

February 6, 2015

GOD has blessed me with a wife who is a remarkable cook; so much so that eating out is not even a close second to her culinary skills. I go directly to the table of good food. She is concerned about content, health and sometimes even the right sized portion. Restaurant food can be exotic but who knows whether or not there is too much salt, sugar or spices, so even in an “Eating Out” culture my overwhelming preference is HOME COOKING.

It occurred to me that spiritual food follows the same pattern; I can either dine on insights from other Christians or receive my food directly from God Himself (home cooking). I find I prefer to “eat at home.”

In the search to become more like Christ I was asking God (eating at home – Revelation 3:20) how Jesus was able to do only what He saw the Father doing and say only what He heard the Father say. I wanted to know how He developed this depth of intimacy. From our present understanding of His relationship with God, I have no doubt that there will be a list of theological reasons that would challenge even the concept of having this sort of personal intimacy. Historically the church has isolated Jesus from us through the introduction of Mary, the saints, the clergy or even the Bible itself. Consequently they have made Him so inaccessible that Jesus is now a mystery to us.

The quest is then; can we know by experience the sort of “oneness” that Jesus experienced with the Father? Why bother even asking the question? One reason is that we are told to be like Him; we are to be “Christs” on earth and corporately His Bride. The standard is set extremely high and since it was God who set the standard, it makes sense to ask Him how to reach it. The scripture is full of jewels hidden in a field but the onus is on us to seek out those gems and find them. God is not playing a game of hide and seek with us but He’s giving us revelation of Himself and His ways and He has given us some ground rules to follow.

These truths are so precious that unless we have a pure heart, a teachable, humble spirit and perseverance to discover them, they can destroy us. Like the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, partaking when driven by the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is an eternal destiny not to be entertained.

PURE HEARTS, HUMILITY AND PERSEVERENCE are the keys, but God has promised that He will help us as John describes in his first letter to the churches; “Yet I know that the touch of the His Spirit never leaves you and you don’t really need a human teacher. You know that the Spirit teaches you in everything. Remember that His teaching urges you to live in Christ, so that if He were suddenly to reveal Himself, we should still know exactly where we stand and should not have to shrink away.” (paraphrase by J.B. Phillips)

Yes, we need teachers, but they are to show us how to do home cooking and not depend on restaurant food. We have made teaching about God a paid profession and we have been enticed to eat their fare, but God wants us to enjoy His table directly; “My sheep hear my voice.” Their role is like the parent who patiently instructs the child how get the food in its mouth and not in the hair, table, floor, walls or even the parent’s face! (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Let’s learn how to feed ourselves from the Master’s table directly and not be immature and dependant only on restaurant food.

Shalom.

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