

## Everyone Gets Understanding...Eventually

There are two places where understanding comes; one is in the house of God and the other is in hell.

### **Psalms 73:16-17 (KJV)**

16 When I thought to know [understand] this, it was too painful for me;

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. [added]

Nearly all are familiar with this passage of Scripture, where Asaph is very discouraged, feeling disheartened, almost bitter and struggling with disillusionment at the 'perceived' inequalities between the righteous and the wicked. He compared them and found a great deficit in what seemed fair and consistent with their lifestyle. Job went through something very similar. The disconnect between what I am doing or attempting with all my heart to do for God and all I do is struggle, suffer setbacks, disappointment, broken-heartedness, pain, etc. Compared to the fact that the wicked take no thought of God, laugh in His face if they do, pursue only wickedness and seemed to be 'blessed'. They don't suffer any of these things it seems. They rise to the highest positions in the company, they find all the good deals, their house sells for more, they find legal loopholes and secret tricks to make money, they own the best, eat the best, wear the best, visit the best. How can this be?

Asaph actually went so far as to say, in so many words, "I don't even want to say what I am thinking! If I give voice to my deepest fears and inner thoughts, I know it is going to discourage those around me, perhaps causing them to lose faith and be lost." It got so bad, the more he made this comparison, that it *hurt* to even *think* about it. It hurt to think that he had done all this for God and it didn't even seem to make a difference in the quality of his life or bless him any more than the average village idiot. It hurt to think that God would perhaps be unjust and allow the wicked to be blessed and the righteous to suffer. It hurt to think about, "If after all this, here is where I am; where will I be after *more* of all this? I have done all this for NOTHING! It has been in vain!" It just hurt to think about it.

Everyone is going to experience this moment or moments in their life. The important thing is to do exactly what Asaph did and what Job did that saw them through the test and trial.

### **Job 1:22 (KJV)**

22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

It is in the trial that God is watching us the most. It certainly was with Job, the clearest picture of what transpires behind the spiritual scenes in the spiritual battles that we face. It is during this time, that even though we feel like we are going to lose our minds, we must guard our mouth.

### **Matthew 12:36-37 (AMP+)**

36 But I tell you, on the day of judgment people will have to give an accounting for every careless or useless word they speak.

37 For by your words [reflecting your spiritual condition] you will be justified and acquitted of the guilt of sin; and by your words [rejecting Me] you will be condemned and sentenced."

After all, we ARE God's witnesses! Witnesses speak for or against a cause or person in a judicial trial. What we testify about God is going to have eternal impacts!

### **Revelation 12:11 (KJV)**

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the **word of their testimony**; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

It is during the trial that we feel that deep pain of 'why'? Job felt it, Moses felt it, David felt it, Elijah felt it, Jeremiah felt it, John the Baptist felt it, even the man Christ Jesus felt it...

### **Matthew 27:46 (KJV)**

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, **why hast thou forsaken me?**

The pain of not fully understanding.

It is real.

It is not abnormal.

Fortunately Asaph, along with these other men of God, knew enough to not open his mouth and speak foolishly, but he also did something else that nearly every preacher has preached about. (We only find out about the trial after they have come through it and reached the correct conclusions and understanding.)

### **He went to the house of God!**

He went back to the place where it *last* made sense. That one service or probably more accurate that one prayer meeting. That one prayer meeting that when he got up, it all made sense and even if it didn't it didn't matter. That place where there was 'peace that passed all understanding'. Perhaps, that is all he was after, just some peace from the torment of his mind and the anguish of his heart. He knew he wasn't thinking right, but he **couldn't stop thinking**. He knew he wasn't feeling right, but his heart **just kept bleeding**.

Without a doubt, he began to pray and tell God about all of his burdens and express his feelings to God about the things he didn't understand, bearing in mind that God doesn't owe an explanation to anyone. Perhaps, he just asked for a little bit more grace to bear it. Perhaps, he just said to God, "Jehovah, no matter what happens, I am never leaving this way of truth. I may never gain freedom in my mind, but I will never believe these lies and accusations that Satan brings against you."

We don't know, but what we do know is that somewhere in the midst of his encounter with God, his carnal mind was put into neutral and suddenly he saw with spiritual eyes a panorama of eternal vistas. He saw the end! Everything he saw with his carnal eyes disappeared and was replaced with God's view and suddenly....it happened!

### **He UNDERSTOOD!!**

"Thou has set them in slippery places...they are headed for destruction...they are living in a waking nightmare...they will be destroyed in the end..."

*Then* he understood!

While we will never understand everything, We **must** live a life of understanding as exhorted by Scriptures.

So, how do we do that?

#### **Psalms 111:10 (KJV)**

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: **a good understanding have all they that do his commandments**: his praise endureth for ever.

This both describes *and* grants the person understanding.

1. If they keep/do God's commandments - they have understanding.

Perhaps there are a couple other things hidden in this text as well.

2. If they have understanding - they will do the commandments of God.

#### **Psalms 119:33-35 (KJV)**

33 HE. Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

34 **Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.**

35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

#### **Psalms 119:73 (KJV)**

73 JOD. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: **give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.**

3. Understanding *comes* from *doing* the commandments of God.

#### **Psalms 119:104 (KJV)**

104 **Through** thy precepts I **get** understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

### **Psalms 119:130 (KJV)**

130 The entrance of thy **words** giveth light; it **giveth** understanding unto the simple.

A person with understanding (or without it) can be in each of these categories at different times in their life. The hope is that even though we *don't* understand, if we will just obey His commandments, understanding will be granted to us. That our acknowledgment to God in prayer, much like these Psalms, that sometimes we are weak in obedience due to a lack of understanding of the commandments, not iniquity, rebellion or fighting God, just wrestling in our hearts and minds with understanding some things.

We cannot get in the standoff with God; “explain yourself God and I will obey.” That IS iniquity and rebellion. (Besides God never participates - it is one of the quickest ways to shut the Heavens.) We not only get stymied in the trial, BUT our faith can be hindered in other areas. We can feel demoralized for other things or even, at times, what God called us to do, BECAUSE we don't understand certain things. No, God is not required to explain Himself, BUT it is, according to these verses, appropriate and pleasing to God to ASK Him for understanding. Not for the purpose of satisfying our skeptical, unsubmitted, carnal mind, but for the purpose of being STRONGER in the commandments of God. “God, I fail here often, not due to a lack of desire, but sometimes I slip because I am missing something, there is something I need to see, to comprehend, to understand about this commandment that if you can help me to get the concept of it, I know it will make me better at obeying it.” God wants to hear that!!! After all, we aren't born understanding everything in God's Word or about God. How else are we supposed to learn?

ASK GOD FOR UNDERSTANDING!!

### **Proverbs 2:3-5 (KJV)**

3 Yea, **if** thou criest after knowledge, and **lifest up thy voice for understanding;**

4 **If** thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

5 **Then** shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

To a computer programmer this is what is known as a 'IF-THEN Function'. All the code in the word can be in the function, but the 'if' must be met before the 'then' can be executed. There *is* a way to gain understanding, but it must be God's way. In other words, when we meet the conditions of 'if', God kicks in the 'then' into our life.

Lacking understanding is nothing new and it certainly doesn't mean the end of the road for someone. What it does mean is we aren't looking through the right lens, processing with the right mind or valuing the right things.

### **Matthew 16:21-23 (KJV)**

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: **for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**

Even Peter didn't understand and needed rebuked for his attitude. This wasn't an easy thing to be understood. It required the 'things of God', but Peter was looking at it from a carnal perspective. This wasn't the only time things were hard to understand.

### **John 6:59-60 (KJV)**

59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, **This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

"These are hard things to understand, Jesus!" We are supposed to eat your flesh and drink your blood? "Wow," they thought,... "I can't get my head wrapped around that!" Not everything is easy to understand, BUT it doesn't mean it doesn't have an explanation. (If we hang in there for the Last Supper and not get offended and depart or get offended by rebuke.)

Again, there is a massive difference in people that seek to understand because they want to learn and do better and those that won't obey or believe until they do understand. Worlds apart.

My Pastor has preached many times about the joy of teaching new converts and people who were hungry to learn; that it becomes wearisome trying to teach people who really don't want to learn. They both ask questions, but the new convert asks to understand. The rebel ask to get out of obeying.

Church is obviously the best place to learn understanding and also the most advantageous to us. We need understanding so that we can learn from our mistakes, restructure our life to avoid certain things, to gain peace of mind, to grow in wisdom, and many more reasons. The point is that understanding SHOULD be to our BENEFIT, *but there is a place where it is not and never can be.*

The same understanding, same comprehension of the concepts, same realizations, but ZERO BENEFIT.

HELL!

### **Luke 16:22-23 (KJV)**

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

It is possible, I suppose, that this rich man could be the same as described in another setting of Scripture found in Luke 12 about the rich man who has so much that he told his soul to take its ease. God spoke to him in the spiritual realm and said, “Thou fool...[do you not understand] this night thy soul shall be required of thee...” But it doesn’t matter as the malady is exactly the same even if the man isn’t.

Ten minutes before dying, the rich man was ignorant of the things he should have understood. But after dying...the rich man suddenly understood EVERYTHING. He gained understanding in hell that he should have gained while on earth.

He learned about eternity, Abraham, the gulf fixed between, the true depth of torment in hell, the value of a drop of water (that he never gave Lazarus, but wanted Lazarus to give him). He learned and understood all the things that his riches had blinded him to on earth. He learned and understood that his lavish and arrogant lifestyle had obstructed his need to understand from even emerging in the first place. He understood that while he was rich, he was really poor. He understood that while Lazarus was poor, he was really rich.

He understood what Asaph understood **in the house of God.**

#### **Psalms 73:18-19 (KJV)**

18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

The rich man realized that the explanation he *required* from God before he was obedient, that he felt if someone would have just expressed the Gospel in a grand way then he would’ve listened, the sensational miracles that, had they just happened in his life he would believe and obey, was all a smoke screen for him and for his unwillingness to pursue understanding in the house of God!

Abraham explained patiently to him that, just as he, if his brothers wouldn’t hear the truth from the Word and from the teachers (preachers), they wouldn’t hear it from a resurrected man.

The rich man finally understood, but now he was in hell. What good was learning in hell?

Hell can teach understanding too!

Everyone who goes to hell **will** understand many things they refused to understand on earth.

So, according to Scripture, there are two places that we can be guaranteed to gain understanding, one benefits us and one does not. Everyone understands eventually, but if we wait to obey the commandments until we understand we run a great risk - we might wait until we get to hell! In the house of God, we understand the end of the wicked and in hell the wicked understand the end of the believer.

Both Asaph and the rich man lacked understanding, but what made the difference eternally is **where** and **how** they learned it!

I would rather learn in the house of God the often painful understanding that many times comes through very, very difficult trials, then wait until I end up in hell and then understand.

God is just and He offers to men (and women) everywhere the opportunity to gain understanding while it can still **beneficial** to us!

Understanding can still be found in the house of God! It can still be found in a prayer meeting - an encounter with God. We can enter that place so disillusioned, so discouraged, even afraid of our own thoughts and fearful that we are going to 'think them out loud' and someone will stumble because of what we are wrestling with and we can leave with such clarity of mind and heart, with such understanding that our trial turns into rejoicing at the majesty, wisdom and justice of God!

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5 **Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.**

6 **For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.**