

Articles and Sermons :: Human Reasoning Can Hinder The Work Of God. -poonen**Human Reasoning Can Hinder The Work Of God. -poonen - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/12/28 22:43****Human Reasoning Can Hinder The Work Of God.**

We can create a lot of confusion in God's work and in our own lives when we use our human reasoning and try to help God according to our own understanding.

"The Lord said to Abraham, 'Look towards the heavens, and count the stars. So shall your descendants be.'.....Now Sarah had borne Abraham no children.....So Sarah took Hagar, the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to Abraham as his wife....And Hagar bore Ishmael to him.....And Abraham said to God, 'Oh that Ishmael might live before Thee'. But God said, 'No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son....and I shall establish My covenant with him'" (Gen.15:5; 16:1,3,16; 17:18,19)

God had promised Abraham seed as countless as the stars. Yet Sarah was barren. Abraham and Sarah must have both feared that God's Name would be dishonoured, if the promise was not fulfilled. So at Sarah's suggestion, Abraham took another wife and had a son through her, in order to help God out of a tight spot!!

What Abraham did not realise was that God needs no such help. The help that he offered God (by producing Ishmael) finally caused problems not only for his wife, but also for his son Isaac and his descendants.

How often we feel that without our help, God's promises will not be fulfilled. And so we move and act when God hasn't told us to move or act. We trust in our man-made plans and efforts to do God's work, and don't believe sufficiently in waiting on the Lord to direct us.

Jesus never did anything in His life without seeking His Father's will and guidance (Jn.5:19,30). But most believers don't seek God's will and guidance like that, because they trust more in themselves than in God!!

Our lack of prayer and our leaning on our own understanding (or our wife's understanding, as in Abraham's case above!!) in the decisions that we take, is what brings confusion in our homes, and in God's work.

"The Lord said to Moses, 'Speak to the rock that it may yield its water'.....Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod.....And the Lord said to Moses, 'Because you have not believed Me, you shall not bring this assembly into the land'" (Num.20:7-13)

God had asked Moses only to speak to the rock this time. But Moses decided to help God by striking the rock twice. How true it is that the flesh would rather strike hard (and twice) than speak gently (once)! We feel that God's purposes will be accomplished quicker with a bit of human hardness, even when He commands us to be gentle (Mt.11:28). But it is through His kindness that God leads people to repentance (Rom.2:4).

Moses may also have felt that since God had asked him to strike the rock once before (Ex.17:6), it must be so every time. Many imagine that the Holy Spirit must always work in the same way as He did earlier or elsewhere! And so they try to help Him with psychological gimmicks to bring "revival", to "heal" the sick, and to get people to "speak in tongues". What they don't realise is that the Holy Spirit works differently at different times, and does not need any foolish help to manifest his gifts.

"Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there" (2 Sam.6:6,7).

Uzzah's intentions were good. He really longed to protect the ark of God's testimony from falling down. But he was not a Levite, and so he had no right to touch the ark. He went outside his boundaries. This was so serious a matter, that God slew him. We cannot trifle with God's laws.

In the church too, God has given different responsibilities to different ones and drawn boundaries around each one. When

n we see a lack in a certain area and seek to help God by trying to resolve the problem, we need to first ask ourselves whether the Spirit is leading us to do that, or whether it is our own human reasoning that is urging us to do something about it. God respects everyone's boundaries, even if we don't. And God does not need any help from us, outside the boundaries that he has drawn around us. Only within those boundaries can we find God (Acts 17:26,27). Outside them, we will find only the Devil (Eccl.10:8b)

The application to our lives, of the principles outlined in the above examples, are manifold. Let us ask God then for light on this matter in relation to our own life and ministry.

Re: Human Reasoning Can Hinder The Work Of God. -poonen - posted by Christisking (), on: 2005/12/28 23:44

This is a good word, but I fear many westerners greatly abuse such truths. I've seen so many use such truths as an excuse to not obey God, or live a lukewarm life, or not to forsake all, or not to evangelize or to get out of the things the Lord has already told us He wants us to do. Instead they say - "I'm seeking the Lord's will on that" and as a result don't do what God has already told them to do and thus live in disobedience. We need not seek the Lord's will on issues we have already been told or commanded in His word to do - maybe the where's and the whens, but never the ifs. We must always be very careful to not make up our own ways of doing things and follow after our own understanding - this is the problem with what Zac would call the "Babylonian church", but we must also not use such truths as the one spoken by Zac to diminish our responsibilities and duties to God and His commands - this is equally as big of a problem in the church today.

I agree with what Zac is saying and the teaching he is giving and he is one of my favorite modern teachers - just giving a little warning because I see people abuse and twist such teachings.

Re: Need for wake up call - posted by shibu (), on: 2005/12/29 1:12

You are right brother Patrick (Christisking). Oh what a need for "**wake up call**" from our comfort zone which is often under the disguise of finding God's will. Please read the following

Renewal Prayer : A.W. Tozer

The children of the world are sometimes wiser than the children of light. . . . We have been offered the face of God and the glory of Christ. We have been offered holiness and righteousness and indwelling by the Spirit. We can have our prayers answered and have hell fear us because we have a hold on God who invites us to draw on His omnipotence. We are offered all this, and yet we sit and play second violin without ambition. Israel was once in that condition, and an old prophet with shining eyes came to them and said, "Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, . . . You put off the evil day and bring near a reign of terror. You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile." (Amos 6:1-7). Israel was in a rut, and they did not want anybody disturbing their calm. They liked music and food and beds of ivory, and they anointed themselves with ointment. They had everything that we call sumptuous living. But they were not grieved at the affliction of Israel. They didn't care. Let us not rest upon beds of ivory. By the grace of God let us begin to grieve a bit for the affliction of Joseph and be anxious and bothered in the Holy Spirit for the state the church is in.

In Him,
Shibu