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The General Epistle of James

Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™

1. **The fact: We'll have trials & temptations**
2. **The needed attitude: Joy**
 - a. Achieved by knowing that trials & temptations develop patience
 - b. Achieved by persevering
3. **The result: Makes us mature & complete**

I. TEMPTATIONS & TRIALS: THE BASIC FACTS, 1:2-27

A. The Essential Attitude Toward Trials & Temptation: Joy, 1:2-4

2. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
3. Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
4. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

accidents, disappointments, suffering, and death, and endless temptations that seduce us into sin and evil. What we need is a guaranteed way to conquer all the trials and temptations of life. This is the glorious message of this passage: there is a way to conquer and triumph in this life, no matter how severe the trial or temptation. What is the way? It is possessing and experiencing a true spirit of joy and perseverance as we face the trials and temptations of life. This is a striking study on enduring faith. Faith, real faith that comes from God above, endures all trials. It will not fail. Such faith is complete, full, perfected.

OUTLINE:

1. The fact: we will have trials and temptations (v.2).
2. The needed attitude: joy (vv.2-4).
3. The result: makes us perfect and entire (v.4).

Section I

TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS: THE BASIC FACTS James 1:2-27

STUDY 1: THE ESSENTIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD TRIALS AND TEMPTATION: JOY

TEXT: James 1:2-4

AIM: To work at being joyful during trials and temptations.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:3).

INTRODUCTION:

The path of life is not an easy path to walk. It is filled with all kinds of trials and temptations, trials such as sickness, disease,

1. THE FACT: WILL HAVE TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS (v.2).

We all go through many common temptations and trials in life. Life is often hard. But note that the word James uses for temptations or trials throughout the book of James means far more than just to tempt; it means...

to test to try to prove

That is, the temptations and trials of life are there to prove us; they are for a beneficial purpose; they are permitted by God for a good purpose.⁶ What is that purpose? To make us stronger and purer.

6. W.E. Vine. Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words. (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., n.d.), p.116.

- ⇒ When we conquer temptation, we become a much more pure person—more holy, righteous, and just.
- ⇒ When we triumphantly go through the trials of life, we become a much stronger person—more steadfast, enduring, and persevering.
- ⇒ When we stand up against trials and temptations, we become a dynamic witness to all those who see us: we demonstrate the living presence and power of Christ—that He actually does live in our hearts and lives and is going to give us eternal life.

Note one other thing that James says: he says that we will fall into all kinds of temptations and trials. The Greek scholar A.T. Robertson says, “It is the picture of being surrounded...by trials.”⁷ But we must always remember: no matter what the trial or temptation, it is for our good and for our benefit. It is to help us. It is to prove us—to make us stronger and much more pure and righteous—to make us much more dynamic witnesses for Christ. God allows trials and temptations to make us more and more like Jesus.

“Now no chastening [trial] for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (He.12:11).

ILLUSTRATION:

Even Abraham, Moses, Esther, and other great men and women of faith were tested. Testing and trials are not only useful, they are absolutely necessary. Each of us, every single Christian, will go through trials to test our faith.

Surrounded by scores of rough men in his army barracks, a young man considered simply going to bed his first night there, rather than his usual habit of kneeling by his bed to pray and read the Bible. In the face of temptation to hide his habit, he told himself, “I am a Christian. I will do just as I did at home!” The room was silent for a moment as the young man had his devotions, but no comment was made. The next night, however, eight others decided that they had to take

action—they too got their Bibles and read and prayed. The new private became a shining example of Jesus Christ to every man in the company and won many souls for God.

QUESTIONS:

1. How have you become more patient because of trials?
2. How have trials caused you to be more mature in Christ?
3. God wants us to be like His Son, Jesus. Name several ways we can become like Christ through our trials.

2. THE NEEDED ATTITUDE: JOY (vv.2-4).

The attitude needed to face trials and temptations is joy. How is it even possible to have a spirit of joy at these times? How can a believer be joyful...

when facing such trials as disease, accidents, disappointments, suffering, pain, and death?
when facing enticing temptations?

Joy is usually not what fills our hearts when we face these things. When severe trials come our way, too often we despair and become discouraged and defeated. Most of us certainly do not rejoice.

There is only one way to face trials and temptations with a spirit of joy: we have to switch our thinking, turn our attitudes about trials and temptations completely around. We have to quit thinking negatively and think positively. In the words of Scripture, we must know something and we must do something.

1. We must know something: know that trials and temptations work patience (v.3). We must know this vital and valuable truth: trials and temptations are not to defeat and discourage us, but to prove us, to make us much stronger and more pure and righteous. The believer is to know that the trials and temptations of life will make him more steadfast, more persevering, and more enduring. They will make him much stronger, not weaker. They will make him more like Jesus. When the believer holds to this dynamic teaching without wavering, he can face trials and temptations much more positively. He can then begin to move toward the spirit of living joyfully in the face of trials and temptations.
2. We must do something: we must let patience work within

7. A.T. Robertson. Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol.6, p.11.

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us. As stated above, patience means to be steadfast, to persevere, and to endure. But it means far more than just bearing and putting up with the trials and temptations. It means far more than just following the advice of medicine and psychology: to take it easy; to be calm; to relax in stressful situations. Patience means...

to persevere and keep on persevering, never giving in to take the initiative and to exert the energy and effort to conquer and to gain the victory over the trial and temptation

Now note the point: How can we joy or rejoice when a trial or temptation confronts us? By knowing that it will make us stronger, and then by persevering against it and conquering it. By knowing that it is an opportunity to make us more pure and more righteous like Jesus. When we look at trials and temptations as opportunities, then we will begin to face them with joy. And when we begin to persevere and conquer them, then we will begin to walk through them in the joy of the Lord.

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (Js.1:12).

ILLUSTRATION:

A young man staked out some land and began to dig for gold. Nearly two years later, most of his money and all of his patience were gone. Disgusted, he let the claim go.

One week later, another man, taking advice from an old miner, staked his claim in the same spot. Within two days, he discovered one of the largest deposits of gold ever found. It didn't take long for news of the great find to spread through nearby towns. Other miners were quick to ask about the secret of the young miner's success. His humble reply was, “When the old miner advised me to take the claim, I decided right then and there I was going to see it through to the end no matter what. One thing I've learned about the success of the old miner—whether times are good or bad, he just keeps on digging.”

The reward for perseverance is not always physical or tangible, but it is always worthwhile.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. How can you switch your thinking to have joy during trials?**
- 2. Why do we need trials to make us stronger?**
- 3. What one thing can you do to be truly victorious over trials and temptations?**

3. THE RESULT: MAKES US MATURE AND COMPLETE (v.4).

The results of facing trials and temptations can be wonderful. When a person perseveres and conquers the trials and temptations of life, he or she becomes more perfect, more complete, more useful for a good and holy purpose. This does not mean “perfect” in the sense of becoming a perfect person, but having perfection of purpose. It has to do with an end, an aim, a goal, a purpose. It means fit, mature, fully grown at a particular stage of growth. For example, a fully grown child is a perfect child; he has reached his childhood and achieved the purpose of childhood. “Perfect” does not mean perfection of character, that is, being without sin. It is fitness, maturity for task and purpose. It is full development, maturity of godliness.

Being mature or grown up in Christ means at least two things.

1. First, when a person stands against trials and temptations and conquers them...

he perfects the purpose God intended for him.
That is, he becomes a stronger and more pure person—a person who is a little more like Jesus.

he perfects his task and purpose for being on earth
a little bit more

God has a twofold purpose for every believer: to become more and more like Jesus, and to do a specific task or job while on earth. When the believer perseveres against and conquers trials or temptations, he perfects both purposes a little bit more.

2. Second, a person becomes more and more complete in all parts.⁸ This means a most wonderful thing. When a person perseveres and conquers trials or temptations...

he becomes more entire, more fit, more sound, and more complete

he also eliminates more weaknesses, more flaws, more defects, and more shortcomings

Day by day—trial by trial and temptation by temptation—he becomes stronger and more pure and righteous—more and more like the Lord Jesus. As the last two words of verse four say, “wanting nothing.” The believer who faces trials and temptations in the joy of Christ conquers all, and he lacks nothing.

Such a person has all the abundance and fullness of life. He walks through life conquering and triumphing over all the trials and temptations of life, no matter how severe and stressful. It

8. A.T. Robertson. Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol.6, p.12.

may even be death, but he stands fast in his faith and conquers death. And God rewards him with an eternity of perfection, fitness, completion, and fulfillment— all forever and ever. The believer is changed to permanently reflect the perfection of Jesus Christ.

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” (He.6:1).

ILLUSTRATION:

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding” (Pr.4:7). Wisdom, maturity, becoming more and more like Christ—these are traits we all need. But we will not get them without trials.

Someone once observed, “It doesn’t matter how much money you have, everyone has to buy wisdom on the installment plan.”⁹

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Have you become wiser through your trials? In what way can you help others in their time of need or temptation?**
- 2. You will never lack the necessities when you follow God’s plan. Describe a particularly trying time in your life when God was faithful.**

SUMMARY:

Trials and temptations can hang like dark clouds over our lives. But even when our souls are in torment, the Lord is faithfully working to make us complete in Him. Joy, true joy, can be ours during trials if we realize one fact: we grow through them. If your life is in God’s hands, things are not getting worse but better. Trials are for a good and necessary purpose—to make us stronger, more pure and more effective. You can press on if you remember three crucial points:

1. We will have many trials and temptations.
2. We must develop the attitude of joy during trials and temptations.
3. We will be made more perfect and entire through trials and temptations.

9. Paul Lee Tan. Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations. (Rockville, MD: Assurance Publishers, 1988), #14587.

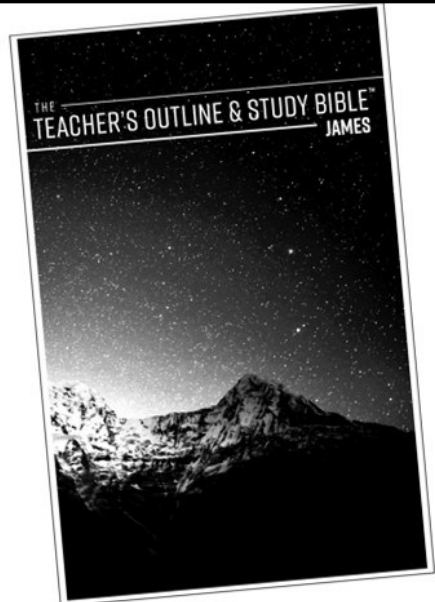
PERSONAL JOURNAL NOTES:

(Reflection and Response)

1. The most important thing that I learned from this lesson was:
2. The thing that I need to work on the most is:
3. I can apply this lesson to my life by:
4. Closing Prayer of Commitment:

END

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The White Horse

—by Treg Spicer

Who would have ever thought we would be witnessing what we are today? World crises, sand storms, vaccination chips, famine, economic collapse, civil war and death are daily topics we find all too real. There is no escape. The only way to solve a world problem is with a world leader...

We know him as the ANTICHRIST.

The book of Revelation not only describes this leader, but is full of interesting creatures and characters. As you read through the book you will find your imagination running wild with images and ideas of what John must have been referring to while writing.

One of the greatest literary images that I believe is found in Revelation is that of the four horseman. These angelic judges paint a picture that will remain etched in your mind long after you read of them!

Unfortunately, after the events of the past few months, these riders seem much less fictional and much more realistic. This is because visions, at best, are to be experienced rather than analyzed. While it may seem that we can hear their hoofbeats, we have no idea how soon they will gallop onto the scene.

THE WHITE HORSE...(Rev 6:4-5)

This leader (the Antichrist) rides victoriously with a bow and crown.

This warrior type hero rides out as a conqueror bent on conquest. According to Mounce the bow was a symbol of military power. For instance, God told the prophet Hosea that He would “*break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel*” (Hosea 1:5). The warriors of Babylon will be captured and their bows will be broken (Jeremiah 51:56).

I spent many hours shooting my bow and hunting with it as a teenager. I could not imagine heading to my tree stand with my bow and no arrows. Yet, it seems this rider was missing his quiver. You see, his power is not found in his bow, but by his political suave and media promotion.

He will reverse the current chaos, calamity, and the economic crisis and collapse.

He will readily produce vaccinations for deadly diseases. He will use the power that was given to him to bring all political, spiritual, and cultural differences of the world to rest.

This rest will last for 3 1/2 years and then



Photo by Helena Lopes from Pexels

his true nature, character and demonic self will be unleashed like a caged tiger into the wild. And like most animals who run when the tiger appears, so will God's chosen. Christ Himself gives the warning in Matthew 24:14-22 about what to do when this happens. He says...

“Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains...for then shall be the great tribulation...”

Do we know who this horseman is or when he will appear? NO. But we should not be watching for the rider of Revelation 6, but instead we should be watching for He who rides the white horse in Revelation 19.

Do You Feel Safe?

—by Arlen Yoder

I've been a Christian for over 43 years now. I feel that I've learned some things in those years. One thing I recognize in myself is my need to feel safe. I know that it's not entirely possible to feel safe 100% of the time. Circumstances sometimes dictate otherwise. But even in the midst of circumstances beyond our control, and the promise in the Bible that our world will sometimes get rocked, there has to come from somewhere a degree of safety.

Where does that degree of safety come from?

First

of all it comes from Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd who guides and “*giveth his life for the sheep*” (John 10:11-15). Jesus goes on to say, “*I...know my sheep, and am known of mine.*” There is comfort and a feeling of safety in knowing that Jesus ‘has our back’. He knows and understands exactly what we are going through.

Secondly,

a feeling of safety comes from the

shepherds that God provides for us on earth to look over us. They “*seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick*” (Ezekiel 34:16).

Thirdly,

a feeling of safety comes from God's Word. Sometimes I read it and am in awe that God repeatedly, hundreds of times, gives us promises of safety and deliverance.

Letter to the Sexually Abused

—by Sarah

I am so sorry you were abused sexually. It breaks my heart that you know this pain. This was not your fault at all. You did not deserve to be abused this way. I want you to know that God sees your pain and He cares so deeply for you. He wants to help you heal from this. It grieved His heart when this happened to you.

It may be that no one else knows about what happened to you. I am so sorry that you have had to go through this alone. You are not a coward at all for not saying anything to anyone. I can absolutely understand why you may be afraid to speak up. You may be afraid that no one will believe you. The person who did this to you may be someone that you once trusted or that your family still trusts. I wish I could sit with you and hold your hand as you share what you have been dealing with on your own. I would listen to you. I would believe you because I have been there too. I understand the pain you are going through.

It takes so much courage for a person to open up about sexual abuse because of the immense shame that they experience after it happens. You may feel like it is your fault, but I want you to know that it is not your fault at all. You do not have to pretend that this never happened. Sometimes, when traumatizing things happen to a young person, they try to forget that it ever happened. The truth of the matter is that trying to forget about

something like this does not make it go away.

Sometimes, the memories may come to your mind when you are not expecting it. You may even have bad dreams about what happened to you while you are sleeping. You may feel scared that people won't believe that this happened to you, but please try not to let that stop you from telling someone, especially if it is still happening to you. Even if it happened a long time ago you can still get the help you need to heal from this.

I pray that you find peace and healing that can only come from the Lord. You do not have to go through this alone any longer. Jesus can rescue you from the shame that you carry and try so hard to escape from. He can free you from the bondage that the effects of abuse has on your life. There is freedom in bringing the secrets of abuse into the light. He can heal you from the hurt this is causing in your life. Allow Him to walk with you and lead you to a path of healing from the abuse that you endured. —Sarah

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Psalm 34:18

Sometimes

This poem is dedicated to all the little girls and boys who can relate first-hand to the inner turmoil and conflicting emotions that abuse brings. May God heal you and give you a purpose for your pain.

Sometimes I wonder who I was
Before my heart was crushed
By selfish men who stole from me
And bade me to be hushed.

Sometimes I wonder how it'd feel
To remember growing up.
To have never felt like I'm no good
Or just a dirty cup.

Sometimes I wonder why it happened –
Was I born "bad?"
Does Jesus really love me?
And did this make Him sad?

Sometimes I wonder if it's safe to trust
ANYONE – how can I know for sure
That I will never again be
A little girl on a cold, hard floor?

Sometimes I wonder why I survived
The terror, pain, and grief
I tried hard to simply forget
But my soul found no relief.

Sometimes I wonder who I'd be today
If I had never known
How it feels to be powerless
And utterly alone.

Sometimes I wonder if they are
Still hurting girls today
I wish I really knew for sure
That everything's okay.

Sometimes I wish that I could
Look them in the eye
And tell them "I forgive; Please –
Repent before you die."

Sometimes I wish that I would
Have never been abused.
But then I remember-
My pain, by God, is being used.

—by Ann Detweiler—



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10 Reasons Why Christians Should Vote

—by Dr. Krish Kandiah

1.) Voting publicly recognizes that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. *“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. ... ”* (Romans 13:1-7).

2.) Voting recognizes the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard. *“For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt”* Deut. 10:17-19.

3.) It is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole. *“Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished”* (Jeremiah 29:5-6).

4.) It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf. *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”* (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

5.) It is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke. *“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it”* (Psalms 34:14).

6.) It makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference, and that is how we are to influence our society for good. *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men”* (Matthew 5:13).

7.) It is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.

8.) Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions. *“... A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And like-*

wise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:25-37).

9.) Voting has biblical precedence for example Acts 14:23 describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting. *“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”*

10.) Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honor God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.

*Originally published by *Christian Today* in 2015



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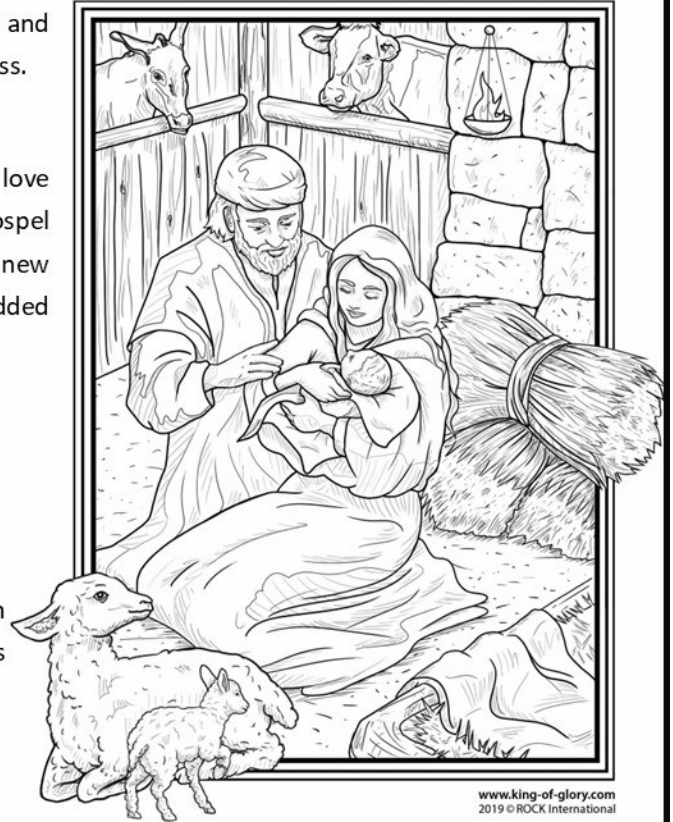
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The Root Cause of Anxiety

—By Eli Lee

What is the root cause of anxiety? ---

"Feeling out of control." When everything is going the way WE think it should go, there is no anxiety or stress.

We humans, men and women, have this inner desire to say how things should be done – what OUR minds interpret as the best way. When things aren't going that way, we get frustrated, or anxious, or angry, depending on how passionate we are about being in control. So the "DESIRE TO CONTROL" is the culprit!

Do you remember what Jesus said?

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

How does that fit with what I just explained above? As long as we are still in control, WE are still in charge of our life, and because we are unable to control it all, we suffer anxiety. When we take Jesus as our Lord, we surrender our life and control to Him, and have faith that He will work things out according to His great wisdom and purpose, even if we can't make sense of it.

With the decision to hand control of our life over to Jesus, and the commitment to trust Him with it, we experience the peace that the apostle Paul talked about.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

But, without faith and trust in Him, we will never hand over the reins.

Unfortunately, even after being born again by the Spirit of God and receiving that peace, there are still times when we struggle with anxiety. It is most often because of the problem of trying to control a situation ourselves instead of surrendering it to God. Because we still live in this wretched tent of a body that desires control, we need to surrender continually so we can live our lives in that inexpressible peace of Christ.

Disclaimer: I am not a medical doctor and don't claim to be. I am very aware that there are medical conditions which are said to cause anxiety. My take on all of the above is; there are weaknesses (sickness) in some that greatly magnifies the inability to deal with stress, but the root of the problem remains the same.

Bitterness and offense, sadly, are words I am well acquainted with. When I hear these words, I have a certain feeling in my belly and memories of a time I am so grateful to have moved beyond.

I well remember the day that I was listening to a speaker who asked if we were aware of the fact that no one can offend us unless we want to be offended.

Say what?!! He had my attention immediately. My agreement with what he said came a little later! He explained to us that the things people do and say can cause us pain, but in the first half minute or so, we decide whether we will be offended about it or not. The more I thought on this, the more I realized that it is true. We can, in fact, be very hurt, but choose to immediately take it up with the Lord and to not be offended. Even if we become offended, we can repent and choose to lay aside the offense toward that person. We may still be walking through healing because of what happened and not be in offense. To be offended or not is a simple choice that we make.

Bitterness is what happens as a result of living in offense against someone. The best defense against bitterness is to choose to not be offended. It is a choice we make. In the walking out of woundedness, forgiveness is a daily choice we need to make - and many times a moment by moment choice, especially if we find ourselves in a circumstance where ongoing actions or abuses occur that cause pain.

For years I lived in offense and bitterness of soul against someone who was legitimately causing me pain. This caused me more anguish by far than it did the person. It caused sickness, not only in my soul, but also in my body. Interestingly, as I learned to first make the choice to lay aside bitterness and

release that person to God, it seemed to release the Lord to also convict the person!

Forgiveness is not saying the action against you was right, because it wasn't. It is saying you are choosing to give that person and what they did to the Lord, trusting Him to work it out to benefit both parties involved. I found it very helpful to actually say that to the Lord as I was praying about it.

The Word has much to tell us about bitterness and forgiveness. A very familiar scripture, but very powerful is Ephesians 4:32 - *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

One thing we need to remember is that if we want God to forgive us for Jesus' sake, then we should also desire that for others. If we are desiring God's wrath and vengeance to fall on someone, we have not received a revelation of His love or of His ability to work all things out for the good of those who love Him.

If you have lived in bitterness of soul for many years, you may find yourself in a place of feeling unable to let go and move on. If this is you, there is still hope.

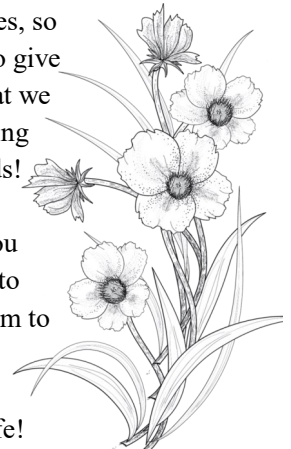
In Mark 5:1-20, when Jesus came to the land of the Gadarenes, He was met by a man who was possessed by evil spirits. These spirits begged Jesus to leave and said they were called Legion for "*we are many*". Legion is a large group of demons that work together to keep a person bound. This man lived among the tombs. Living among the tombs means we live in dead places of the soul. I remember feeling such deep grief in my soul, with such a broken heart. It was like I was sitting beside an open grave but yet could not bury the dead. I worked through forgiveness for several years but did not receive a full release until I was

delivered of the spirit Legion.

You may say, how can a born again, spirit-filled believer have an evil spirit? We can't have an evil spirit in our spirits because when we are born again, our spirits are instantly healed, whole, and set free. However, our souls and our bodies are still in various stages of healing and sanctification as long as we live on this earth, so demons can absolutely affect and even live in our souls. When I was delivered of this spirit, my heart and my mind entered into a new rest that I had never known before! I was riding along in a vehicle with my husband and I told him that my mind felt so empty and free! I then asked the Holy Spirit of God to fill those empty places with His love because I don't want to leave any room for the enemy of my soul!

There should be no place in the bride of Christ for bitterness and offense because we have experienced the love and forgiveness of God. We are to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a lost and dying world which desperately needs to experience the healing love of God. If we do not offer forgiveness to each other, how can we represent the love of God to the world? I believe this is a season in which we must get very serious about letting go of every weight which entangles and holds us back. There is no situation too difficult for Jesus to turn around in our lives, so we should rush to give each situation that we face into His loving and capable hands!

I bless each of you as you reach out to Jesus to allow Him to heal and restore every painful wound in your life!



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September

Why We all Struggle with Anger - Part 1

Would you like to be able to tame your temper, but you find yourself in a cycle of destructive reactions and explosive responses, and you just don't know how to stop? Join Chip Ingram as he explains some Biblical tools that will help you get a grip on anger. (The 2nd half of this message will be available in October.)

Getting to Know the Real You - Part 2 (of 4)

Do you know who you really are? Your true identity? There is more to you than what you see in the mirror. The thumb print of God is throughout your DNA. Listen and discover who you really are. (Message by Duane Sheriff.)

The True Gospel

Is there more than one gospel? How does God's gospel compare to the gospel that you have been taught? Do they match? Listen to Paul Washer as he shares the world's greatest need, the one and only gospel from God.

When it's Spiritual Warfare - Part 1 (of 2)

Imagine living in a war zone. The air vibrates with the rumble of constant detonations, and rubble crunches underneath your every footstep. This is the reality of spiritual warfare. The good news is that the Bible directly addresses how to engage our enemy, Satan, so that we emerge victorious. In this message, learn how to identify and dismantle the strongholds of the devil. (Message by Charles Stanley.)

October

Why We all Struggle with Anger - Part 2

Your anger, instead of becoming your worst nightmare, can be your best friend. In fact, God wants to turn your anger into a tool that will serve you and help you like never before. Join Chip Ingram as he unpacks this powerful tool from God's Word.

Getting to Know the Real You - Part 3 (of 4)

This is Part 3 (out of 4 parts) of Duane Sheriff's series which began in August.

Saving Yourself from Sexual Sin

Cameron Buettel interviews Paul Washer.

When it's Spiritual Warfare - Part 2 (of 2)

This is the 2nd and final part of Charles Stanley's message which began in September.

November

Turning Anger from a Foe to a Friend - Part 1 (of 2)

Are you tired of the bursts of anger that leave loved ones hurting and friendships reeling? Would you like to quit losing your temper? Chip Ingram encourages you that it's not only possible to control your temper, but you can actually turn your anger from a foe to a friend.

Getting to Know the Real You - Part 4 (of 4)

This is the 4th and final part of Duane Sheriff's series which began in August.

Win the Heart of Your Children

Have you a desire and passion to be Godly parents? Do you have the heart of your child? Paul Washer shares the importance of being a Godly dad to your children and mother. You are training them for the future. They are learning from someone, and usually it is their friends or school.

The Message of Christmas - Part 1 (of 2)

First announced to shepherds centuries ago, the wonderful news of the Savior's birth is still being proclaimed to our world today! There are no limits to the incredible love of God as He continues to reach out to people with the message of hope. Gain a new appreciation for this life-changing truth and for the importance of sharing it with others who need to know Christ. (Message by Charles Stanley.)

Feedback and Response

1

Dear Sirs: I don't know who might have submitted my name and address, but I am thankful that I had the opportunity to read *The Amish Voice*. I seldom read anything cover to cover, but this was an exception. It is very well written and theologically sound. The topics are well chosen and hopefully will result in turning people to God and prompting people to seek help for emotional wounds. May God bless you as you continue serving God in this way. —Sincerely, EO

Emory,

Thank you for your encouragement and kind words. We are glad that you appreciate the *Amish Voice*. The things that you like about it are the very things that we desire to accomplish. We hope that many, many people will read the *Amish Voice* and desire to seek and follow God and read His Word. We want to provide good, Biblical, theologically sound arti-

cles that, as you said, result in people turning to God and seeking help for their emotional and spiritual wounds.

We encourage our readers to write to us with their comments, questions, or even their own articles. We know that many of our readers love God and the Bible and have much wisdom and many experiences to share, and we want to encourage them in their walk with God. We hope

and pray that our readers who do not truly know Jesus or who are struggling and hurting will find peace, forgiveness, love, hope, joy, and eternal life through faith in Jesus and a heart made new by God's Holy Spirit.

We hope you will continue to read the *Amish Voice* and pray with us that many will trust in Jesus and follow Him.

—Paul Miller

2

Hello Friends. I do not like your papers. I don't think it's a good idea to have so many scriptures and every day happenings or a timely paper. God's Word is sharper than a two-edged sword and it is not child's play. I do not like your attitude of, "I know I'm saved," or, "I know you are reborn." Only God knows. If we are lucky enough through God's great gift to mankind, it is total praiseworthy to Him alone. —Thanks. DS

Thank you for your comments, Daniel. We always want to hear from our readers. What a curious comment, though! I think that if people are going to critique us for something, we would love to be noted for having so many Bible verses in *The Amish Voice* and for teaching that God's Word applies to our lives today!

Certainly God's Word is not child's play, yet God loves for children to read His Word and learn to love Jesus. It is precisely because God's Word is a two-edged sword that we should read it, handle it, search it, and know it. Thank you for emphasizing just how wonderful and powerful God's Word is and how we should be reading it daily and living our lives according to God's Word.

As for your thoughts about not liking our attitude on knowing that we are saved or reborn, how peculiar that is! I think that if people would spend more time in the Scriptures handling that sword of the

Spirit (Ephesians 6:17), they would see that God does indeed desire us to know that we are born again, and He tells us that we can know.

Imagine a person not knowing if he has been born! How strange that would be! If a person has life, it follows that he knows he has been born. It is the same way spiritually. That is precisely why Jesus used the example of being born again. We do not have to wait until we die to see if we have life. If we are born again, if we have been given a new heart by God's Holy Spirit, if we have been given a new nature, if we have been adopted into the family of God, and if we have been made a new creation in Christ Jesus, then we know that we have new life.

The Bible has many, many examples of people who have been changed, have been made new by God, and have been given new life. The blind man who was healed by Jesus could see. He did not

have to wait until he died before he could see. The apostle Paul wrote that those to whom he was writing used to be dead in trespasses and sins, but now were alive, were new creations in Christ, and were forgiven. They could rejoice that they were born into the family of God. Paul did not tell them to wait and see. John wrote that we can know that we have eternal life, yet you say we cannot.

David wrote, *Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee* (Psalm 32:9). God's Word tells us that we do not have to go through life without understanding—wondering if we have been forgiven, if we have done enough good to please God. What else did David write in this same psalm? *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered* (Psalm 32:1)! David wrote

Continued on Next Page

that we can know that our sin is covered and that our transgressions have been forgiven! Therefore, if you do not know, then you are not trusting in Jesus!

Here is an example. If I owed you \$100,000, I would have to work and save and hope that eventually I would have enough money to pay off the debt. Lets imagine that a billionaire heard about my story, gave you the money, told me that he paid off the debt, showed me the receipt proving that my balance was now zero, and you even contacted me personally to inform me that the debt had been paid. Wouldn't I be foolish if I did not believe, but kept working and trying to save money for the rest of my life to pay off the debt that I no longer owed?

That is how it is with our debt of sin. We cannot work and pay it off ourselves. What a miserable time we would have if we went through life always trying and hoping, yet knowing that we could never do enough to make things right and to pay our debt!

Yet ... Jesus paid it all! We owe nothing. He has paid our debt with His life, and has told us so. How ungrateful and unbelieving we would be to continue to work in order to try to pay off a debt of sin that we no longer owed. It is because of what Jesus did in paying our debt that we can believe on the name of the Son of God and know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

Now, which is the correct attitude: the person who does not believe, does not trust Jesus, and who continues to work as

a slave to try to please God and hopes to be "lucky" enough to pay a debt that he never can—or the person who trusts in Jesus and in what God has said, resting in Him and living for Him as a son happy to please his loving Father who has adopted him and given him all that He has?

What a peculiar comment, Daniel. You talk about God's great gift, yet you think you have to work and strive your entire life, not ever knowing if you will be fortunate enough to receive the gift that He offers freely to you!

Believe God and take His free gift, not because of luck or because of your works, but because Jesus paid it all and has purchased you with His blood. That is a much better way to live—a life of faith and joy and trust in Him!

—Paul Miller **END**

Biblical Leadership
(Continued from Back Page)

occasionally. The fences that are erected keep out dangers and keep them where they need to be. The shepherd's main job is to make sure there is water and food available to them. The shepherd can have another job and there is no need to be with the sheep constantly. This arrangement works fine until something changes in the routine. When it comes time for sheering the sheep, or needing to herd them somewhere for any reason; these shepherds have a much more difficult task than shepherds of longer ago did.

It seems the we have traded in the Biblical model for shepherding our Anabaptist churches for a more westernized version. Our shepherds must earn a living since they can not make a living being a shepherd, so they have no other option but to build fences to keep their flocks where they need to be. They check in when they can and make sure food and water is available, but they can't

be available to their flocks all the time because they must be out earning their living. This arrangement works until anything out of the ordinary happens. How far can we really trust our leader when he wants to do something different than what we have been doing most of our lives?

I have recently been hearing about and observing an Anabaptist congregation that has made some incredible changes in the past ten years. This was once a small, struggling congregation from a more liberal conference and there was very little life left in the flock. A new leader took charge who wished to lead them to a more Biblical mind set. Without making a single outward rule about dress or head coverings, this congregation is now a flock that is a thriving, Spirit-filled, Biblical church that has grown and is continually adding to their flock. They are also reaching out and making a huge impact on their community.

The first thing Anabaptists always want to know is whether or not the head covering is practiced, so I will address

that first. When the new pastor came in, there were only a few who practiced it, but most did not. Now ten years later, about eighty percent of them do.

However, people don't all look alike. There are many different colors, shapes, and sizes of head coverings. There are many different people with many different styles of clothing. People from the community have begun attending and have gotten saved and have turned away from lives of sin and bondage. Lives are changing and the Holy Spirit is present and noticeably at work.

So what is the point I am trying to make?

Shepherding Without Fences

Here is a church that is doing what our typical Anabaptists churches say is impossible. We are told it's impossible to keep a church where they need to be without extra rules. Without fences in place to keep the sheep where they belong, we know that the flock will all be scattered. And when you look at the American model of raising sheep, that is a valid point. Sheep that are used to being

fenced in will scatter if they suddenly have their fences removed.

But what if we were to ask shepherds from Bible times if they needed fences to keep their sheep from scattering? They would probably tell you that most of the sheep stay right with their shepherd and follow him where ever he goes. The ones that wander off are noticed and brought back by a vigilant shepherd that stays tuned in to his sheep and knows them all by name.



So why do we shepherd with a fenced in model when the other is more likely what Jesus had in mind when He told Peter to tend and shepherd His sheep?

“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep” (John 21:15-17).

This was also the only model Peter and Paul knew of when they spoke of elders shepherding the church.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the

Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:1-3).

Could it be that one of the reasons the “fenced in model” is the one we use is because we don't pay our shepherd/pastors?

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward” (1Tim. 5:17-18).

“Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13-14).

When our shepherd/pastors are forced to be only part-time shepherds because they must still work another job to earn their a living, they can't be available to their sheep/congregation all the time. Therefore they must use fences just like real American shepherds do that can't be with their sheep constantly. And in doing it this way, they can not spend the time needed to build the type of relationship with the individuals in their congregations that they would otherwise.

Fences are fine until change is needed or a shepherd must take his flock through unchartered territory. Will the flock have enough trust in their shepherd to follow?

So back to the previously mentioned church... This church has a full-time, paid pastor who is devoted to his sheep. He pours into them. He is a man filled with the Holy Ghost and power who feeds, prays, weeps, and rejoices with his flock. They know him well and he has their hearts. When he began to preach Scripture that went against what they had been practicing for a long time, they followed because they knew it was Truth (Titus 1:9) and they trusted that he had their best interests in mind.

He didn't try to control people with Truth by making rules to force them to comply. Rather, he loved them truthfully by speaking and teaching Truth and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict. When people were contentious with him, he showed love, but did not change his stand for Truth. Those that aligned themselves with Scripture did it because it was Truth, and because they found freedom in living that truth. This is different than obeying because of a fence erected to force obedience. Is this not shepherding like Jesus did?

Think of Jesus speaking truth to Peter when Peter was stubborn– He didn't try to force Peter to change. He spoke truth and allowed Peter to learn, even if that meant the hard way. When His disciples argued over who should be the greatest, Jesus didn't try to force them to change. He spoke truth, set an example, and gave God room to work in their hearts. Jesus didn't try to force Judas to change; He didn't try to control Thomas's doubt but dealt truthfully and patiently with him. This is the example of shepherding that under-shepherds need to imitate.

This is radical shepherding.

Continued on Next Page

In Need of a Shepherd

People are most like sheep in their yearning for a shepherd that will care for them. There is something deep inside that longs for someone we can trust who will walk ahead of us— leading us in safety and caring about what happens to us. We were created for a Shepherd. The shepherd model is found already in the Old Testament where we find God referred to as a Shepherd long before people dared to call Him Father. The fact that Psalm 23 is such a well known and favored passage of Scripture shows us how much people today still crave a shepherd.

Today's generation may not care for church politics, creeds, traditions, or ceremonies, but they still respond to a shepherd who reaches out to them with a heart of love. Rebellious young people who want nothing to do with rules, will still respond to love and acts of kindness of a gentle shepherd.

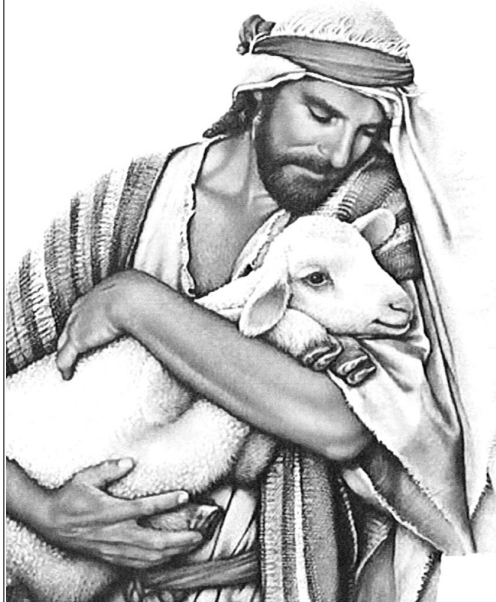
Jesus called Himself "the Good Shepherd" and set an example of what shepherding is to look like. He was willing to leave a life of glory to live a humble life of servanthood among His sheep. His shepherding brought forth healthy mature sheep who then became under-shepherds to other sheep. And those shepherds did the same.

God is still the Great Shepherd that walks ahead of His sheep. Under-shepherds are still to lead the sheep as they follow Him. However, throughout the Old Testament, we read of under-shepherds who failed in their role of shepherding. There are numerous references in which the prophets chastise shepherds who are not leading their flocks right or are allowing them to scatter with no attempt to search for them. (Jer. 50: Ezek.34)

I have seen good Anabaptist under-

shepherds who loved and led their flocks well. I have also witnessed shepherds who do not seem to understand what being a shepherd means. In moving away from the New Testament model seen first in Jesus, and then in His disciples, they become more like rulers and dictators than shepherds. When shepherds think their job is more about making laws and discipline and forcing obedience, they become tyrants instead, wanting sovereignty over their kingdoms.

The goal of shepherding is to have healthy, full grown sheep to present to the Great Shepherd someday. Many of our leaders look at their sound flocks and confidently look forward to presenting them. And we do have a lot of healthy churches.



But what about all those sheep that we have lost?

One of the greatest failures of Anabaptist shepherd leaders today is in overlooking the aspect of being a shepherd who is not only a leader, but also a rescuer. Sheep wander from the herd and get lost easily. They make many foolish decisions and get separated from the flock. But they cannot survive alone. They need a rescuer.

We like to show off our healthy flocks,

our obedient sheep, our many sweet lambs within the fold. People take note of how our sheep are well groomed, well-behaved, and we have very few visible trouble makers. We have a great culture and we like to boast that we have healthier flocks than most other denominations.

But why do we?

Have we culled out the weak and sickly? Do we turn our backs on the ones who wander off? Do we chase off the ones who question rules or rebel? Do we have more of a "survival of the fittest" mind set than we realize in our efforts to gain a utopian society/culture?

We are not following the Great Shepherd's example of being a Rescuer and Great Physician for the sheep. Jesus said He was sent unto the "lost sheep," (Matt. 15:24) and when He sent out His disciples, He told them to Go rather to the "lost sheep" (Matt. 10:6). When the Pharisees questioned Him for being with publicans and sinners, He said, "they that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31-32). He spoke of a shepherd who leaves the 99 sheep in his flock to search for one that wandered off. He spoke of a woman sweeping and searching her entire house in her efforts to find what was lost. There can be no doubt that His purpose, His heart, was to lost, straying, disobedient, sickly sheep.

How can we disregard His example? How can we think it is more important to keep our healthy, well-groomed flocks than it is to go after our straying sheep?

Faithfully preaching and feeding the faithful, obedient sheep in our flock is not enough. We must care about the unhealthy or straying sheep, and go to extreme measures for them. We must learn how to treat a sick conscience, care for hurting bleeding hearts, apply balm to wounds, and speak healing words to grief

stricken people.

We cannot take a personal affront at sheep who make rebellious choices, we can't harbor resentment at their foolish choices, we can't be nettled at their backsliding and lagging behind the rest. We can't allow thoughts of relief when they have left the herd and are no longer our problem.

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (Matt. 9:36).

Do we even care about the sheep that are scattered and no longer have a shepherd? Where is our compassion for those who once were part of a flock but because of their own wanderings no longer have a shepherd? Do we say within ourselves, "They are the ones who chose to leave. They know the door is open and they can come back anytime they choose to. It's their own fault for making these choices. Let them find out how hard it is."

Why have we closed our hearts to those who do not agree with us on every point? Where is our compassion? Why aren't our hearts wounded at the loss of even one sheep? Why aren't we weeping over them as Jesus wept? Why are we so complacent when Jesus was willing to lay down His life for that very one that we have decided is not worth our efforts?

Jesus sought out those wasted lives. He sent the "bench-warmers", (the inactive ones) to work in the vineyards, He befriended the rebellious, disobedient ones (the publicans and sinners) by sitting and building relationships with them. He broke down the walls built around those in His midst with slightly differing viewpoints (the Samaritans) by not keeping the traditions of His people. His kindness to one Samaritan woman captured the heart of an entire nation!

Why are we content to groom our healthy

herd when reaching even one lost individual is what Jesus would rather we do? Do we not care that scattered, hungry, needy sheep will follow false shepherds or have their very life snuffed out by wolves?

We don't need platform speakers who wax eloquent. We don't need more heavy-handed leaders with bigger rule books and doctrinal statements. We need shepherds who love sheep. We need shepherds who talk with, commune with, sacrifice themselves for, and win the hearts of their sheep. We need shepherds with a gentle approach, a sympathetic touch, full of the Holy Spirit who persuade tenderly with the Word of God. We need shepherds who are willing to carry the young or broken when it is needed, shepherds that are willing to sacrifice themselves for the needs of their flock.

A shepherd who regards himself as being in a separate class than those in his flock has forgotten that he, too, is a sheep. If a shepherd is cynical or dislikes his sheep, he is not spending enough time with them. It is in spending time with his sheep that he will see what they are facing and face it with them. He will understand what their suffering is because he suffers with them. He will care about their plight because close contact stirs the heart.

A shepherd needs to be with his sheep so much that he smells like them. He must know his sheep and what their needs are so his sermons can be timely and relevant. He must have many conversations with them so he can speak their language when he preaches. He must be so attached to them that when danger comes, he won't even think of himself but only the safety of his sheep.

A shepherd like this holds the hearts of his sheep. Sheep that are motivated by a shepherd they love, will follow willingly. They will be devoted to him because they

know they are loved. Even a rebel who tears a rule book to shreds will respond to acts of kindness and love shown by a shepherd who has time for him.

Shepherds will be asked to give account for the sheep God has given them (Heb. 13:17). He didn't overlook the shepherds' lack of care for the lost sheep of Israel and He will not overlook it today. Someday every shepherd will stand before God and hear the words asked to Peter. Did you feed my lambs? Did you tend my sheep? Did you feed my sheep?

"The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."

Ezekiel 34:4-10

END

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Biblical Leadership

—By Simon Fry

Radical Shepherding

The Radical Reformation began with men who boldly stood up for what they knew was Biblical truth. They were willing to speak fearlessly and even to die for what they believed. Somewhere through the generations since then, however, we have changed to become a people imprisoned by fear. We became the “quiet in the land” so that we would no longer need to fear losing our lives or our families. We began standing for values that were also motivated by fear. We fear losing our culture. We fear our children will lose their heritage of plainness. We fear outsiders may have a greater influence on us than we do on them. We fear teaching on the Holy Spirit; we fear hearing the voice of God because of what it could lead to.

Many of our rules are developed out of fear of what things may lead to. We fear that God’s standards as outlined in Scripture are not enough to keep our people, so we add fences around them to make sure we don’t break any commandments. We fear being questioned about some of those rules that we don’t really have a Biblical answer for, so too often our response is anger at those who question the rules.

Fear is rooted in not trusting God. Fear manifests itself in attempting to control whatever situation we feel insecure or powerless in. But the One who is actually in control wants us to stop trying to do what He never meant for us to do. Only He can take away our fear of “what might happen” if we don’t do everything in our power to keep our people where they need to be.

It is time for us to take a radical, fearless stand once again for Truth. We have access to Truth, and that Truth is enough. Nothing more, nothing less.

We will see the beginnings of real change occurring among our Anabaptist people when leaders begin stepping up to fearlessly lead the charge. I have heard leaders say, “I believe we are not aligned with Scripture in the way we refuse communion to other believers who worship with us, but it’s no use trying to change it. Our people are not ready for change like that.”

My response is “Why not?”

Fearful Sheep

When a shepherd leads his sheep to a regular spot to feed, and suddenly realizes that there are plants growing that are toxic to his sheep, he leads them to a

different spot to feed— whether or not the sheep want to change their grazing spot. Sheep that trust their shepherd will follow even if it is outside of their normal routine. If a shepherd cannot lead his sheep away from their normal routine, he does not have their hearts or their trust.



This can happen when a shepherd does not spend enough time with his sheep. In Bible times, a shepherd’s duty was to lead his sheep to good places to graze and drink, and to fend off animals that came to attack the sheep. He was with his sheep constantly and was a familiar, trusted person to them. They kept close to him and followed willingly because they knew he loved them and would look out for their best interests.

In the western world today, sheep are often kept in fenced-in pastures. The sheep are familiar with their shepherd, but the relationship is much different. They may only see their shepherd

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