

**Articles and Sermons :: What fire has the younger generation acquired****What fire has the younger generation acquired, on: 2008/8/18 13:05**

1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people and said, How long are you limping over two opinions? If Jehovah is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, then follow him. And the people did not answer him a word.

This is a comment written by a lady to a post that I had written.....

"There was a time when you could go into a church and feel the presence of God. You would tiptoe in and cry at the altar and tiptoe out. You would talk about church all day and at bedtime. You would talk to your neighbors about the Lord. Does anyone know what I am talking about? Does your church have God's presence there? When we witness to neighbors about the Lord, do we tell them about our church, do we tell them about the programs we offer? Do we tell them about our softball team or about our free cup or our free espresso from our Coffee Bar? Or, do we say, just come and I guarantee you that you will meet God. Come to Him and He will reveal Himself to you if you will humble yourself. I see it happen everyweek so please come. I got saved in my 20s and was a professing sinner, then I really got saved about 6 years ago, now I am in my mid 40s. I hear about the old days from all the grey headed ladies in church. I am hungry for God's manifest presence and I need to know what to do about it. I pray, I confess, I do not live in any known sin, yet I stumble at times and the Holy Spirit convicts me and I immediately repent. I go to prayer meetings at church. I read my Bible, I talk about Jesus at work and try to get them to come to my, or any church. What are we doing wrong, or me? Is my church under judgement? Or our nation? Is there churches out there experiencing God where the Spirit is moving and people are confessing and their lives are being changed? They are living for Christ and dying to self and carrying their cross? Jesus, please show yourself."

That was a very sad letter to me. I recognize much of what she is saying. In the last several years I have visited several churches, in different parts of the country. I have also visited churches that used to be the way she described, drenched in the presence of God. I was in Destin Florida just last week and visited a Pentecostal church. The young man and his group that were doing worship were visiting, friends of the Pastor. This young man is quite well known in the "Christian music industry." He "performed," for almost an hour. In that time there must have been over 50 different instructions given to the congregation. "Stand up," "Dance," "Raise your hands," "Cmon, give the Lord a hand clap," "Just be free," over and over again. I thought about that lady as I was being entertained from a very talented young man in his early thirties, the same age as the Pastor. As I sat there, this thought dropped into my spirit "This is the results of the acquire the fire generation." As it turned out, when they were finished, the Pastor thanked them profusely for their "Spirit filled worship," and thanked God that He had just moved mightily amongst us. He also acknowledged his friendship with the artist and thanked him, that even although he was now a "big name," that he would still deem to come to his little church. He told us how his friendship with this man went back to their youth camp days.

We are living in the days when these young men and woman who grew up with acquire the fire and pumped up Christian youth camps are now assuming leadership roles throughout the American church. The Spirit that the lady above is looking for, has been replaced by music that is designed to "pump people up." Indeed the entertainer told us that he moved in freedom, and that we too should move in freedom. Now, what was freedom to this young man? He twirled when he danced, "just let yourself go and be free." Is this the freedom of the Gospels? Is this the measuring rod by which we measure a Christian's freedom? For a whole generation, sadly it is.

As many know, our bodies are multifaceted. By that I mean we are made up of body, spirit and soul. If we are living in a soulish generation, how did that come to pass? What is a soulish generation? The body has five senses. We can see, we can hear, we can touch, we can taste and we can smell. These are very powerful factors in our lives. One could argue that much of human misery and sin flow out of these senses. All of adultery starts with seeing. Consider David on his balcony as he see Bethsheba. Consider pornography, where the eyes feed directly into the soul. Greed and materialism, desiring what our neighbor has, all starts with seeing. Obviously touch would play into all of the sexual sins that plague us as people. Hearing also has been used to great advantage by the enemy. Where would false teachers and religions be without peoples ability to hear the lies? Gossip and backbiting all begin by listening. Taste and smell contribute to gluttony and lead to our present situation when a large percentage of the country is overweight.

Of course all of the senses can be used to enjoy all the wonderful benefits of what God has given us as free will agents, human beings. We can see the glory of a sunset. We can lift up our eyes unto the hills and see where our help comes from. We can lift up our eyes and know that the heavens declare the glory of the Lord. We can look at our husbands and wives, our children and our family and garner great joy from just that. The list is endless of what we can enjoy simply by seeing. Hearing, where would we be without the hearing of the Gospel? To hear your child laugh, to hear a bird singing, to hear the crash of the waves or a waterfall. Oh the joy of hearing the worship of the gathered saints. The simple pleasure of holding your loved ones hands, holding your baby in your arms, a kiss, a warm embrace from your husband or wife, the gentle touch of your lover (your husband or your wife) To taste and smell the wonderful food that we have. Oh how a smell is so powerful in evoking memories from long ago. The simple and wholesome pleasures of all the senses are a delight and the list of these delights is endless, for we worship a creator God.

Suddenly my senses are being assaulted by this young Pastor. He started off loud and only got louder. He was a white man, but he preached like a black man. I had seen the style many times before, it had meter and there was breathing and also after any good point (and there was quite a few good points) there was a blast from the "organ." Before he had stopped preaching, my head was pounding. So much noise. The young preacher was exhausted and sweating profusely. He put everything he had into his performance. This was not a lazy young man. He gave a report of how many backpacks they had handed out in the last week to area children who could not otherwise afford supplies. Surely a great work. He talked about upcoming events and they had a full calendar. This is all good stuff and is highly commendable. Can manufactured passion have an impact on today's society. How is it that with all of this activity, the unchurched people in America remained unchurched? Charitable works go on, perhaps more than ever. The music in the church is more professional and "better sounding," that it has ever probably been in the history of the church. And yet, almost zero impact on the unchurched, those without a church background.

Imagine a cross section through your body, a plan view, looking down. Across the chest is the five senses, arched in front. Directly behind the five senses is the soul, and behind the soul is the spirit. The soul naturally looks out to the five senses. The senses excite the soul and the soul empowers the senses. Depending on your level of dysfunction (we are all dysfunctional) will determine the level of activity. For instance, a person in emotional pain, will compensate by overeating, the soul will anesthetize its pain by energizing the eyes, the taste and the smell when it comes to food. That is why this is a problem for one person and not for another. Perhaps the soul will anesthetize itself by sex. It will overstimulate the eye's and the touch. These are two examples amongst countless millions. We all grow up in unique circumstances and the uniqueness of the sins that so easily beset us are without number. No one can tell, with any accuracy, how a person will turn out. Now there are basic principals. If you beat a child constantly as he grows up, then no one will be surprised by a violent result. We are all different obviously and five children can all grow up in the exact same house with the exact same circumstances but all turn out completely differently. The x factor being our unique personalities. If someone, for instance, is more sensitive than another, then the circumstances will impact that person more violently than it would for say his brother or sister.

So, how does this play into what is going on in the church today and the dilemma of the younger generation raised on acquire the fire and pump it up messages. This generation dwell almost entirely in the realm of the soul. Silence would terrify them. They have been raised to think that a heightened awareness of their senses is "the presence of God." What a tragedy, not just for them, but for the unchurched world. If you were a unchurched person, you would get the same heightened feeling at any rock concert, and of course, most times the world does this better. Their concerts are their church. Just go to one, one time and you will see these people "worshipping," corporately.

And so, the eye of the soul must be turned inwards. The younger generation, the vast majority of which know nothing of the "presence of God," need to turn inwards and find God within, not without. We all know that God dwells on the throne of our hearts. He has taken up residence in the very center of us. That is where they will have to look if they hope to discover the true presence of God. The presence of God is always totally fulfilling, there is nothing beyond the presence of God. Have you heard the much used phrase in the church now "There must be more.?" There is nothing more than the presence of God. That is why God does not have to entertain us to draw us to Him. The churches will find that they will have to become more and more like the world to draw people and keep people. And even then it will fail. There is no such pressure in the presence of God. There is no more than Him. People who have turned the eye of their soul inward know that and know that if they want to come here then they have to humble themselves and die to themselves, that is the path, that is the journey. People who do not know that and whose eye of their soul is turned outward, towards their five senses, will never be satisfied. They will always need more. How sad to hear that phrase spiritualized now. There is no satisfaction in the flesh, it will be pleasurable for a season, but the flesh demands satisfaction and complete mastery over the soul. The passions of the flesh will ultimately destroy. The passion of the Spirit will cause us to die to ourselves and become more like Jesus.

1Ki 18:26 And they took the bull which was given them, and they dressed, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any who answered. And they leaped on the altar which was made.

Choose you this day young people, will you serve your flesh or will you serve the Living God? One can jump up and down all day long but it will not bring down fire from heaven.

Re: What fire has the younger generation acquired - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/18 16:11

I wanted to single out some quotes that I think are important:

Quote:
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As a youth pastor I can say almost categorically that most youth that I know do not understand the difference between soul and spirit and those that *have* been taught right continue to dwell in the soulish realm. I think it is because at some point ministers became 'reaction' based. They started measuring success by the reaction they could get from the people.

Many so-called worship leaders get angry when folk don't react to the singing and music like they think they should. I also think that 'worship leader' should never have become a ministry in the sense we know it today. I know that is unpopular, but it is my opinion. The Holy Spirit is the only worship leader- everyone else is supposed to be following. We run the risk of dividing the worship when men are front and center in worship. Remember, Satan fell from a worship 'service' (as it were). He fell from an Isaiah 6 environment.

The reality is electricity is often taking the place of the power of God. And it is a strange fire before the Lord. People are 'moved' by volume or a fancy riff or bass line. They feel a tingle and think it is God and remain unchanged. This is why I believe there are so few people feeling 'called' into ministries other than "Praise and Worship" or "Youth". Services feel like a club more than a church. There is something seriously wrong with that.

The fire that burns off the Dross kills the flesh. It is the holy baptism of fire!, on: 2008/8/18 16:25

Thank you brother for a most thoughtful and relevant post. they must be universal questions at this hour, and i will give you my take.

Jesus said that the "Harvest" is **The end of the age..** The harvest is both a work, and a time. I personally believe that we have entered the end time harvest. the work of the harvest, is not what many people associate with when they consider it. It is not solely a time for Salvation..it is that , but much more. the harvest is a time of **division**. It is a time when the light shines bright as "deep darkness" covers the entire Earth. Isaiah 60.

Deep darkness, the glory arising, or resurrecting upon the Lord's people. wheat in the light...tares in the dark. Division. separation. "do not think that I have come to bring Peace, no but DIVISION.....to divide. This is difficult for some to wrap their faith around,,,but it is true.

I believe we are deeper into the harvest than many would think, and there is an element of DEATH in this word. "A seed must fall into the ground, AND DIE....before it bears much fruit." This is also unthinkable for most Christians today, and was once for me. I saw my walk with God as an ever increasing glory path arising to greater and more anointed levels, until for sure I would carry them into right into Heaven. I was wrong.

God designed the seed, all seeds, to die; to be sewn in the Earth before they could bring about their fruit. It is true in the Spiritual realm. Jesus , of course, spoke of himself, when he made this statement as the FIRSTFRUIT. ...the cross...the most terrible of deaths. He also referred to the principle that must be inherited and acted upon on all who follow Him. They too, must go in, and come out of death, to live.

This is more than Heaven. It is now, also. It is the only path to maturity. 2 cor: chp. 1.....Paul speaks of the sentence of death poured out upon him...and the bewilderment, and suffering he went through in Asia. It was not physical. It was his...this mandate, this spiritual reality for all of his children. A seed must die; before.....

On another level, one that most do not consider, this sentence is poured out on Churches, and one day, even on the "big Church." I believe that this day has come,,,the Harvest is upon us. We have seen an ever increasing antichrist a pointing pushed into the church. It is worldwide. It is clergy-laity..but so much more. It is the church herself that has exalted herself over her Husband,,,the Bride standing over the Bridegroom, to dominate him.

Happiness, my health, and my prosperity are my rights, and I will assert my right. It is ME above all, and God desires this for me. It is a bloodless, and cross free church, and one void of any mercies, or one where a brother would, or could lay his life down for the least of his brothers,,,the littlest and more insignificant one. It also is a christless church, or **HAS THE LEAVEN OF IT'S AMBITIOUS PRIDE WITHIN HER.**

I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS WORLD WIDE, AND THE LORD HIMSELF HAS PUT FORTH A DECREE. "This holy seed must also be planted unto death, that my love would arise in her."

Hosea Cpt2...vs: 2-24. "I will sow her for Myself!". This is a "Harvest chapter."

There are millions of Brothers and Sisters that are experiencing the throws of death..and the true church is being for

med..and she will be "without spot or blemish." this is only possible by resurrection. Only the dead are resurrected. God is calling His people to come out of her...more like a command, to his chosen and Elect. The departure is very bewildering. He looks for a heart that cries; "Even though He slay me, yet will I WORSHIP Him."

But dividing He is. He slays every son he receives, and the New church cannot have any of the stains of the old...nor will she. To accomplish this, He has withdrawn from some for a season. "My god, My God, WHY have you forsaken me!" He cried. So must we. It is harvest time, and if the Bride is not separated, she shall have her bundle with the tares. It is Love and mercy.

Re: The fire that burns off the Dross kills the flesh. It is the holy baptism of fire - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/8/18 19:19

Watchman Nee's "The Latent Power of Soul" should be required reading for worship leaders (and I agree with Brother Robert's thoughts about the office or title of worship leader). Now, we even have the illustrious office of "worship pastor" in some of the more mega fellowships. We speak of youth not knowing the difference between soul and spirit, but I believe the same could be said for most adults too.

Re:, on: 2008/8/18 20:10

I was just reading this article by Hugh Binning:

"..And now all is rents, rags, and distractions, because self-love hath usurped the throne. The unity of the world of mankind is dissolved; one is distracted from another, following his own private inclinations and inordinate affection, which is the poison of enmity, and seed of all discord. If the love of God and of one another had kept the throne, there had been a coordination and co-working of all men in all their actions, for God's glory and the common good of man. But now self-love having enthroned itself, every man is for himself, and strives, by all means, to make a concurrence of all things to his own interest and designs. The first principles of love would have made all men's actions and courses flow into one ocean of divine glory and mutual edification; so that there could not have been any disturbance or jarring amongst them, all flowing into one common end. But self-love hath turned all the channels backward towards itself; and this is its wretched aim and endeavour, in which it wearies itself, and discomposes the world, to wind and turn in every thing, and to make, in the end, a general affluence of the streams into its own bosom. This is the seed of all division and confusion which is among men, while every man makes himself the centre, it cannot choose but all the lines and draughts of men's courses must thwart and cross each other...."

<http://www.covenanter.org/HBinning/binninglove.html>

Re:, on: 2008/8/18 21:48

Robert....I think your church is very fortunate to have you there. God bless you brother, I do not envy your position.

Brother TomI agree with what you are saying, my spirit certainly witnesses to the truth of your statements. Death to self in the midst of an indulgent generation is hard going, yet it's the way of the cross. I agree that the separation has begun, the virgins are being separated and when the call comes to light the lamps, there will be a lot of darkness on the earthFrank

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/18 22:51

I think that the old timers frowned on a lot of things (instruments, media, etc.) that we have today because they could see the dangers. I have heard folk chide them for their strictness, but now I'm not so sure they were not more right than we may be willing to admit.

I think the particular difficulty lies in not wanting to discourage young people in doing 'anything' that is an expression of their faith. I also agree with many of Bro. Paul's and others concerns. These things are like leaven; once they are in place how do you get them back out? The truth is many youth simply have not seen anything else so they have no real reference point. They grew up on it. Add to that the fact that many people pick what church they attend based on the 'worship'. : -?

Re: - posted by growingholly, on: 2008/8/18 23:16

oh, grownups...as it were..let us be the ones to fight the good fight, that the youth will see. i plead with anyone who has children, teach them the old ways, the old paths....let us take up the call to fight for these dear children entrusted to mothers and fathers. and for us who do not have any of our very own, let us pray intensely and fervently over those we encounter. these children are the most marketed group of consumers today, and we know who is doing the most marketing to them. let us grieve over their souls, and plead with a holy God to save them out of this.

yet let us remain hopeful that, through the abominations, God will be faithful to set apart a remnant for Himself! let us not be so dismayed that we lose hope! but no, let us call out to our God in a manner of faith! He is holy holy holy!!! He can and will raise up young ones for His glory. let us look ahead with gratitude at what He will do!!! expect a miracle, brethren. that is what God likes to do.

may the name of the Lord be praised.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/18 23:19

The late Derek Prince has a real good series called "Protection From Deception" that I think goes along with this subject. I would not link to it, but it is on his site. I do not endorse all his teachings, but this series is pretty good.

The old timers that the lady mentioned in the first post no doubt spent a lot of time in prayer and fasting for a service. But I am not convinced that folk are in one mind in what they are looking for in a service (meeting). Some are wanting to see deep repentance and others want folk to feel comfortable and good so that they will want to return to that church.

HOWEVER, the bottom line, I think, is that we have lost to a great degree what it means to be truly born again of the Spirit. And since there are so few births, folk have to be moved by what moves them. They have to move in 'soul' because they are spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. They cannot worship in Spirit- that do not have the Spirit. So we have to keep pressing the New Birth Gospel message. Shallow conversions lead to shallow services. A service is only as deep as the spiritual experience of the attendees and no deeper. Can a person worship in Spirit and truth if they do not walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) and walk in Truth? (III John 1:4)

Re:, on: 2008/8/19 0:08

Robert writes

"Shallow conversions lead to shallow services. A service is only as deep as the spiritual experience of the attendees and no deeper. Can a person worship in Spirit and truth if they do not walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) and walk in Truth? (III John 1:4) "

Is a shallow conversion any conversion at all? This is one of the dangers that Brother Tozer warned about many years ago, he could see it coming. C.S.Lewis could also see it coming. I am not sure there is a solution on the horizon, I believe Brothertom may have it right when he talks about the beginning of harvest and the separation of the wheat and the tares . I wrote a piece a while back entitled "Woe to the Pastors for the church is dead." And "The coming Tribulation." It may add to what Brothertom was talking about and what Robert is touching on.

<http://scottishwarriors.wordpress.com/2008/06/24/the-tribulation-is-at-the-door/>

<http://scottishwarriors.wordpress.com/2008/05/04/woe-onto-the-pastors-for-the-church-is-dead/>

Elitism and the gospel of experiential blessing, on: 2008/8/19 1:10

A new gospel for a new generation.

Firstly I want to say that this thread is terrific, mature, and insightful with much depth and contribution from all, and relevant. It is an issue that needs to be addressed, without instituting legalism as the catch all for reform, for our youth , or against ourselves.

I believe that we have been sold a bill of goods, and received something, that we did not bargain for, concerning our youth. It has deep roots, but essentially, it is the idea that the World will see a "Great End time revival", that will sweep in a billion or so youth. It is also coupled with the idea that the "youth are our future", and the idea of "youth ministers", creating a special class within the body of "up and comers", along with various venues such as "Youth Camp", "Youth Missions", youth night, and so on. It is not Biblical, and has created a disconnect overall in the Church.

Even Sunday school is up in the air for me. Isaiah talks of the Church coming together for communion.. "therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and they shall flow together for the goodness of the Lord. "For wheat and for wine, **"The young and the old", the weak and the strong..**

The body is the entire body, that is commanded and expected to care one for another. It has always been so, for the born again. We created this disconnect, as part of our theology the our youth needed special attention to meet their needs, and to make them feel more compatible in their view that the gospel was not as boring as it seemed, sitting bored to death as a six year old, twiddling with your dollies or a coloring book, all dressed up like a princess, and then the boy's scenario similar.

This idea has continued for many, many years. It has been somewhat divisive, I believe in family structure, within the Church, which the Lord has made a paramount issue,,as you consider the Call of Abraham. "I know you will teach your offspring my ways"...IE; The Godly Seed Word, which is bound within the APEX of the motivation of Faith itself. Abraham succeeded, it seemed. It was not a disconnect. In many societies today, and even in American cultural Christianity, such as the Anabaptists they strive not to disconnect.

In the stricter sects of Judaism today, there is a vibrant jealousy to maintain relationship with the child, to direct and shepherd, to maintain the bloodline and hope of faith. The Kibbutz, and various communities around Israel, are a joy to behold. as the young and old are expected to honor and love one another, in the bounds of family, and extended family... and friends.

In the Jesus movement, we were all young. It was almost as though only the youth culture got saved, and as I look back, I wonder WHY?...It is something that the Lord just did. We were idealists, to some degree.. We were however, almost all Baptized in the Holy spirit, and vastly committed, at least in comparison to today. We prayed together at every meal, carried our Bibles everywhere we went, and it was uncommon to not see someone saved daily.

Could it be though, that the disconnect occurred, and was derived from a sense of failure and guilt?. Because we accepted, as we grew older, the unspiritual nature, and comparative deadness of our unspirit filled churches, we deferred our children in hope? We then, pawned our Children off to the "program"..the camp, the special nights, and then, where we are today. the conferences, that have to do something to create excitement. The music became cultural, as it always does, and the conviction of the Spirit, is replaced with a more easy and more fun, relaxed venue.

Enter the emerging church, where everyone is accepted. "Come as you are!" is the cry, replacing "come to the Cross! . Salvation itself is covered with the comfort food of motivational teachings that motivate you to be a better person, and of course, a more satisfied one. This then becomes the theology of the new Gospel. It is a church committed to the edifying of itself, far, far away from the tenants of repentance and faith based on self denial, and learning how to love. It's not about that..The gospel is about me.

Tom

Re: The fire of the "emerging church"...the Lambs., on: 2008/8/19 2:24

I believe that it is not an overstatement to declare that the "Emerging Church" is , and has been established on youth culture. It has become what we called **HIP** in the 70s. We had Christian "Coffee Houses", which was quite revolutionary 40 years ago. We used these venues to witness Jesus, and as a fishing hole, for those who may come to Christ. We had good music..rock christian hymns that related. We had good coffee.We made people FEEL accepted and loved. We drew the line at the close of the cafe. The new gospel has refused to do so. They confront with new ideas about church. They have made our coffeehouse their substance for Christian ministry.

Come as you are. We will love you. You are accepted here. you will grow , and desire God, as you experience God's love. It is not unusual to see unsaved people, living in open immorality, attend for years, in one congregation, without ever being confronted with repentance, and Faith towards God. It then stands to reason, that the Gospel Should Not be preached. because it would offend the seekers, which in reality, may be over 50% of the attending Church.

There then is implied, or directed that there should not be any difference between those who have believed, covered by the blood of Jesus, and those who now may be on the "Journey" to believe. It is no longer a Church, in the Classic sense of the Apostle Paul's fellowships, but a mish mash of some gospel and a lot of feel goodism and motivational teaching; how to better your marriage, how to manage and increase your finances, and how to grow your church.

It's roots go way back, but you can start counting in our culture when the charismatic church began to explode via the TV set. It then began to flow world wide. One of the great American exports. It is very, very sad. 1%, maybe 2%, are real CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA! They were sure I misspoke, and were deflated when I explained. Many of them then really knew, that indeed they were lost. I preached Christ and him crucified.

This is worldwide. It has invaded Africa, and India, the Philippines..., the entire Earth....and the reaction of the youth is similar, I believe. It is a non-gospel message, and it is capsulized in the title of a famous book..."Your best life now".

Without fathers, if there were one billion people saved in these last days, how many of them would you say would survive? With the forces out there, promoting these self serving and experiential gospels as the true, and deception increasing everyday...not many, probably. We have witnessed a generation deceived, in good times , right at our kitchen table.

Without holy mothers and fathers, that has the courage to trumpet that the Blood of Jesus believed and received, and a cross lived is the only way to Glory, the church itself won't survive... The youth movement in all of it's forms today, has been moved away from these ancient foundations. "WHERE ARE THE FATHERS!"

I think it was indicative of how the recent Lakeland "outpouring" was received. It was at least 80% youth, in my estimation; watching it on the NET. It didn't matter about doctrine...people were getting healed, and the excitement level was outstanding, and the "high" was good. The music was tops, and my, there 's a lot of babes here! Let us return....Oh, and we might just see an Angel! "How cool is that?"

You see, TB was the quintessential youth, and cool dude! Tattoo, piercings, skeletal images of death on his BLACK T-shirt...and the tattoo. DANK DUDE! He capitalized on the new Gospel energized by the defining force...Youth, and the me gospel of easy believism and a pleasure centered better, happier , more fulfilled me! "Isn't that what the gospel is about?"

"Shepherd my flock! Feed my Sheep. Feed my Lambs!" The lambs are the young sheep. they would be called the "YOUTH!"

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/19 8:06

Quote:
-----Is a shallow conversion any conversion at all? This is one of the dangers that Brother Tozer warned about many years ago, he could see it coming.

I was thinking this morning that the greatest sin is not all the carnival like additions or the soulishness of the services but being *ashamed of the genuine Gospel of Jesus Christ* that brings folk into a true Born Again experience. Many are outright rejecting the true Gospel and are following hard after "proof text decision" based church building. Many have heard the truth and rejected it; continuing to preach it. Therefore it shall be on their own heads. What happens when men reject knowledge?

Re:, on: 2008/8/19 9:12

Hi Robert and Brothertom

Great replies. I believe that another factor to the current situation is the notion of a "nominal Christian." I think it was Bill Brights "Campus Crusade for Christ," that really started to push this notion. An explanation had to be brought about to explain why so many could "accept," Jesus but have no meaningful change in their lives. There is no Scriptural basis for "Nominal," Christians. There are "weaker," brothers for sure, but no Scriptural basis for the person that we would now describe as "nominal.".....Frank

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/19 9:37

For those that might be interested I compiled a group of resources that give 'clues' as to why we have greatly lost the concept of New Birth. I originally posted this resource on Sermonindex in 2005 but it is now available on a fellow brother here on SI's (Aaron Ireland cjakforest) blog. It is called (<http://blog.theocraticfaith.com/2008/06/30/betrayal01/>) THE BETRAYAL OF THE AGES (A brief history of the de-emphasis of the New Birth). It is not intended to place blame or to point fingers. most of the names mentioned are great men of God. It is rather a resource to help us understand *what* we have lost, how we lost it and how we might recover it. There is another resource here that I would couple with it called (https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id24214&forum34&post_id&refreshGo) The Gospel of God's Great Love. I hope to return to complete this series soon.

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2008/8/19 12:13

Thank you for this post.

At 20, I've been brought up in this 'acquire the fire' generation, and sadly this type of Christianity is on the increase here in the UK (certainly in my area anyway) - especially among young people.

The young people don't seem to have any roots any more. Their relationship with Christ, and even their view of the Lord, will waiver in parallel with their emotions.

In my own life of late, I've had to look back over a lot of past 'experiences' and say, "No, I missed it there".

I just hope others, especially those younger than me, will begin to do the same when looking at past soulish experiences that have been accredited to God.

For me, and I've written in more detail in another post on this, the Hillsong church was the height of 'soulish Christianity' that I had access to.

May we lay down these past experiences and seek that which is of Spirit, for those that worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth.

"Let God be true, and every man a liar".

Re:, on: 2008/8/19 12:46

Hi Adam.....great to hear from you. As you may or may not know, I am from Scotland, my town is called Greenock. I go back and forward fairly frequently between there and my now home in Kansas. I also have a cousin who lives in Wales. So I have first hand experience of what is going on, not only among the youth, but adults too. Its sad for me to think that many of my Scottish brothers and sisters look to the American church for their inspiration. Seems like the mistakes made here, filter back to many of the Pentecostal denominations back home. Lakeland would be a good example.

Can I say, for a young man of 20, you give me hope. May the Lord bless you in wisdom and influence in your local area and Body. Death to self , picking up our cross's daily, embracing the life that the Lord leads us into, whether that will be blessings and sufferings(they are really both the same and you will experience both)is the way of Christ. Follow Him to Calvary and beyond.

Did you know that SI are having their revival conference in my home town of Greenock? Perhaps you could make it there? Hopefully there are people of a similar mindset to yours in your area? My prayers are with you Adam.....Frank

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/8/19 13:09

Thank you everyone for bringing many good insights to this issue.

Thank you also Robert and Aaron for making "The Betrayal of the Ages" available.

MC

Re: What fire has the younger generation acquired - posted by mackaymarsh, on: 2008/8/19 14:16

Somehow I think this daily from Tozer, sorta fits in here. Forgive me if it doesn't.

Evangelism: Conviction and Pain

"So I said, "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

--Isaiah 6:5

"When Isaiah cried out, "I am undone!" it was a cry of pain. It was the revealing cry of conscious uncleanness. He was experiencing the undoneness of the creature set over against the holiness of the Creator.

"What should happen in genuine conversion? What should a man or woman feel in the transaction of the new birth?

"There ought to be that real and genuine cry of pain. That is why I do not like the kind of evangelism that tries to invite people into the fellowship of God by signing a card.

"There should be a birth from above and within. There should be the terror of seeing ourselves in violent contrast to the holy, holy, holy God. Unless we come into this place of conviction and pain, I am not sure how deep and real our repentance will ever be."

Whatever Happened to Worship? p. 76

In Christ,
Wayne

Re: Fake Witness! - posted by Christian (), on: 2008/8/19 15:29

“Death to self , picking up our cross's daily, embracing the life that the Lord leads us into, whether that will be blessings and sufferings(they are really both the same and you will experience both)is the way of Christ. Follow Him to Calvary and beyond.”

I must say that I never believed the modern church, but through the wonderful teaching of the holy spirit in me and my dad I have found truth in the writing of old. Starting with Tozer, how he exposed the modern church of today and now W. Nee who exposed the half gospel being preached. I only desire to live and die the life of the cross.

I say now is the time to die to self, and take up the cross, no one but you can do it and this must not be put on the next generation. For it is your generation Christ wants to live out his life in you for them. If not we will suffer the loss of the coming kingdom and the much fruit.

The Messenger of the Cross W.Nee pg 19

“No one can testify without personal experience. To put it even more candidly, the one who has no experience of what he proclaims is a fake witness! And because of this the Holy Spirit refuses to work with such individuals.

Hence may the cross which we proclaim crucify us on it! May we bear the cross we preach! May we first receive the life which we intend to impart to others! May the cross which we proclaim be that which we experience daily in our lives! For if our message is to produce eternal effect, it must first become the food of our soul. Through the trials of daily living it is burned into our very being so that we bear the mark of the cross in our every action. Those who bear, branded in their body, the marks of the Lord Jesus (Gal. 6.17) can alone proclaim Him. Oh, let me remind you that sudden thought or knowledge obtained from books and study may please the audience temporarily, but it will leave no permanent impression. If our work is simply for human appreciation, then we have already done our duty by presenting mental and emotional source materials. Fortunately, though, our work is not for such purpose!”

Christian Roy Merlino
August 19, 2008

Re:, on: 2008/8/19 17:57

Hi Wayne and Christian, two excellent replies, great addition to this thread. Oh that we would have a church full of these kind of believers!.....Frank

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2008/8/19 19:18

Quote:
-----Did you know that SI are having their revival conference in my home town of Greenock? Perhaps you could make it there?

Yes I plan to be there!

Quote:

Hopefully there are people of a similiar mindset to yours in your area?

A few, sadly we're all quite young though. There's so much fear of man in the churches where I live; those that know better don't seem to have the courage to 'do' better.

Quote:

My prayers are with you.

Thanks.

Adam

Re: - posted by deltadom (), on: 2008/8/19 22:02

Are problem is that are generation has never seen true revival it is desperate for anything! to fill the gap

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/19 22:55

Quote:
-----There's so much fear of man in the churches where I live; those that know better don't seem to have the courage to 'do' better.

Do you fellowship together? It would be great to be able to come together and seek the Lord together in prayer and fellowship.

Lord willing I will also be in Greenock for the Conference! I already have my flight. :-)

Re:, on: 2008/8/19 22:59

I agree Delta... here is a reply to my post from my own site from a great brother in Christ.....

Good evening. The comment from the lady is heartbreaking in that we rarely find such environments today. Instead what you witnessed in Florida is the norm these days. One thing that I've pondered about the current generation; both professing christians and those who make no such claim. There seems to be a need for continuous stimulation; be it comedy, music, pseudo news, (pseudo, because the real news, few could handle) and continuous fabricated storylines. Folks have cell phones and are in contact with others constantly. Being still and allowing the Holy Spirit speak to us would almost seem to be a thing of the past, although we know that it's not.

There's so much commotion, noise, voices, and nonsense filling the ambience that few know what it's like to literally be in awe of the living God who sits upon the circle of the earth. As for the church, we think we can (oh no, I shouldn't really go here; it caused trouble on an early post) make a schedule and place God into that schedule. "OK it's worship time, Lord meet with us. OK now it's offering time, and now, time for a soft message. Suddenly it's over and we're out. Fascinating; the Lord is always finished at the same time each week. Where are we going for dinner?"

I don't mean to sound mean, but when I look up into the heavens at night and the stars seem to stretch into eternity, it's so telling of a wonderful Creator who inhabits all of eternity that the superficial stuff just doesn't have anything to contribute. An hour in the presence of Jesus; our Savior and Lord who stepped out of eternity to redeem us with his blood, is far greater than a thousand lifetimes. An awesome God who has no beginning and no ending; yet gave his only begotten Son so that we could be with him throughout the ages to come.

Well I was actually planning to finish reading the previous post, but this caught my attention; especially the comment from the dear sister who knows what the authentic presence of the Lord is like and hungers for that which is real. Thanks for another post that highlights the lateness of the hour. Have a blessed evening in Jesus.

Re:, on: 2008/8/19 23:01

This was my reply to that brother.....

Hey brother Timbob...you did not seem mean at all, perhaps passionate for the presence and majesty of God, but not mean. I just left my church of eight years and that was part of the reason, our church is a lot like the one in Florida, only our Pastor was a good preacher. Yet, just so much noise, I totally agree. There is such a need amongst "worship leaders," (whatever that means nowadays) to be trendy and different and always new. I wrote a post a few months ago called "Faith is in the silence." Seems like this generation, young and old, are terrified of silence. The next time I get a chance to share anything from any pulpit (who knows when that would be) I can see myself just standing there and saying nothing. Then, after about 30 seconds, the people start to get restless, then after 2 minutes there would be extreme discomfort. People have been raised with constant stimulation. It goes along side an indulgent people who have to be continually gratified, at least at the five senses level, which is where I think the problem lies. A good brother that I respect, suggested that the end time harvest has begun, the separation of the wheat from the tares, right under our noses. If I could find a Pentecostal, Spirit filled, sold out to the Word, not afraid of silence, waiting on God, crying at the altar at our condition church, that is where I would be. Right now I will settle for Biblically sound. God bless you brother, I believe that we both have passion for His glory and His majesty and the vastness of who He is...Frank

Re: What fire has the younger generation acquired - posted by kathleen1 (), on: 2008/8/20 9:49

A friend emailed me about this post and told me I should read it. I am so glad she did. When I read what this dear lady said about the presence of the Lord in the church, and tip toeing in and out because it was so real I could have cried. Hearing about the old days from the older ladies in the church and looking around now and frustrated because of the hunger for the reality of God and not knowing what to do about it. I feel the same way. There are a few exceptions to what I am about to say, I'm sure, because God always has a remnant of people more concerned with Him than self and in that kind of gathering, He is free to move without people trying to take the credit or exalt themselves. But I'm battling the same kind of frustration. I dig in the Word, I pray, I actively pursue an ever increasing knowledge of God, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I know I need the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I want to be so full of Him there is no room for self left. He is my delight and the more I see of Him the less I want of me. Like BH Clendennen says "The Blood of Jesus took care of the sin problem I had, but I need the indwelling power of the Holy Ghost to take care of the self problem."

I watched a video of Leonard Ravenhill's "Are We Willing to Drink His Cup" posted on this site, and here is just a brief quote that touches on this:

"The Church never had more equipment that she has now, but she
Never had less power!
Never less anointing.
Never less of the miraculous.
Never less from the omnipotent God.

As I've said before, When did you last tip toe out of church Sunday morning breathless, awed by the awesomeness of God's majesty? God's glory? God's omnipotence?" end quote.

I say Amen and God have mercy on us, forgive us for being so self absorbed and focused. Help us see our error and be our Power and Strength to change to let You take over and BE GOD!

I have gone to church for 7 years and not one time in all that time have I ever seen anyone get the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Apparently nobody at my church seems to think this is a problem-I think it is a silent scream that there is a problem. Until God began to stir me up about 3 years ago to dig into His Word, for myself, I had read it, liked to read it, but I was content with things like they were and thought the Baptism of the Holy Ghost an optional thing. Perhaps more necessary for the preacher or pastor. But Eph 5:18 says be filled -continually, regularly, always, not just once, and that is a command not an option, but I've never seen it.

What I read the church is to be I don't see where I am. I've struggled with this so long. There's no real fear of God because there's no real presence of God. That's because the church is full of unbelief. He said if 2 gather in His name He'll be there in the midst. But you can tell by how people act they don't believe that. If they thought this Holy God, with eyes of fire, and more power than our minds can comprehend, was actually in the midst, people would behave differently. The demons believe and they tremble but people do not. I don't want some demon showing more reverence and fear of God than I. Not when He promised it to me in Jer 32:40.

People come into what is supposed to be His House and so casual about how they come, and catch up on the latest with each other, so much talking but no prayer before the service, but who comes with a prepared heart, and a reverent longing for God to show up and make Himself real? Isn't He supposed to have the preeminence in all things-our thoughts, our hearts, our lives, our church services, etc.? We can't do that without the power of His Spirit. But, isn't that how it should be? Now, it's all a routine, planned out, and even the preaching of the Word is not real preaching, but men reading Scriptures they don't really understand and talking for two hours about what they think is the church's problem and what it all means. No divine revelation-Without a vision the people perish (Prov 29:18) -without a clear understanding of the Lord they don't fear Him so they throw off restraint. How can sinners be convicted and fear God when they walk in His House and see those who claim to be His children with no fear of Him, no reverence? Psa 89:7 is a command too but you don't hear it preached much. God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him. Not a suggestion but a command. People just haven't had that revelation, that understanding of Him and who He is. That's why Hosea was told by God "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hos 4:6) They refuse to know Him, because they refuse to get alone with God and pursue their own revelation of Him-and that is why the church is so lacking His presence and fear.

The Lord teaches me things I never hear preached at church. Sometimes I think I've just completely misunderstood Him and His Word and then I hear somebody like David Wilkerson, or Carter Conlon, or BH Clendennen preach exactly what the Lord had showed me and it takes me to my knees. Last year, during a particularly frustrating time, when I was digging in the Word, and in prayer, vexed by these very things I mentioned, the deadness and dryness of the church, and I don't want to be there anymore. My kids need the reality of God to stand in this wicked generation-not a dull dry, man centered religious routine at church. God spoke to me and told me last December that I was in the Door, and dry and weary and tired but the rain is on the way-I knew He meant that latter rain of the Holy Spirit. I have never spoke in tongues although I've heard the Spirit speak inside me in tongues. I've never had the Baptism but I long for it-I know I need Him. Not just the experience but the daily living under the leadership of His Spirit.

A few weeks ago, David Wilkerson preached "Getting Ready for the End of All Things" which is for some reason not yet posted on this site, but it's on TSC's site: <http://www.tscnyc.org/sermons.php> and He said the Lord told him the rain is on the way-and I thank God for this confirmation. Hope you all go find that message and listen to it. It's needed.

We desperately need the reality of the presence of God in our churches, our homes, our hearts, or nothing is going to change. I long to see this! I want to hear Christ exalted and lifted up, hear Him preached crucified, hear the Cross preached, and lifted up, not the externals. Where has the reverence and the gifts of the Spirit gone? I have heard how it used to be until I am sick to death of hearing it. I am hungry for the reality of His presence in my life NOW-and in this violent day we live in the church has never needed Him more. It is so wonderful to know I am not the only one noticing these things. Thanks for posting this.

Re:, on: 2008/8/20 10:14

Dear Kathleen.....My heart bleeds every time I hear a brother or sister express what you have expressed. There are more of us than you think :)

You have rightly summed up much of the situation. Can I just say, you sound like a woman Baptized in the Holy Spirit to me. God speaks to you, and you hear the Spirit speak to you. He teaches you in the silence of your Spirit. You know that you continually need to be filled and you know the difference between life in the Spirit and death in the flesh(going through the motions at church) Can I suggest that you read some things the Lord has given me, I believe that they will bless you. You will find in these posts a kindred spirit and know that there are so many of us who long to see the beauty of Holiness in our church's. Yet, I think that it is becoming more apparent to me as I speak to others, that this may be the new reformation. This may be the separating of the sheep and the goats, the wheat and the tares. This may be the very oil the Lord speaks of when He references the ten virgins in regard to the end of the ages.....Frank

Re: links - posted by kathleen1 (), on: 2008/8/20 10:43

Thanks for sharing these with me. I printed them out for further study. I'm reminded of what God told Elijah when he felt he was the only one, God still had 7000 who hadn't bowed to Baal. I don't want to bow to religion or men's traditions, or ideas of who Christ is, but to this awesome God who saved me and delivered me from destruction. I don't want who people think He is, I want to know Him myself. How can I represent accurately that One whom I don't know? So much of the vernacular of the church is wrong. They think to witness means to hand out tracts and tell people about Jesus. But if you look it up in the Greek, (Acts 1:8) it is the word "martus" and it means one who has laid down his life for the sake of another; one willing to die (to self, or literally) for the faith He believes in, and one who has firsthand knowledge of something or someone. And conviction, it isn't a mere "bad feeling" for having done something wrong, it is the Holy Spirit finding you guilty of breaking the law of God, and it's punishable by death if there is no repentance. And God is eager to forgive which is why He sends conviction. It is so good to read these posts. Thanks again. As far as the baptism, I can't really say I've never seen it happen so I don't know. I just know there is still too much of self in me and not enough of Him and I praise Him for only He can make me a reflection of His Son, and I know He will not create this hunger in me and leave it unsatisfied. I want to possess the Testimony of Jesus Christ-that testimony is of one of death, One who gave up everything for the sake of others, and poured out His life as a sacrifice so others could know this awesome God, and be saved, too. (Rom 12:1) It involves a cross-and only the Holy Spirit can take us there. Oh, for grace and strength of God to follow the leading of the Spirit to the cross, for the things of this world have lost their meaning and allure, and He alone is the desire of my heart. His grace, always sufficient.

Re: to achieve Pentecost we bypass Calvary - posted by Christian (), on: 2008/8/20 11:29

O for a body of believers in Christ willing to wait upon the Lord, "to be still and now that I am Lord". I know that in my secret place I am with them. During the Welsh revival I read that Evan Roberts entered a waiting church and proceeded to sit silently and wait upon God for 3 hours. No one left, no one spoke for 3 hours and then the conviction of the Holy Spirit came upon the people.

O for a people willing to wait upon the Lord. Let us enter into the closet and wait upon the Lord. Let us come out from among them and be separated.

Hence may the cross which we proclaim crucify us on it! May we bear the cross we preach! May we first receive the life which we intend to impart to others! May the cross which we proclaim be that which we experience daily in our lives! For if our message is to produce eternal effect, it must first become the food of our soul.

"The Messenger of the Cross" Pg 19

Frequently in our attempt to achieve Pentecost we bypass Calvary, not realizing that without our being crucified and thus losing all belonging to the natural, the Holy Spirit cannot work with us to gain many people. Here is the spiritual principle: die, and then bear fruit.

"The Messenger of the Cross" Pg 27

Sometimes in an oppressive atmosphere singing may be used by God to release people. Prayer at times may too be a help. But if we make singing or prayer the center, we face the peril of releasing soul power. Many people live carelessly for six days, and then attend a church meeting on Sunday. They hear the singing of many hymns and feel warm and joyful. But let us inquire from whence this kind of warmth and joy comes? I can prove that something is defective here. Should a person live casually for six days and then come to God one day, he should instead feel guilty and reprove himself. How then is it that the singing makes him feel warm and joyful? This cannot be spiritual power. I do not wish to be a narrow critic, but it must be pointed out that too much singing does excite soul power.

"The Latent Power of The Soul" pg53

Christian Roy Merlino
August 20, 2008

Re:, on: 2008/8/20 11:38

Two more great posts. Kathleen and Christian have made excellent contributions to this thread. My heart is warmed by the knowledge of good brothers and sisters out there who have a thirst and desire for the majesty of God and the centrality of Calvary. It is this desire to see God worshipped in reverence and majesty and in the beauty of His Holiness and to see death to self which may give birth to the new reformation the church so desperately needs.....Frank

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2008/8/20 12:50

Quote:
-----One thing that I've pondered about the current generation; both professing Christians and those who make no such claim. There seems to be a need for continuous stimulation; be it comedy, music, pseudo news, (pseudo, because the real news, few could handle) and continuous fabricated storylines. Folks have cell phones and are in contact with others constantly.

This challenged me a lot.

I fear that sometimes my zeal *against* what is so obviously wrong, and zeal for seeing the truth established often outweighs my desire to simply spend time in the Lord's presence.

May I recall my first love.

Re:, on: 2008/8/20 14:47

You said it brother, may we all recall our first love. All who are following this thread, please see the "New Reformation," thread, I think the two have merged, praise God.

Re: What fire has the younger generation acquired - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/8/21 0:24

This has got to be one of the most ... penetrating posts that has ever graced us here. Find it almost a disservice to excerpt parts from the whole, forgive me ...

Quote:
-----I wrote a post a few months ago called "Faith is in the silence." Seems like this generation, young and old, are terrified of silence. The next time I get a chance to share anything from any pulpit (who knows when that would be) I can see myself just standing there and saying nothing. Then, after about 30 seconds, the people start to get restless, then after 2 minutes there would be extreme discomfort. People have been raised with constant stimulation. It goes along side an indulgent people who have to be continually gratified, at least at the five senses level, which is where I think the problem lies.

Will have to find that brother, this is a matter that I do not know can be overstressed. It brought to mind some older considerations;

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id22141&forum34) Congregational Silence ~ Max Reich

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id22780&forum36) THE SECRET OF TRANQUILLITY

kathleen1, your words are piercing and tremendous, Brothertom, Robert, Christian ... brother Frank ... All. Thank you. It all seems to be very timely and hitting particularly strong in present circumstances.

Re:, on: 2008/8/21 9:29

Mike writes.....

"This has got to be one of the most..penetrating posts that has ever graced us here."

That word, penetrating, I sat up and took notice of that. A couple of months ago I wrote a peice called "Stabbed in the Heart."

<http://scottishwarriors.wordpress.com/?s=stabbed+in+the+heart>

The post was about the true nature of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as seen in Acts 2:37. It says about the crowd who Peter had just shared the Gospel with " And hearing this, they were stabbed in the heart, and said to Peter and to the other apostles, Men, brothers, what shall we do? " This phrase, "stabbed in the heart," is from the greek word "Katanusso," which means to violently penetrate or agitate the heart.

We are living in a day when we need a generation of people who have this gift, the gift of being able to "katanusso," as they speak to the unsaved. As God draws His people out and away from that which passes for church, away from shallow religion, pseudo fellowship, and worship that is merely noise, and draws them to Himself, I believe we will start to see people move in this power. We may not hear something different(the Word of God never changes) but it will be shared with the power to violently agitate, to penetrate, the hard hearts of the listeners, until they cry out "what must we do to be saved," or perhaps that common phrase in the Lewis revival "Is there mercy for me." Praise God, there was mercy for all who cried out to God.

On the flip side brothers and sisters, when one moves with this kind of power from the Holy Spirit, there is also the opposite reaction. That powerful word that violently penetrates the hard hearted, also can create a violent reaction from those who resist the Lord. The disciples found that out, as did countless of thousands of saints down through the ages. So the question is, "are we willing to move in this kind of power?" Most of know that the greek word for witness is also equated with the word "martyr." There is a cost to be paid for this kind of walk. Praise God, judging by this thread and reactions from brothers and sisters from all around the country and from different countries, God is raising up and separating a group of people who are no longer satisfied to just play church. This is a group of people who are hungry and thirsty for the things of God.

When the sacrifice is placed on the altar, when the false religionists fail in their attempts to move God's hand(acquire the fire generation, much noise and activity) it is then that the fire of God falls and consumes the sacrifice.

And it happened at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your Word.

1Ki 18:37 Hear me, O Jehovah, hear me, that this people may know that You are Jehovah God, and that You have turned their heart back again.

1Ki 18:38 And the fire of Jehovah fell and burned up the burnt sacrifice and the wood, and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

1Ki 18:39 And when all the people saw, they fell on their faces. And they said, Jehovah, He is the God! Jehovah, He is the God!

You see what is happening? Elijah in the midst of an unfriendly crowd, unashamedly declaring the truth of God, just exactly the same as Peter was doing after Pentecost. They both had the same result, the fire of God fell and the people fell on their faces, acknowledging the true and the living God who is a consuming fire.

In the heart of the man and woman of God there burns a fire, a passion, a thirst, for the things of God. He or she cannot remain unmoved in the midst of a perverse generation. So all those who long for the presence of God, who hunger and thirst are being called out and the Lord is preparing them to walk in the same Spirit as Elijah, as Peter, and yes as dear brother Stephen. I praise God for the Spirit that is striking amongst His people.....Frank

Articles and Sermons :: What fire has the younger generation acquired

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/21 10:31

Quote:
-----When the sacrifice is placed on the alter, when the false religionists fail in their attempts to move God's hand(aquire the fire generati on, much noise and activity) it is then that the fire of God falls and consumes the sacrifice.

.....
You see what is happening? Elijah in the midst of an unfriendly crowd, unashamedly decalring the truth of God, just exactly the same as Peter was doi ng after Pentecost. They both had the same result, the fire of God fell and the people fell on their faces, acknowleging the true and the living God who i s a consuming fire.

What was it about Elijah that God answered him by FIRE? Think of how Elijah felt all alone as the only person still servin g God. What did the landscape of people look like? there has always been, so it seems, those that 'thought' they had the Spirit. What was it about Elijah that God heard and answered him?

Re: - posted by PassingThru, on: 2008/8/21 10:49

Quote:
-----The reality is electricity is often taking the place of the power of God.

Quote:
-----I think that the old timers frowned on a lot of things (instruments, media, etc.) that we have today because they could see the dange rs. I have heard folk chide them for their strictness, but now I'm not so sure they were not more right than we may be willing to admit.

I did some reading on the Amish this week and was impressed with how relevant their measures to keep the world out of their lives is today.

PassingThru

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2008/8/21 11:05

Quote:
-----I did some reading on the Amish this week and was impressed with how relevant their measures to keep the world out of their lives i s today.

Could you give some examples?

Re: - posted by PassingThru, on: 2008/8/21 14:29

@adamdawkins

I don't know any Amish, nor how well their communties are doing, but what I find interesting are the reasons behind the measures that the Amish take. The "Look before you leap" principle of thoroughly evaluating the full impact of whatever new aspect they accept into their lives would have saved a lot of churches and people from deception and grief.

An excerpt from an article found here:

(http://www.shawcreekgeneralstore.com/amish_article1.htm) http://www.shawcreekgeneralstore.com/amish_article1.htm

The most important factor of Amish life is Gelassenheit, or submission to the will of God. Gelassenheit is based primarily on Jesus' words, "not my will but thine be done."16 By giving up individuality and any thought of selfishness, they embra ce God's will by serving others and submitting to Him. To the Amish, Gelassenheit is seen in all of the following aspects

of Amish life:

Personality: reserved, modest, calm, quiet
Values: submission, obedience, humility, simplicity
Symbols: dress, horse, carriage, lantern
Structure: small, informal, local, decentralized
Ritual: baptism, confession, ordination, foot-washing

** Excerpted from Kraybill, Donald. The Riddle of Amish Culture. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1989, p.26.

The Amish feel that Gelassenheit should permeate every facet of their existence, and even be apparent in their material possessions. Consequently, they will only selectively use modern technologies. As seen in the symbols of Gelassenheit, the Amish believe that using lanterns and the buggies typifies their lifestyle of simplicity and modesty. Any technology that does not uphold the Gelassenheit principles is banned from use. Electricity is seen as a connection with the outside world and violates the Amish principle of separation from society. Electricity also promotes the use of household items, such as the television, that allow the outside, "English," values of sloth, luxury, and vanity to infiltrate the household. Automobiles are not often used because they degrade the Gelassenheit principle of a small, close-knit community. The Amish fear, with good reason, that these modern transportation technologies will cause them to spread apart, much like most modern American families. Also, the Amish fear that the automobile will promote competition among themselves. They worry that the car will become a status symbol and promote vanity, which is in direct violation of the Gelassenheit value of modesty. The telephone is banned from the household because, much like the automobile, it promotes a separation of community. Instead of taking a carriage or walking to a friend's house, the Amish feel that they would be tempted to simply stay home and speak on the phone. In order to uphold Gelassenheit, many modern technologies have been banned from regular use.

Re: Amish fire in the youth, on: 2008/8/21 15:19

I am no expert on Amish life, to say the least. I do know that the Amish have a practice of relinquishing their children over to the youth group, to decide for themselves whether or not to become a member of the "Amish", Church. The children who are turned over to these groups, are allowed to sow their wild oats, so to speak, in all manner of anarchy and rebellion, with no determined consequences from their church, or parents. Sexual immorality is rampant, as is drug use, loads of alcohol and any form of worldliness.

This wildness usually lasts a few years, and then the children must decide to become a standing member of their Amish church, and adhere to the rules and disciplines of it, or to stay out, and be an outsider. It is very strange and foreign to all other forms of institutional protestism. Many children have committed suicide after this experience, and deep psychological scars are inflicted from this practice. To me, it is almost akin to turning your children over to the devil, to see if they will survive.

Gelassenheit is simply an ancient Anabaptist expression meaning total submission, implying an absolute devotion to the consuming fires of God, in every orb of life. Probably, most of the Amish churches are simply cultural, and devoid of the Holy Spirit. They are highly legalistic, and if you do not line up, you will be excommunicated before you can say, "GELASSENHEIT!" they are very high on Church leadership, and dress codes. Women are very, very oppressed, and commanded submission and silence. They make good pies, and are good mothers. It seems they get a lot of practice at that. It is not uncommon to see a family of 14....not a typo...14 is common.

I'm sure there is an Amish or Mennonite brother here on the forum, who could fill in the blanks. Please forgive my feeble attempt to assess the youth in this culture, but I hit on the obvious points that an outsider would see. I have heard the testimonies of many Amish youth who became saved, and boy, do they take off! They have everything else in place..and when Jesus comes...they fly.

However, the Amish church as it is does a very poor job of nurturing their youth, or directing them to serve Jesus in Holy fire.

Re:, on: 2008/8/21 15:32

Hi Guys....good points from brothertom. Yet, I think the point of the thread is "New," Reformation. Not that I do not think the Amish way of life is an interesting topic:) This particular thread has been a good outlet for people who long to see the Lord worshipped in reverence and awe, and to worship in the genuine presence of THE Lord. So, if your a lurker out there, please feel free to participate and share your thoughts with all of us.....Frank

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/8/21 16:17

Did any of you see "The Call" in Washington D.C.? I would say there is great hope for the thousands of young people that were there on their faces, crying out to God, repenting and fasting.

I am glad that God still looks on the heart of these young people and not on the outward appearance.

Re:, on: 2008/8/21 16:47

Hi AbideinHim.....I would say that there is great hope for anyone who cries out to God, with fasting and repentance. As always, the changed life is the "outward appearance," and God only ever looks to the heart, young or old.....Frank

Re:, on: 2008/8/22 16:29

Hi RobertW , you asked

"What was it about Elijah that God answered him by FIRE?"

We know very little of Elijah. We know nothing about his lineage, only where he came from. It seems he was somewhat rough and passionate man. Elijah prays that it may not rain because of the iniquities of the Land. He challenges Ahab, yet this fruitful land would dry up because the leadership would pay him no heed. And so it was, the rain stopped and the fruitful land became barren. This barrenness eventually led to the people choosing between false prophets and the man of God.

This land, the land of Christianity in the West , lies in such a barren state. And so it will remain until the people "chose ye this day whom ye will serve." Will the people continue to worship the Idols of Baal? Will they worship themselves and their own prosperity. One thing is for sure, as long as they do, the barrenness will continue. It will not be until God's people, who are called by His name, will cry out to Him, and turn from their wicked ways with tears and repentance, that God will hear from heaven and heal their land. The land in this case is the Church. The remnant will gather together and be refreshed, even in the midst of famine and drought, may the many find their way to the altar of God.....Frank

It seems clear that God can take a man of no background, of no acclaim, and use him mightily. Elijah was such a man....
....

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/8/22 18:01

Very edifying thread here everyone. Thanks.

Along the lines of knowing the difference between soulish and spiritual affections, I wanted to bring to remembrance the book by Jonathan Edwards
(http://www.amazon.com/Treatise-Concerning-Religious-Affections/dp/1595479473/refpd_bbs_sr_3?ie=UTF8&sbooks&qid1219441847&sr8-3) A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections

This is an essential work on this subject, and in the very least demonstrates that soulish reactions to religious activity, even seemingly positive expressions, has been a persistent problem in the Church.

In Edwards fashion, he brings to bear a scholarly disposition on the subject, almost a naturalist's dissection of the various specimens of both the false and the true, yet always within the sound confines of scripture and with a warm heart for t

he Church.

For those who sometimes like their colonial bible studies in modern English, like myself, you might look for (http://www.amazon.com/Signs-Spirit-Interpretation-Religious-Affections/dp/1581349327/refpd_bbs_sr_4?ie=UTF8&books&qid1219442246&sr8-4) Signs of the Spirit, which is a retranslation of Jonathan Edwards book by Sam Storms.

MC

Re:, on: 2008/8/23 14:05

Hi Compton...thanks for the suggestion of Jonathan Edwards. He has been a great influence on me, also George Whitfield, the Wesley brothers and Finney's own reflection on "religious affections." Perhaps one of the problems that we face today is that we do not have men of their stature, men willing to lose it all. I think of the fact that Jonathan Edwards faced so much rejection from the religious community at large (Church) he ended up preaching to the the Native Americans for a while (not an honorable thing in those days: (And Whitfield was banned from the pulpits of so many churches for daring to suggest in a letter that most of the Clergy knew nothing of the "new birth." Now that's bold. Just as well that he was banned from the pulpits though, for no church of his day could have held the crowds that showed up to hear the Gospel preached with that same power that manifested itself after Pentecost (Katanusso, stabbed in the heart).....Frank

Re: - posted by BrokenOne (), on: 2008/8/23 14:31

Quote:

-----So, if your a lurker out there, please feel free to participate and share your thoughts with all of us

I would like to share an experience from my church.

Several weeks ago we had a visiting worship leader at our church. The worship service went along as it normally does until the worship leader instructed the instruments to stop and for us to spend a few moments waiting on the Lord.

For several minutes all that could be heard in the sanctuary was the spontaneous whispered worship of thousands, along with the sound of weeping as we experienced a genuine "God moment". I weep even as I write of it.

And when it was over and we all sat down as the service continued, my heart just cried out "Why can we not have this always?" It is these moments that wreck me for church as usual.

Church as usual... what an odd phrase. What is it about gathering to worship our Lord that should ever be considered usual?

Danielle

Re:, on: 2008/8/23 14:59

Danielle....thank you so much for sharing that. This to me has been one of the most important replies to this thread. This, in part, is where the answer lies. There is so much noise. There is a whole industry of worship that has developed, phrases like contemporary worship and so on. To me, it is akin to the Scripture "Hamstring the horses and burn the chariots with fire." Oh that men would burn their keyboards and hamstring their guitars and drums. Of course there is a place for instruments in church, I think of Psalm 150 and I too want to, with all of my breath, praise the Lord on the cymbals and every other instrument that comes to hand, this is the way I want to enter His gates and His courts. But when I want to enter into the Holy of Holies, when I come into the very throne room of God, then all falls silent before our High and Mighty God who is above all things. In everything there is season, a time to praise, a time to dance, a time to shout the victories of our Lord and King, yet, there is also a time, a season, to fall silent in the presence of majesty, to be speechless in the very throne room of God and be overtaken by grace and be changed in the deepest parts of who we are. This is the season in which we live brothers and sisters, we no longer have the luxury and indulgence of simply dwelling in the courts, it

is the season to come in. Words will fail in His presence, unless it is these "Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God almighty.....Frank

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/8/24 8:56

Frank and Danielle,

I appreciate your posts. Is there a right way to worship the Lord? Is there a certain method that is right and others that are wrong?

The Father is looking for true worshippers that will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Most of the older people like the old traditional hymns, and the younger people like to worship God with music that has a little beat to it. Can we say that God prefers one style of worship over the other? God is looking at the heart of those that are worshipping Him. True worship comes from the heart.

I remember after reading "The Latent Power of the Soul" by Watchman Nee, I was in a worship service where there was much praise and thanksgiving, and the young people were up in the front dancing before the Lord. I thought to myself, "they are all in the flesh." I was really making a unrighteous judgment. To these young people, they were worshipping God with all of their hearts. I believe that we need to sing the old traditional hymns because the Words in those old songs have so much meaning. Some of the most powerful songs are the ones about the blood that have been left out of many of our seeker friendly churches.

There is a time for exuberant praise and worship before the Lord, but there is also a time to be quite in His presence. I have been in services where the presence of God was so strong that there was total silence for a long period of time. We need more of these times where the Church is still in the presence of the Lord. Many times in our churches, when it gets quite, someone feels like they have to break the silence and give a message in tongues, or the pastor feels like it is time to take up the offering. I long for a revival where there are services that are Spirit led, and you hardly notice who is ministering, but everyone comes away from that place with the awesome sense, that we have been in the presence of the Lord.

Mike

Re: - posted by BrokenOne (), on: 2008/8/24 9:19

Yes there is a right way – and you already nailed it –....in spirit and in truth. As far as methods, I have sensed the presence of God powerfully in worship times that would be characterized as more “jubilant”, just as I have sensed it in the quiet times. I guess that quiet moment was precious because it seems to be so rare. I have commented on this before - it’s almost as though the quiet makes us nervous. I have noticed the same thing that you mentioned – people feel the need to fill up the quiet. I am glad for the beautiful music and skillful musicians that lead our worship, but I would be glad for more quiet before the Lord in our corporate gatherings. I don’t think we know how to wait on the Lord. Just be still and wait. What blessing do we miss by our failure to do this???

Quote:
-----I long for a revival where there are services that are Spirit led, and you hardly notice who is ministering, but everyone comes away from that place with the awesome sense, that we have been in the presence of the Lord.

Amen brother. I believe there are many of us here that long for this very thing.

Danielle

Re:, on: 2008/8/24 10:36

Hi Mike, you write.....

"To these young people, they were worshipping God with all of thier hearts."

I think it was you that said in an earlier post that the Lord only looks upon the heart, not the outward appearance. What we do know, for a fact, is that one is always changed in the genuine presence of God. When I wrote the initial post, I never said, and I still do not believe, that when the younger generation(whatever that means) dance or make noise that they were not genuine. Being genuine is not the point, you can be genuinely wrong. I guess the issue is the difference between soulish worship(which take place in the outer courts) and Spirit filled worship, which takes place in the Holy of Holy's. In this place, a man or woman comes away, changed. That is the common factor whether in this age or in any other. So, we must look for the change. Here is one of the latest movements in "worship," which involves dance.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf-RZLNaJ1c>

It is known as "Ekstasis Worship." Its based on dance, altered states through repetitive rhythms. Kinda starts with twirling. It is ushered in usually by quoting the King David story. It actually ends up very much like a rave, only minus the ecstasy tablets.

Twirling and dancing is equated with "freedom." I saw a little bit of this at an Assembly of God church when I was in Florida a few weeks ago. Its the higher ends of the soulish state. It actually has its roots in paganism. Beware,coming to a church near you . The need for discernment has never been so great.....Frank

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/8/24 11:48

Hi Frank,

I agree with you brother. There is some stuff that just crosses the line and is outright fleshly if not demonic. One of the problems in much of the Church is that we have tried to bring entertainment into our praise and worship. I am in agreement with you that much of the praise and worship in many of today's churches is soulish. If we are worshipping God for what we can get out of it, then we have already missed the boat. We worship God for who He is and not because it makes us feel good.

Mike

Re:, on: 2008/8/24 13:19

Hi Mike, you write.....

"We worship God for who He is and not because it makes us feel good."

Amen brother. The vital difference between soulish worship and the genuine presence of God worship is, one involves sacrifice, the other involves indulgence. It all goes back to Cain and Able. Both came before the Lord with their offerings, one was acceptable, the other was not. You see, you can enter into the outer courts and remain there. In order to come into the intimate place with God one has to humble himself and enter through the low, broad door. The examples from the OT, the symbolic truth would be the brazen altar. You do not come to this altar "to get something." You come to this altar to sacrifice your sin. The Lord wants us to stand before Him in transparency. So we must humble ourselves and acknowledge our sins, lay them on the altar to be burned. Then we must go and wash in the laver bowl. This bowl was made from the looking glasses of the ladies as the children of Israel left Egypt. Then we can stand, illuminated by the candlesticks, fed by the showbread and finally our prayers towards God become incense that ascends to the very throne room of God. This could take place in every church throughout the land, every Sunday. Jesus has made the way, we only have to follow Him.

What you see in the video I posted is the essence of indulgence. There is no sacrifice there. Yet, before we get self-righteous, we must ask ourselves, are we involved in sacrificial worship? Are we willing to become transparent? Do we understand, as Abel understood? Or do we have the mindset of Cain?.....Frank

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/8/24 14:20

"The Lord wants us to stand before Him in transparency. So we must humble ourselves and acknowledge our sins, lay them on the altar to be burned. Then we must go and wash in the laver bowl. This bowl was made from the looking glasses of the ladies as the children of Israel left Egypt. Then we can stand, illuminated by the candlesticks, fed by the showbread and finally our prayers towards God become incense that ascends to the very throne room of God. This could take place in every church throughout the land, every Sunday. Jesus has made the way, we only have to follow Him."

Amen Brother! Reading your post made me think of Watchman Nee's article on "Ministering to the Lord or to the House" The reason why much of the Church spends most of its time in the outer court is because most of the ministry that is going on is to the people and not to the Lord.

Ministry to the Lord
by Watchman Nee

Let us note at the outset that there is little apparent difference between ministry to the House of the Lord and ministry to the Lord Himself. Many of you are doing your utmost to help your brethren, and you are laboring to save sinners and administer the affairs of the church. But let me ask you: Have you been seeking to meet the need around you, or have you been seeking to serve the Lord? Is it your fellow men you have in view, or is it Him?

Let us be quite frank. Work for the Lord undoubtedly has its attractions for the flesh. You may be thrilled when crowds gather to hear you preach, and when numbers of souls are saved. If you have to stay at home, occupied from morning to night with mundane matters, then you think: How meaningless life as! How grand it would be if I could go out and serve the Lord! If only I were free to go around ministering! But that is not spirituality. That is merely a matter of natural preference. Oh, if only we could see that much of the work done for God is not really ministry at all! He, Himself, has told us that here was a class of Levites who busily served in the Temple, and yet they were not serving Him; they were merely serving the House. However, service to the Lord and service to the House appear so much alike that it is often difficult to differentiate between the two.

If an Israelite came along to the Temple and wanted to worship God, those Levites would come to his aid and help him offer his peace offering and his burnt offering. They would help him drag the sacrifice to the altar, and they would slay it. Surely, that was a grand work to be engaged in, reclaiming sinners and leading believers closer to the Lord! And God took account of the service of those Levites who helped men bring their peace offerings and their burnt offerings to the altar. Yet He said it was not ministry to Himself.

Brothers and sisters, there is a heavy burden on my heart that you might realize what God is after. He wants ministers who will minister to Him. "They shall come near to me to minister unto me; and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood. They shall minister unto me" (Ezekiel 44:15).

The thing I fear most is that many of you will go out, win sinners to the Lord, and build up believers, without ministering to the Lord Himself. Much so-called service for Him is simply following our natural inclinations. We have such active dispositions that we cannot bear to stay at home, so we run around for our own relief. We may appear to be serving sinners, or serving believers, but all the while we are serving our own flesh.

I have a dear friend who is now with the Lord. One day, after we had a time of prayer together, we read this passage in Ezekiel (44:9-26, 28, 31). She was very much older than I, and she addressed me like this: "My young brother, it was twenty years ago that I first studied this passage of Scripture."

"How did you react to it?" I asked.

She replied: "As soon as I had finished reading it, I closed my Bible, and kneeling down before the Lord, I prayed: 'Lord, make me to be one who shall minister to You, not to the Temple.'" Can we also pray that prayer?

But what do we really mean when we talk of serving God or serving the Temple? Here is what the Word says:

But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me; and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and

the blood, saith the LORD God (Ezekiel 44:15).

The conditions basic to all ministries that can truly be called ministry to the Lord are drawing near to Him and standing before Him. But how hard we often find it to drag ourselves into His presence! We shrink from the solitude, and even when we do detach ourselves physically, our thoughts still keep wandering outside. Many of us can enjoy working among people, but how many of us can draw near to (God in the Holy of Holies? Yet it is only as we draw near to Him that we can minister to Him.

To come into the presence of God and kneel before Him for an hour demands all the strength we possess. We have to be violent to hold that ground. But everyone who serves the Lord knows the preciousness of such times, the sweetness of waking at midnight and spending an hour in prayer, or waking very early in the morning and getting up for an hour of prayer before the final sleep of the night.

Unless we really know what it is to draw near to God, we cannot know what it is to serve Him. It is impossible to stand afar off and still minister to Him. We cannot serve Him from a distance. There is only one place where ministry to Him is possible and that is in the Holy Place. In the outer court, you approach the people; in the Holy Place you approach the Lord.

The passage we ' have quoted emphasizes not only our need to draw near to God; it also speaks of standing before Him to minister. Today we always want to be moving on; we cannot stand still. There are, so many things claiming our attention that we are perpetually on the go. We cannot stop for a moment.

But a spiritual person knows how to stand still. He can stand before God till God makes His will known. He can stand and await orders. You who are leaders need to particularly consider this. Can you be persuaded to call a halt and not move for a little while? That is what is referred to here: "stand and minister unto me." Don't you think that a servant should await his master's orders before seeking to serve him? The Sin of presumption

There are only two types of sin before God. One is the sin of refusing to obey when He issues orders. The other is the sin of going ahead when the Lord has not issued orders. The one is rebellion; the other is presumption. The one is not doing what the Lord has required; the other is doing what the Lord has not required. Learning to stand before the Lord deals with the sin of doing what the Lord has not commanded. Brothers and sisters, how much of the work you have done has been based on the clear command of the Lord? How much have you done because of His direct instructions? And how much have you done simply on the ground that the thing you did was a good thing to do? Let me tell you that nothing so damages the Lord's interests as a "good thing." "Good things" are the greatest hindrance to the accomplishment of His will. The moment we are faced with anything wicked or unclean, we immediately recognize it as something a Christian ought to avoid, and for that reason, things, which are positively evil, are nearly not such a menace to the Lord's purpose as good things.

You think: This thing would not be wrong, or that thing is the very best that could be done so you go ahead and take action without stopping to inquire if it is the will of God. We who are His children all know that we ought not to do anything evil, but we think that if only our conscience does not forbid a thing, or if a thing commends itself to us as positively good, that is reason enough to go ahead and do it.

'That thing you contemplate doing may be very good, but are you standing before the Lord awaiting His command regarding it? "They shall stand before me" involves halting in His presence and refusing to move till He issues His orders. That is what ministry to the Lord means.

In the outer court, it is human need that governs. Just let someone come along to sacrifice an ox or a sheep, and there is work for you to do. But in the Holiest Place, there is utter solitude. Not a soul comes in. No brother or sister governs us here, nor does any committee determine our affairs. In the Holiest Place there is one authority only - the authority of the Lord. If He appoints me a task I, do it; if He appoints me no task, I do none.

But something is required of us as we stand before the Lord and minister to Him. We are required to offer Him "the fat and the blood." The blood answers the demands of His holiness and righteousness; the fat meets the requirements of His glory. The blood deals with the question of our sin; the fat deals with the question of His satisfaction. The blood removes all that belongs to the old creation; the fat brings in the new.

But such ministry is confined to a certain place: "They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table

to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge" (Ezekiel 44:16). Ministry that is "unto me" is in the inner sanctuary, in the hidden place, not in the outer court, exposed to public view. People may think we are doing nothing, but service to God in the Holy Place far transcends service to the people in the outer court. Ministry Without Sweat

The same passage tells us how they must be clothed who would minister to the Lord:

They shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, while they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within. They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins (Ezekiel 44:18).

Those who minister to the Lord may not wear wool. Why not? The reason is given:

"They shall not clothe themselves with anything that causes sweat" (verse 18 NKJV). No work that produces sweat is acceptable to the Lord. But what does "sweat" signify?

We all know that the first occasion when sweat is mentioned was when Adam was driven from the Garden of Eden. After Adam sinned, God pronounced this sentence upon him: "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in toil shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life...in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" (Genesis 3:19-19). It is clear that sweat is a condition of the curse. Because the curse rested on the ground, it ceased to yield its fruit without man's effort, and such effort produced sweat.

When the blessing of God is withheld, fleshly effort becomes necessary, and that causes sweat. All work that produces sweat is positively prohibited to those who minister to the Lord. Yet today what an expenditure of energy there is in work for Him! Few Christians can do any work today without sweating over it. Their work involves planning and scheming, exerting and urging, and very much running around. It cannot be done without a great deal of fleshly zeal.

Nowadays, if there is no sweat there is no work. Before work for God can be undertaken, there is a great deal of rushing to and fro, making numerous contacts, having consultations and discussions, and finally getting the approval of various people before going ahead. As for waiting quietly in the presence of God and seeking His instructions, that is out of the question.

Yet, in spiritual work, the one factor to be taken into account is God. He is the one Person to make contact with. That is the preciousness of spiritual work that is truly spiritual-it is related to the Lord Himself. In relation to Him there is work to do, but it is work that produces no sweat.

If we have to advertise our ministry and use great effort to promote it, then it is obvious that it does not spring from prayer in the presence of God. If you really work in God's presence, men will respond when you come into their presence. You will not have to use endless means in order to help them. Spiritual work is God's work, and when God works, man does not need to expend so much effort that he sweats over it.

Let us in utter honesty examine ourselves before God today. Let us ask Him: "Am I serving You, or am I merely serving the work? Is my ministry truly unto you Lord, or is it only ministry to your House?" If you are pouring with sweat all the time, it is safe to conclude that it is the House you are serving, not the Lord. If all your busyness is related to human need, you may know that you are serving men, not God. I am not despising the work of slaying sacrifices at the altar. It is work for God and someone has to do it-but God wants something beyond that. The Sons of Zadok God cannot secure everyone for service to Himself, for many of His own are reluctant to leave the thrill and excitement of the outer court. They are bent on serving the people. But what about us? Oh that today we might say to the Lord: "I am willing to forsake things, I am willing to forsake the work, I am willing to forsake the outer court and serve You in the inner sanctuary."

When God could find no way to bring all the Levites to the place of ministry to Himself, He chose the sons of Zadok from among them for this special service. Why did He select the sons of Zadok? Because when the children of Israel went astray, they recognized that the outer court had been irreparably corrupted, so they did not seek to preserve it. Instead, they made it their business to preserve the sanctity of the Holy Place.

Brothers and sisters, can you bear to let the external structure go, or must you persist in putting up a scaffolding to preserve it? It is the Holy Place that God is out to preserve-a place utterly set apart for Him. I beseech you before God to hear His call to forsake the outer court and devote yourself to His service in the Holy Place.

I love to read about the prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said: Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2). We see there that the Holy Spirit commissions men to the work as they are ministering to the Lord. Unless ministry to the Lord is the thing that governs us, the work will be in confusion.

God does not want volunteers for His work; He wants conscripts. He will not have you preaching the gospel just because you want to. The work of the Lord is suffering serious damage today at the hand of volunteers; it lacks those who can say as He did: "He that sent me..."

Brothers and sisters, the work of God is God's own work, and not work that you can take up at your pleasure. Neither churches, nor missionary societies, nor evangelistic bands can send men to work for God. The authority to commission men is not in the hands of men, but solely, in the hands of the Spirit of God.

Serving the Lord does not mean that we do not serve people, but it does mean that all service to people has service to the Lord as its basis. It is service Godward that urges us out manward. Luke 17:7-10 tells us clearly what the Lord is after. These are two kinds of work referred to here: plowing the field and tending the flock. Both are very important occupations, yet the Lord says that when a servant returns from such work, he is expected to provide for his master's satisfaction before sitting down to enjoy his own food.

When we have returned from our toil in the field, we are apt to muse complacently on the much work we have accomplished. But the Lord will say, "Gird yourself and give me to eat." He requires ministry to Himself. We may have labored in a wide field and cared for many sheep, but all our toil in the field and among the flock does not exempt us from ministry to the Lord's own personal satisfaction. That is our supreme task.

What are you really after? Is it only work in the field, preaching the gospel to the unsaved? Is it just tending the flock, caring for the needs of the saved? Or are we seeking to it that the Lord can eat to His full satisfaction and drink till His thirst is quenched? True, it is necessary for us also to eat and drink, but that cannot be till after the Lord is satisfied. We, too, must have our enjoyment, but that can never be until His joy is first made full.

Let us ask ourselves: Does our work minister to our satisfaction or to the Lord's? I fear that when we have worked for the Lord, we are often thoroughly satisfied before He is satisfied. We are often quite happy with our work when He has found no joy in it. Blessed are they who can differentiate between ministry to sinners or saints, and ministry to Him. Such discernment is not easily acquired. Often it is only by much drastic dealing that we learn the difference between ministry to the Lord Himself and ministry to the House.

Let us seek the grace of God that He may reveal to us what it really means to minister to Him

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/8/24 15:04

Quote:
-----The vital difference between soulish worship and the genuine presence of God worship is, one involves sacrifice, the other involves indulgence.

I think I can understand the essence of this statement. Yet, perhaps because of a mistrust of so much power chord music in the church, we can become too hard towards people who experience pleasure in any musical worship. There is pleasure in God. In fact, the heart of the Christian draws deep pleasure in God, and freely relate their enjoyment of music to this pleasure. Is this a purely spiritual thing? I think testing ourselves is a good thing, but less so if we start building rules for others. In our scrutiny of this issue, let's not become simply anti-pleasure. You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm;...because they could not bear what was commanded...But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly.... Or, as it has been said before, under the law we performed a sacrifice, but in Christ we proclaim a sacrifice.

I say this because I have repented of carrying a petty and judgmental attitude into a contemporary Church worship service, wherein anyone closing their eyes and smiling blissfully drew my secret scorn. God forgive me.

Some older Christians understand now that worship is not merely 'music' but how long did it take before they acquired this more mature perspective? And even if one day I understand the full extent of what worship is, I'm not sure I will ever feel right in saying that my worship is a sacrifice. In the meantime let's not shut people out but remember Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

I realize if I see these things, then everyone sees them as well, so forgive my lecturing. It's just that I wouldn't want to trade one kind of soulless religion for another; if you know what I mean brethren.

Blessings,

MC

Re: - posted by BrokenOne (), on: 2008/8/24 15:11

Quote:
-----I say this because I have repented of carrying a petty and judgmental attitude into a contemporary Church worship service, wherein anyone closing their eyes and smiling blissfully drew my secret scorn. God forgive me.

Oh brother Compton, I had to smile when I read this. I was one of those smiling eye-closers, who all the while scorned the hymn book holders. Thank God He has since shown me the utter foolishness of this attitude by having me in a little hymn book church weeping uncontrollably as I sang from a hymn book.

Oh, the dealings of God. So very precious.

Danielle

Re:, on: 2008/8/24 18:24

Hi Mike ...Excellent passage from Watchman Nee.....Brother Compton writes....

"In our scrutiny of this issue, let's not become simply anti-pleasure."

I smiled at this comment :-) Yet, in the separation of the flesh and the Spirit that is what we have to discern. Anyone who has experienced the presence of the Lord would know that there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. I do think that many equate "fun," and "joy," when in actual fact they are totally different. So to compare one to the other may not be accurate, kinda like a straw man.

We have often heard the phrase "To be so spiritually minded as to be no earthly good." Maybe I am travelling in the wrong circles

:-) That's just not a problem that I have run into lately :-) Seriously though, we are living in unique times. This is not just an issue of personal choice in music, and to cast it in that light, I think, may cause a disservice to the seriousness of the situation. This is an end times issue that goes to the heart of the Church. This is a paradigm shift. We have a whole generation, and by that I mean, teens, 20s and 30s who have never experienced the corporate presence of God. And so, when things come along, like Lakeland for instance, they are fodder for these false movements. The video clip that I included in my last post should definitely be checked out. This is the next wave, and it is one of the highlights of the invasion of the church by New Age thoughts and methods.....Frank

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/8/24 19:35

Thanks Broken One and Frank.

My comments were simply my own experience in trying to navigate the various expressions and forms we find in our churches.

Quote:
-----This is not just an issue of personal choice in music, and to cast it in that light, I think, may cause a disservice to the seriousness of the situation.

I wasn't talking about mere music choices, but the different manners in which people engage in public worship and our concern whether or not these expressions are soulish substitutions for true spiritual life. I intended no disservice or belittlement to the concern that American Christianity is subsisting on too many empty soulish passions and artificial stimulants. I offered my experience regarding contemporary music, but only to share that I made the mistake of adding my own soulish fear and assumptions to the situation, with the thought that my mistakes could be of some benefit to some here.

(Edit: Obviously our comments can mean various things depending on context. For instance, if my comments below were paired with that "Club Mysterio" video you posted, it might put your hair on end! There is some outright paganism being unleashed on these young people for sure. In that context, I couldn't agree with you more...these young people are unable to comprehend the darkness they are in. It is tragic.

So, once again, my comments were just clarifying we weren't saying all enjoyment in worship is suspect.

That's all. :-)

MC

Re:, on: 2008/8/24 19:57

This article when I read it really spoke to me about why we must not be too quick to judge others. I posted this on another thread but I don't know if everyone got a chance to read it:

"Leaping Like Calves From the Stall": An Analogy for Today

by David Johnson

Leaping Like Calves From the Stall

The prophecy given through Malachi is essentially a conversation between God and Israel, as God points out Israel's wrong attitudes and invites them to repent and turn to Him and receive His blessings.

In the final chapter of this short book, Malachi is shown what lies ahead for those who will repent and what will become of those who don't. In Malachi 4:2, God makes this promise: "But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall" (New Revised Standard Version).

What does that tell you? What does a calf leaping from a stall have to do with your future? Undoubtedly, there are several lessons that could be gleaned from this analogy, and an experience from this writer's past can shed light on one of them.

It was that period between late winter and early spring in the Midwest, and we were keeping an eye on a Hereford cow that was due to drop her first calf any day. At this time of year, it can be warm and pleasant during the day, yet turn very cold during the night. We were concerned that she might give birth during the night when we couldn't watch her, and the calf would freeze before we discovered it in the morning. We brought her into the barn and put her in a stall where she would be protected from the elements.

When the veterinarian arrived to check on her, he discovered that the calf was in a breech position, and we would need t

o help her deliver it. After much effort, the new calf dropped to the floor of the stall, and the cow did instinctively what every cow has always done—she began to lick him to clean him up and get the blood circulating. After just a few minutes, the little fellow got up on shaky legs and wobbled instinctively to the same place every newborn calf has always gone—to get his first meal.

Mother and calf were doing fine, but because of the cold weather, we decided to leave them in the stall for a few more days.

Now, for those who are not familiar with farm animals, please don't be misled by the fact that cows are listed among the "clean" animals. That refers only to the fact that God permits us to eat the meat. It says nothing about the cow's habits of personal hygiene. Cows have no qualms about relieving themselves and then standing or lying down in the mess for days at a time. As the days passed, this stall became quite an unpleasant mess, but the cow and her calf didn't seem to notice.

Leaving the Stall

Finally the day came when it was warm enough to let the cow and calf out of the stall and put them back in the pasture. When the stall was opened, the cow ambled out of the stall and then out the barn door into the pasture, where she immediately began to feast on the fresh green grass.

But the calf didn't know what to do. The stall had been his whole world, and he was terrified at the prospects of having to leave it. Even after we put a halter on him, he planted all four feet and fought with all his might to keep from being pulled from the stall. It took two grown men to finally drag him out of the stall and into the pasture. When the rope was removed, he dashed immediately to his mother and stood underneath her, looking wide-eyed and frightened at all the strange things in the pasture.

As the moments passed and nothing bad happened to him, he grew more and more curious about all the new sights and sounds and smells of the pasture. He ventured a short distance from his mother and sniffed some of the grass and then dashed back under her for safety again. After a few more moments he ventured a bit further away, dashing back to safety each time.

Within a half hour, he was dashing and leaping from one end of the pasture to the other with an excitement and joy that is hard to describe. This new world was wonderful! It was filled with all sorts of interesting plants and animals—tastes and smells he had never imagined while living in his stall. For the first time in his short life, he was living instead of merely existing, and never again would he want the stench and dullness of the barn.

Why had he been so reluctant to leave his stall? Compared to the wonderful world outside, his stall was ugly and unpleasant. But to him, his stinking, fetid, waste-filled stall was "normal." It was his only idea of how life could be lived. It was all he had ever known, and as far as he knew, this is the way every calf lived.

To someone standing on the outside, someone who could see a different reality, the stall was a wretched place to be. But to that calf, it was "home," and he was comfortable there.

The power of what seems "normal" to a person is amazing. People who have grown up in abusive homes tend to view a buse as normal, and the cycle is repeated generation after generation. People who break free of abusive relationships often go into other abusive relationships because it seems "normal."

For most of us the examples may not be quite as extreme, but many of the things we do in our lives, our relationships, or our actions, are the result of a negative, dysfunctional way of living that still seems "normal" to us.

In 1 Peter 1:18, Peter refers to the fact that "you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers" (New International Version). Most people don't consciously choose empty, worthless ways of living. They just live that way because it feels normal. Until people get a clear view of the way things should be—the way they can be—they will continue to feel most comfortable with this distorted view of "normal."

Re:, on: 2008/8/24 20:03

Hi Brother Compton....I know that brother, that is why I put in as many smiley faces as I could :-) Its not your discernment that worries me brother, its the greater church. I think you may have put your finger on what I was trying to say, it is all about the context. If one believes that the church is just going along as normal (whatever that would be :) then put in that context, then the struggles of bygone generations, and the tension between younger and older people would be simply just that.

I do not believe that is the case though, and I could be wrong. I believe that we are near the Lord's return and that Satan knows that too and he is going all out to destroy that which makes Christians strong and leave them in a weakened condition, ripe for the tribulation. God bless you brother Compton, the internet is a marvelous tool for communication, but as brother ROBERTW and I discussed when we met for lunch the other day, it can also makes our words and our intentions sharper than they are.....Frank

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/8/24 22:37

Your perspective is much appreciated Frank. And I am realizing that I am perhaps more naive then discerning regarding the worst of what's going on out there, as I live in a smaller town.

Quote:

-----as brother ROBERTW and I discussed when we met for lunch the other day

I wish I could have been there with you brothers. You both have been a blessing to me.

MC

Re:, on: 2008/8/25 8:53

Hi brother Compton, you have a heart that is full of love, it is always good to err on the side of Love and always thinking the best of others. I think that is what makes it so difficult to be used in writing posts that are critical of the state of the church. For some, it is a fire in their bones, for others it is a mere reflection of a critical spirit.

I know what kind of posts I would like to write all the time, yet when the Lord speaks, there is no peace until one is obedient. It would have been good to have had lunch with you brother, good fellowship with like-minded brothers is a relatively rare thing, for me at least. Its pretty cool to meet someone you have never met before, but be immediately comfortable because they are "family." Jesus binds us together.....Frank

Re:, on: 2008/8/25 19:56

Hi Rivqah.....I loved that story, it fits perfectly with the thread.....Thanks ...Frank

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/25 21:06

Quote:

-----I wish I could have been there with you brothers.

I greatly rejoiced to meet Bro. Mike (Compton)and many others in Canton. I also enjoyed my conversation with Bro. Frank. I have marveled how God has brought so many precious brothers and sisters together with like passions. SI has been a Gos send for me. I hope to see some of you in Greenoch. :-)

Re: What fire has the younger generation acquired - posted by passerby, on: 2008/8/26 0:27

This is a part of the apostasy that the apostles were telling us.

Is the End Days marked with a great worldwide revival or it will be a pervasive apostasy that eludes even the church eyes.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2008/8/26 6:05

In returning to the original question I have observed that any religious excitement is short lived (at best) that is cultivated by a festival of modern music. I am deliberately making a distinction between modern Christian music and genuine worship. This generation believes they are the same but they are not.

I am constantly challenged to understand what spiritual dynamic is at work in any environment where people are "calling on God" and there is no lasting fruit. Attendees claim a mighty move of God, but where is the lasting fruit? If the hearts of the people are right, surely God would come and revive individuals and empower them to get about the work. Perhaps this is a clue?

If the FIRE of God does not fall it is because the altar is not full. Romans 12:1, 2 are front and center at this point. When the altar is FULL the Fire of God will come. God has got to be able to believe us. If you have no Fire He did not believe you; I think it is fair to say. He came to send FIRE on the earth and desires it to be kindled.

Can 10,000 youth come to an event and "acquire the Fire" and the city not even know they are in town. When 120 turned the world upside down, what are we to make of a so-called mighty move of God that no one even knows went down in the city? There is an awful contrast between Acts 2 and what these would call "acquiring the Fire."

If the Holy Ghost fell in these arenas the world would know it. He would come and deal with the Christians to return to their first love and the sinners to turn and repent. We have to tremble when folk feel a 'presence' *but* don't feel conviction and yet there is sin and compromise in their life. I believe we must resolve to cease calling any phenomena "the presence of God" that does not carry with it conviction of sin. I think we need to view as suspect any 'feeling' that does not bring us to focus on our relationship with God. I think we need to view as questionable any Spirit that does not come to the intent of empowering a people both to will and to do God's good pleasure. Can the Holy Spirit come upon a person just to t rifle for a night of good feeling? Real JOY and Peace comes when the love of God is poured out into our heart and we are constrained to get about the Master's business. That may be a good starting point.

Re:, on: 2008/8/26 8:59

Passerby writes

"Is the End Days marked with a great worldwide revival or it will be a pervasive apostasy that eludes even the church eyes."

It is clear that the end of days will be marked by a "great falling away." What passerby says directly ties into what Robert w was talking about. It is the rise of the "lawless," one. This spirit of lawlessness is not only already at work within the "Church," it is pervasive. What is Lawlessness? If one goes to a country where the government has broken down, where there is a state of anarchy, then that would be lawlessness. Each man and woman doing what seemed right to them. We are living in the generation of lawlessness and it is not confined to the "younger generation." They have taken it to new levels, but they learned it from their parents. Jesus is their "saviour," but He is not their Lord.

So 10,000 can gather and make noise, but Robertw is exactly right. If 120 can rock the world, without the help of amplifiers, then what should 10,000 be able to do if they moved in the same power that moved the 120? At the risk of repeating myself, I believe the vital missing ingredient from the younger generation (teens, 20s and 30s) is Lordship and knowledge of the Word. The vital missing ingredient from actual saints (for there are far more than 120 in the world today) is the "Katanusso," power that Peter spoke of after Pentecost. This word, meaning to "stab in the heart," or to "violently agitate," or to "penetrate," is such a powerful word. Part of the problem is that good solid men of Christ, steeped in the Word of G

od, men vital to the health of the Christian community, have shied away from this or deny it altogether, either word or by omission. And on the other side, Pentecostal folk, who believe in this are busy chasing miracles, while ignoring the greatest miracle of all, the miracle of the new heart. Evans Roberts new of "Katanusso," power and we saw the Welsh Revival . D.L Moody knew of this same power. This story has been quoted many times on SI but it bears repeating. When men of God hunger after this, perhaps we can save some from this soulish generation.....

D. L. Moody, while speaking at Northfield, related the following experience: "This blessing came upon me suddenly - like a flash of lightning. For months I had been hungering and thirsting for power in service. I had come to that point that I think I would have died if I had not got it. I remember I was walking in the streets of New York. I had more heart in the business I was about than if I had not belonged to this world at all. Right there on the street the power of God seemed to come upon me. I was filled with a sense of God's goodness and felt as though I could take the whole world to my heart. I took the old sermon that I had preached before without any power; it was the same old truth, but there was a new power. Many were impressed and converted.

This happened years after I was converted myself. It was in the fall of 1871. I had been very anxious to have a large Sunday school and a large congregation, but there were few conversions. I remember I used to take pride in having the largest congregation in Chicago on a Sunday night. Two godly women used to come and hear me. One of them came to me one night after I had preached very satisfactorily as I thought. I fancied she was going to congratulate me on my success, but she said, we are praying for you. I wondered if I had made some blunder that they talked that way.

Next Sunday night they were there again, evidently in prayer while I was preaching. One of them said, we are still praying for you. I could not understand it, and said: Praying for me! Why don't you pray for the people? I am all right. Ah, they said, you are not all right. You have not got power; there is something lacking, but God can qualify you. I did not like it at first, but I got to thinking it over, and after a little time I began to feel a desire to have what they were praying for. They continued to pray for me, and the result was that at the end of three months God sent this blessing on me.

I would not for the whole world go back to where I was before 1871. Since then I have never lost the assurance that I am walking in communion with God, and I have a joy in his service that sustains me and makes it easy work. I believe I was an older man then than I am now; and I have been growing ever since. I used to be very tired when preaching three times a week; now I can preach the gospel five times a day and never get tired at all. I have done three times the work I did before, and it gets better and better every year. It is so easy to do a thing when love prompts you. It would be better, it seems to me, to go and break stones than to take to preaching in a professional spirit. A man can accomplish more in one year with this power than he can do in forty years without it. Jonathan Edwards said he was able to do more in Northampton in one week than he did in seven years before the Spirit of God came upon him for service."

This is the secret; the filling of the Holy Spirit. The outstanding men, men who have stirred the world for God, testify to it.