

Familiarity Breeds Contempt

(continued)

I do know one thing about the Lord, and that is, that God is the epitome of balance. All you need do is look around you in nature, in the universe, even the human body to see His awesome balance. Here is an illustration that I hope will help you.

GOD OUR FATHER (His Love)

God is Love (1 John 4:16)
God is abundant in Mercy
(1 Peter 1:3)
God is our Redeemer (Isaiah 63:16)
God is Light and Unchangeable
(James 1:17)



GOD OUR JUDGE (His judgment)

God is Judge of the whole earth
(Genesis 18:25)
God will Judge His own house first
(1 Peter 4:17)
God is the One who both Saves and
Judges (James 4:12)

Sadly, today, it seems many sincere church going folks are contemptuous of God. Let's face it, NO leader is perfect, they make mistakes and fall short of the mark. Only Jesus is perfect in all His ways. However, think what Jesus said in John 13:20, "Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me" and Paul in Romans 14:4, "To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand." You don't need to always agree with every leader but, if you love the Lord, you need to love, forgive, and respect your leaders in order to show honor to the Lord. Here are some possible areas you may need to examine: always thinking you are right and they are wrong; not reading or obeying the Word in ANY area; not examining your motives; having personal idols such as computers, cellphones, hobbies, or anything you spend more time with or on than Jesus; launching out on your own because you disagree with your leaders versus a calling; gossiping about leadership; tardiness at church meetings etc.; showing rudeness in ANY form in a group setting; conspiring against leadership (that is what Absalom did to His father David by luring the hearts of people away from David to himself). You are showing contempt towards God because your leaders are representing Him. Remember, it's the Little Foxes that spoil the vineyard. Song of Songs 2:15 says: "Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil and ruin the vineyards [of love], while our vineyards are in blossom."

Are you intimate with God? That is good, but you need to be ever on guard that this intimacy or familiarity does NOT breed contempt within your heart. Let's take a moment to see what these two words mean. Familiarity means a state of being closely acquainted, being free and easy, marked by informality, overly free and unrestrained, absence of ceremony, an unduly informal act or expression, impropriety. This familiarity can breed contempt. Contempt is a lack of reverence or respect, willful disobedience, being scornful, despicable, and/or an act of disrespect. This is something that occurred in both the Old Testament and in the New. In the Old Testament it was Nadab and Abihu (1 Chronicles 24:1-2). Mind you, at this point in time only very few were allowed into the Holiest Place to offer sacrifices. These two young men were among them, but they died. In the New Testament it was the story of Ananias and Saphira with the offering (Acts 5:1-11). The sin being they deceived people and lied to God! Proverbs 16:6 says, "In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil." If you read these verses carefully you realize these things in both the Old and New Testaments occurred after an outpouring of the Glory of God. The higher the degree of revealed Glory the quicker was the judgment.

There are a multitude of blessings for those who walk in the fear of the Lord but I believe the greatest of these is shown in Exodus 20:20. Moses spoke to the people saying, "Don't be afraid. God has come to test you and instill a deep and reverent awe within you so that you won't sin." Sadly God's invitation to meet with Him was not accepted by the people, in fact, it says they stood afar off. Let's not be like they were. Let's draw near unto God every chance we get.

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And He Healed Them All

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both Jesus' ability and His will. If you are convinced He is the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who paid the price not only for your sins but for your divine health you can, without reservation, say YES to Jesus' ability and to His will for your health. As with the blind men, Jesus will touch you and say, "According to your faith let it be to you." And you will be made whole.

In Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 one of the rulers of the synagogue came to Jesus because his daughter was sick to the point of death. The severity of the problem apparently did not hasten Jesus to the ruler's (one Jairus) house for He continued to minister to people along the way including the woman with the issue of blood. Jesus was taking so long that word finally came to Jairus, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" Have you gotten a report that something has died in your life — a dream, a job, a relationship, a house, a deliverance, a healing, etc.. You need to heed the words that Jesus spoke to Jairus upon his hearing that mortifying report, "Do not be afraid; only believe." I'm sure it took everything within Jairus to embrace and believe the words of Jesus. Remember, there was a throng of people around them at the time. And, I'm sure, there were a good many of them continuing to whisper the bad report into his ears and urging him to throw in the towel. I like how Jesus spoke to the doubting crowd, "Why are you making this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead, but sleeping." He is saying the same today to doubters around you and they are reacting the same way to Jesus today as they did then — they are ridiculing Him. If you will stick close to Jesus and do what He says, He will put the nay-sayers outside and speak the same words to those things that might have died in your life, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Those seemingly dead things MUST arise, and when the nay-sayers see what Jesus has done for you they too will be overcome with great amazement. Remember, Jesus specializes in RAISING DEAD THINGS!

In Luke 13:10-17 Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity

eighteen years. She was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. This seems like a picture of our current churches with the preacher on his pulpit preaching and sick people abounding in the congregation. But, when Jesus noticed the crippled woman, He didn't keep on teaching. He stopped and IMMEDIATELY ministered to the woman. "Woman, He said, you are loosed from your infirmity." He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. Wow, that is what we need more of in our church services. Immediate recognition and ministry. Unfortunately, this was yet another instance in Jesus' ministry when the religious leaders of the synagogue once again condemned Jesus for ministering on the Sabbath.

Not much has changed in 2000 years. Some ministers still think that stopping in the middle of a sermon and ministering to members, that are obviously sick, with prayer and the laying on of hands is tantamount to heresy. Perhaps it is because they really don't believe Jesus' words in Mark 16:17-18 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover," or His exhortation in John 11:4:12 "I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father." No matter how long you have been "crippled" with something (not just sickness), Jesus is still taking notice and calling you to Himself for healing, deliverance, and restoration to the original design in which He created you.

These are but several examples of Jesus' twenty-six Gospel documented instances of healing in the Bible. I encourage you to mull over (think carefully about for a long time) the various ways in which Jesus ministered to people's needs. You, and your specific needs, Jesus has already taken care of with His Word.

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