

Spiritual Confusion:

What to do when you don't understand what God is doing?

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The Shrouding of God's Friendship (see Luke 11:5-8)

Jesus gave the illustration of a man who appears not to care for his friend. He was saying, in effect, that is how our heavenly Father will appear to you at times. You will think that He is an unkind friend, but remember - - He is not. The time will come when everything will be explained. When God's actions appear to be completely shrouded, will you hang on with confidence in Him?

The Shadow on His Fatherhood (see Luke 11:11-13)

Jesus said that there are times when your Father will appear as if He were an unnatural father - - as if He were callous and indifferent – but remember, He is not. “Everyone who asks receives. . .” (Luke 11:10) Hang on to the fact that He will ultimately give you clear understanding and will fully justify Himself in everything that He has allowed into your life.

The Strangeness of His Faithfulness (see Luke 18:1-8)

“When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). Will He find the kind of faith that counts on Him in spite of the confusion? Stand firm in faith, believing that what Jesus said is true, although in the meantime you do not understand what God is doing. He has bigger issues at stake than the particular things you are asking of Him right now. *O. Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, Sept 12.*

Israel felt the Lord had forsaken them, when THEY had forsaken Him!

Even though the Israelites were constantly wandering away from God and worshiping idols in the groves (of trees) and the high places (on every high hill), they still claimed to be worshiping God. They were upset when God did not bless them and claimed that God had forsaken them.

“But Zion said, The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me.”
Isa 49:14

But God responded:

“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear (reverence) of Me is taught by the precept of men.” Isa 29:13

That is a perfect description of today’s organized churches. The Israelites had become a rebellious people, turning away from God, and instead, following pagan practices.

But no matter how much they rejected God, God said He would never forget them.

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet I will **not** forget you.

“Behold, I have graven (inscribed) you upon the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me. ...

“I will contend with him that contends with you, and I will save your children.

“And I will feed them that oppress you with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood. .. and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am your Saviour and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. . .

“Is My hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Isa 49:15,16, 25, 26; 50:2

The Key to Understanding Truth

The ability to understand truth is not the result of superior intellect. It is not the result of an education in an Ivy League University. It is the result of **obedience**: obedience to God’s Word. The majority of the richest and seemingly most intelligent, accomplished people in the world, at least by popular standards, are in utter darkness. They are unable to understand truth.

In order to understand truth, one needs wisdom. And wisdom only comes from God.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally and without reproach, and it shall be given him.

“But let him ask in faith (believing without seeing), never doubting. For he that doubteth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed.

“For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:5-8

Without God, man has no wisdom!

Look at the *giants* in medicine who only give Drugs to treat symptoms - without ever curing the disease. Doctors have no wisdom.

Look at the *giants* in science who, through their research, are unable to find a cure for even one disease, even though they have received millions, billions, and even as much as a trillion dollars collectively in research funds. Scientists have no wisdom.

Look at the *giants* in politics who have brought American and the world to their knees with economic depression, threats of terrorism, loss of rights, violence in the streets, militarized police who kill eight times more Americans each year than terrorists do. Obviously, politicians have no wisdom.

Look at the *giants* in religion, the televangelists who live extravagantly like Hollywood celebrities, who become involved in financial and sex scandals while pretending to be ministers of Jesus Christ, while shamelessly continuing to beg for money from those who are barely able to pay their rent.

All are in darkness, with almost no understanding of truth. Only God can open their eyes.

How Can We Know Truth?

The key to understanding truth is - - - Obedience. When we obey all that we know, God will open our eyes, our mind, and our heart to the next truth He wishes to teach us.

“If any man will do His (God’s) will, he shall know of the doctrine. . .” John 7:17

“If any man will do. . . . he shall know.”

When we begin to obey what we already know, God will then lead us into the next truth we need to understand. Why should He open more truth to us if we're not obeying the truth that He has given us already?

Truth is progressive

Truth is progressive. That is why we must study repeatedly. Each time we do, along with seeking the Lord in fervent prayer, God will open our mind a little more – then a little more – until we fully understand.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into ALL truth. . .” John 16:12,13

Only when the disciples had the spirit of truth – the spirit of Jesus Christ living in them, were they finally able to understand truth.

Christians are worshipping *idols*

When man makes “man” his god, including the writings of the philosopher, the scientist, the doctors, rather than seeking wisdom directly from God, he is worshipping an idol, just as surely as if it were made of stone.

God says:

“They have not known nor understood: for He (God) has shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.” Isa 44:17,18

“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

“Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 1 Cor 1: 19,20

“The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Cor 1:25

What God has devised for the salvation of man appears to be folly and weakness to those who are blinded by human philosophy. The language is rhetorical. There is, in reality, no foolishness or weakness with God, but His dealings with

the human race seem to the unregenerate heart of man to be utterly foolish. But God's plans are vastly superior to man's. and God's plans can never fail.

"God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound (put to shame) the wise; and God has chosen the weak things (considered by the world to be "weak") of the world to confound (put to shame) that things that are mighty." 1 Cor 1:27

It is getting to know the Lord that makes us strong and wise. All wisdom comes from God (James 1:5). All ability to understand spiritual things, including the Bible, comes from God (1 Cor 2:14).

"That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Cor 2:5

Obedience Eliminates Confusion

"Whenever we experience something difficult in our personal life, we are tempted to blame God. But we are the ones in the wrong, not God. Blaming God is evidence that we are refusing to let go of some disobedience somewhere in our lives. But as soon as we let go, everything becomes as clear as daylight to us. As long as we try to serve two masters, ourselves and God, there will be difficulties combined with doubt and confusion. Our attitude must be complete reliance on God." O. Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, Dec 14

"If any man will DO His will, he shall KNOW of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself." John 7:17

"God's mark of approval, whenever you obey Him, is peace. He sends an immeasurable, deep peace; not a natural peace, 'as the world gives,' but the peace of Jesus." Ibid.

Who is the Author of Confusion? Obviously not God!

When Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees, He said:

"Why do you not understand My speech? Even because you cannot hear my word.

"You are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him (only confusion),. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature. For he is a liar, and the father of it.

“And because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me.” John 8:43-45

However, we know that Jesus came to destroy ALL the works of the devil, even confusion and the obstruction of truth...

1 John 3:8 ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that **He might destroy the works of the devil.**

God is a God of order. He created the universe and the very laws of science that hold everything in place. He gave us His Word, & and He gives peace.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of **peace**, as in all churches of the saints. *(here, the term peace can also be translated to mean a quiet and restful mind, not troubled by confusion or doubt).*

We must not allow ourselves to concentrate on the confusion or the lies, but look instead to the author and finisher of our faith. Jesus spent little time being distracted by the works of the devil...in fact He would not allow the demoniac to speak but commanded the demons to “hold their peace” or to not speak forth things that would add confusion.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. Luke 4:35

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. John 16:13

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. 2 Tim 2:7

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. 1 Cor 14:33

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ Matt 7:21-23

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1Cor 13:12

“What we see as only the process of reaching a particular end, God sees as the goal itself. If I can stay calm, faithful, and unconfused while in the middle of the turmoil of life, the goal of the purpose of God is being accomplished in me.

“God’s purpose is to enable me to see that He can walk on the storms of my life right now...If we realize that moment-by-moment obedience is the goal, then each moment as it comes is precious.” Ibid. July 28

You must give up your right to yourself

“The nature of sin is not necessarily immorality and wrongdoing, but the nature of self-realization that leads us to say, “I am my own god. I have the right to do – and believe – as I please.” This nature may exhibit itself in proper morality or in improper immorality, but it always has a common basis – my claim to my right to myself.” Ibid, Oct 5

Until you give up your right to yourself, and give it to God, you will remain in darkness. You will not be able to understand truth. The surrender is not simply surrender of our external life, but surrender of our will. The greatest crisis we ever face is the surrender of our will.

“Spiritual confusion can only be conquered through obedience. It is Obedience to all that you already know, and not intellectual superiority, that will give you the ability to understand truth. As soon as we obey, we have discernment. This is humiliating because when we are confused we know that the reason lies in the state of our mind. But when our natural power of sight is devoted and submitted in obedience to God, it becomes the very power by which we perceive God’s will, and our entire life is kept in simplicity - - “... the simplicity that is in Christ.” 2 Cor 11:3 Ibid, Sept 14

“God’s Spirit will lead you into ALL Truth.” John 16:13