the method changed the natural flow and weight of the micro-molecular particles due to the influence of the scientist's equipment. These scientists concluded that any human intrusion of test methods negated the tests themselves. In other words, in God's little system of order, any human manipulation caused corruption of that order.

It is not the white-frosted scientist that has alone discovered this dilemma. Anyone that

has viewed a system designed on spiritual principles, founded and birthed on truth, nourished and swaddled with ethics, and reared with integrity has witnessed (after the passage of time) the corruption that human intrusion always brings to a system, spiritual, secular or otherwise.

It is for this reason that systems rise, in the beginning, with great hope only to collapse in ragged tatters in the end. As the scientists discovered—human intrusion soon brings corruption to the true order of the system. Hence, the equation of remedy becomes: Keep flesh out of the system, and all is well. Politics must not alter principle; greed must not corrupt godliness; intimidation must not choke inspiration; ambition must not eclipse anointing, and friendship must not dominate freedom. Indeed, to survive, the flesh must not be allowed to corrupt the spiritual order of the system.

The obvious question gendered by this act of human intrusion is—can any system in which men operate survive for an indefinite amount of

time? The clear but difficult to admit answer is —only as long as “flesh” is frequently and systematically purged can a system survive. This is the way, of course, of God’s church in the earth on both individual and corporate levels.

The intrusion of flesh into spiritual realms has and always will corrupt a pure and godly cause. History and biblical accounts sadly record the failures, one after another, that continue to testify to the truth that flesh is the Spirit’s greatest enemy. Once the spirit of self and of “loving the preeminence” intrudes into the corridors of divine structure sweeping the spirits of sacrifice and godliness before them, soon the echo of death will be the only voice that one hears.

Robert H. Bork’s volume titled, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, comments on the decay of American culture: “With each new evidence of deterioration, we lament for a moment, and then become accustomed to it... So unrelenting is the assault on our sensibilities that many of us grow numb, finding resignation to be the

rational, adaptive response to an environment that is increasingly polluted and apparently beyond our control... As behavior worsens, the community adjusts its standards to that conduct once thought reprehensible but is no longer deemed so.” Bork echoes the common fallacy of corporations, governments, and religious movements over time that experience the dimming of vision, the shifting of core values, and the fading of passion.

A clear illustration of this scenario is seen in the history of early lifesaving stations that were organized along the Atlantic seaboard. Selfless volunteers, committed to rescuing victims of shipwrecks, staffed them. But over time, they improved their facilities, introduced some games, upgraded their boats, and finally, they became plush yacht clubs pandering to the penchants and pleasures of their affluent membership. It reminds me of the proverb, “What they write with their hand they erase with their elbow.” This fall from the humble heights to the rocks of pride was due to a hard shove from flesh!

Today's downward slide witnessed in many Oneness organizations and local assemblies are largely due to the same root cause—flesh. The symptoms are easily seen in the evaporation of wholesome holiness standards of flesh and spirit. The clear note and certain sound of prophetic voice becoming people-pleasing palaver of the pulpits, the power of godly doctrine weakened by the insidious rebellion against clear and forthright biblical principles—these all testify to the intrusion of flesh that has corrupted God's chosen way.

Man-made offices within organizations soon become transformed by men into divinely-appointed offices. Jockeying for position, political musical chairs, hats in the ring, slide and glide politicians, and deifying men and their actions are the sad result of the intrusion of flesh into God's system that was meant to operate as He would lead and direct. Only the purging of fleshly leaven can make the bread acceptable, but, alas, the leaven of death is far more to be desired by some than the incorruptible bread of life.

Established and proven core values of the past become popular targets for the fleshly compromiser. The human mind, in all its logical glory, becomes the judge and jury that pronounces a verdict that cannot be challenged, for it claims to be the highest authority in the land. Biblical doctrines are disemboweled by the sharp knife of compromise; eternal truths become cultural issues and matters of semantics. Holiness lifestyles become subjects of mockery and derision to the “now” crowd. The twisted logic of flesh preaches a doctrine that the only thing not to be tolerated is intolerance. Acts 2:38 is snatched from the apostle’s lips and is made to say something foreign to the original command. Trinitarians somehow become brothers and are excused from full compliance of God’s only plan of salvation. To preach truth is to be bitter; to abide in modesty is to become Pharisaical.

These previously mentioned situations announce to the spiritually aware that flesh has intruded into areas that once operated in symmetrical beauty as the Spirit designed. Is it, therefore, any wonder that God has

commanded that “no flesh should glory in His presence?”

The knee-jerk reaction to “keeping flesh out” is to refrain from any collective fellowship of believers—proclaiming that any “system” is not of God. This, however, is not the truth. It is not the system that is not of God; rather, it is the intrusion of flesh into the system that is not of God. Isolationism is not the answer to the dilemma (far from it). The answer is to maintain at all costs spiritual principles and priorities within the system. Men that will pray and respect one another and will preach the Lord’s bidding will produce a sterile environment that prevents the ugly fungus of politics from breeding. Men of honor and integrity help to hold an equilibrium of respect within the system. Men who strive to reach the hem of His garment seldom aspire to the lofty heights of egotism. The ego that is drenched in Calvary’s blood ceases to be “self” motivated; the cross embracing heart refuses to loosen its grip in order to reach for wedges of silver or gold.

“Where there is no vision (Purpose), the people perish.” This fundamental principle, if soon forgotten, ushers in the termites of carnal destruction, which devours houses with insidious skill. Purpose, with its foot on the neck of “Personal” (flesh), is God’s way of victory! Purpose unites —personal divides; purpose gives life—personal brings death; purpose challenges—personal demoralizes; purpose accomplishes—personal demolishes.

Purpose, brethren, purpose of the kingdom of God, of the Lord of glory—that alone can establish a system that can survive! We need a spiritual purpose that exceeds all fleshly ambitions purpose that is the driving force of the collective hearts of all that belong to the system — a divine Purpose that is the life-force, the divine inertia, of the system. A Bible that is the absolute authority ruling over all the domains of men—let God be true and every man a liar!

To maintain a purpose: purpose must always be evident in all that is done. Failing to

promote God's purpose above all else leads down tangent paths that lead nowhere. Once a system is diverted from Divine Purpose, it soon seeks out a Saul of flesh to be king. A system without Divine Purpose is dead while it yet liveth. "... I have *somewhat* against thee... thou hast left thy first love." Issues of personal nature become the order of business rather than the quest of Purpose. Personalities and personal issues soon become the substitute of Purpose. "Get thee behind me, Satan, for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men." Systems that have lost divine purpose are adrift on a sea of lifelessness, absent of any directional wind to fill their sails.

If there is to be a rallying point, if there is to be an ensign that leads—it must be God's Purpose! Yes! A Purpose that will continue to be the clarion call of the system amid the din and rumble of lesser trumpets. Purpose that drives men to their knees and unites them in the common cause for the kingdom of God, for the will of God in our generation!

*In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!*

*Trust no future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
ACT—act in the Living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!*

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;*

*Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.*

*Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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