

“Do You Believe that I am Able to Do This?”

What are the Consequences of Misrepresenting the Character of God?

Let’s not repeat the mistakes of Moses, Abraham and Elijah

“And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

“And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus said unto them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?

“They said unto Him, Yea, Lord.

“Then He touched their eyes saying, According to your faith, be it unto you.” Matt 9:27-29

The Focus of Christians

In many churches, there is a ‘great burden for souls.’ Church members are anxious to be involved in “service.” Some denominations demand it!

But Jesus Christ did not say, “Go and save souls.” The salvation of souls is the supernatural work of God. What Jesus said was,

“Go therefore and DISCIPLE all nations. . . Matthew 28:19

You cannot “disciple” someone else, unless you are a disciple, yourself.

When the disciples returned from their first mission, they were filled with joy because even the demons were subject to them.

But Jesus “pulled them up short” by saying, “Don’t rejoice in successful service. Rejoice because you have a right relationship with Me.” (Luke 10:27-30)

What churches seem to forget is that there is a “passion for souls” that does not come from God, **but from a desire to make converts to THEIR point of view!**

The challenge to the Christian does not come from the fact that people are difficult to bring to salvation (that's God's job, anyway), or that backsliders are difficult to reclaim, or that there is a barrier of callous indifference. The challenge comes from the perspective of the Christian's own personal relationship with Jesus Christ – or lack thereof.

“Do you BELIEVE I am Able to do this?”

Jesus unwaveringly asks us that question. It confronts us in every individual situation we encounter.

But most Christians, by their actions, respond, “No, we DON'T believe you are able to do many things.”

Christians believe there are millions who are beyond the reach of Christ, and they will have to be burned in hellfire.

Christians believe that Jesus Christ CANNOT save a person unless that person “lets Him.” WE have to “make the right choice.” Our salvation is up to us – and we can tell God what He can – and cannot – do. At least that's what the churches believe.

Christians believe that God has lost control of His creation. They won't admit they believe that, but by their insistence on everyone having his OWN “freewill” – then obviously God HAS lost control of His creation! If everyone can do as he pleases, God has no control over them. That's what the churches believe.

Christians believe that God is in charge of “good” and Satan is in charge of “evil.” And, according to the churches, Satan has his OWN “freewill” and can do as he pleases. Yet, the first 2 chapters in the book of Job say the opposite. They say that Satan cannot do ANYTHING, unless God allows it. Therefore, whatever Satan does, IS the will of God.

But Christians deny that, and thus, they believe that Satan is a deity equal to God, even though they will deny that they believe that.

Cognitive Dissonance

Again, we see the Cognitive Dissonance going on in the church: the ability to believe two opposing views at the same time, such as:

God is Love

God can do anything

God is going to burn His children in hellfire

God can't save us unless we let Him

“God is the Savior
Of ALL mankind”

God cannot save us unless we “make the right
choice.”

Cognitive Dissonance

Cognitive Dissonance is a major part of Mind Control. Christians, in particular, and people in general, have ceased to think things through. But more importantly, without knowing the Lord, they do not have the ability to understand God’s truth.

Christians do not know of the power of God’s indwelling spirit. Are we wise enough in God’s sight, but foolish enough according to the wisdom of the world, to trust in what Jesus Christ has said? Are we abandoning the great supernatural position of limitless confidence in Jesus Christ, who says,

“All Authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.” Matt 28:18

Why don’t Christians believe what Jesus has said?

Moses didn’t believe God

Moses saw the oppression of his people and felt certain that he was the one to deliver them, and in his own righteous indignation, he started to right the wrongs. He killed an Egyptian who was abusing an Israelite, then buried the Egyptian’s body in the sand.

After Moses launched his first strike for God and for what he **thought** was right, God allowed Moses to be driven into empty discouragement, sending him into the desert to feed sheep for forty years.

Moses needed an attitude adjustment! Moses needed to follow God’s will, rather than his OWN will. Moses had to learn that he had no right to decide what God needed done – something church pastors have not yet learned.

In the beginning Moses had realized that he was the one to deliver the Israelites, but he had to be trained and disciplined by God – to follow God’s will – rather than his own.

Christians must learn that our individual effort for God shows nothing but disrespect for Him, as though God cannot decide for Himself what He needs done.

Christians, instead, need to focus on their own right, personal, relationship with Jesus Christ, that only comes from daily, in-depth, Bible study and fervent prayer,

alone, in our own room – or else we end up “doing God’s work” our OWN way. God cannot bless such efforts.

Abraham didn’t believe God

God promised Abraham he would have a son. But when no son was born for many years, Abraham took it upon himself to have a son by Hagar, a woman who was not his wife.

But God rejected the son, Ishmael, born of Abraham’s own doing. Eventually, God made good on His promise, and gave Abraham a son from his wife, 90-year old Sarah.

Abraham was guilty of two things:

- 1) Doing God’s work his OWN way, and
- 2) Not believing that God was able to do what He had promised to do.

Elijah didn’t believe God

Shortly after Elijah, through the providence of God, had successfully confronted the 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, and the prophets of Baal had all been killed, Elijah heard that Jezebel had sent men to kill him. Elijah was terrified and ran for his life to Beersheba, and hid. He requested that he might die, and said, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life. . .” 1 Kings 19:4

But God came to Elijah, who was hiding in a cave, and said,

“What are you doing here, Elijah? 1 Kings 19:9

Elijah told the Lord that he had been very zealous for the Lord, and now he had to run for his life. He complained that he was the only believer in God left on the earth, and Jezebel was sending men to kill him. But God said,

“I still have seven thousand in Israel, all of whom have NOT bowed their knees to Baal.” 1 Kings 19:18

How could Elijah NOT trust God right after God had delivered Elijah from the 450 priests of Baal?

Christians of today don’t believe, either

Christians of today do NOT believe that God can save everyone because they believe God has “given everyone freewill” and therefore, God has lost control of His creation. They believe that there are millions – if not billions – that are beyond the reach of Jesus Christ – who eventually will have to be burned alive in hellfire.

Yet, the Bible is FULL of passages that state that God “IS able to do this.” God IS able to save to the uttermost. There is no one beyond the reach of Jesus Christ.

God is able to save everyone He has ever created!

Isaiah, Chapter 42, is full of passages that confirm this.

“He shall NOT FAIL or be discouraged. . .” Isa 42:4

“I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the unbelievers.

“To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.” Isa 42:6,7

“The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man. . . He SHALL prevail against His enemies.” Isa 42:13

“I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things will I do unto them, and I will NOT forsake them.” Isa 42:16

Churches and Pastors teach, “No one is Perfect”

They don’t believe that God “is able to do this.”

But God promises to make us perfect.

“**You SHALL be perfect**, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
Matt 5:48 (literal translation)

The entire human race was created to glorify God. Sin has diverted the human race onto another course, but it has not altered God’s purpose to the slightest degree. When we truly get to know God, and put HIS interests above our own, we are brought into the realization of God’s great purpose for the human race,

namely, that He created us for Himself. We must learn to rely on the tremendous creative purpose of God. The love of God – His very nature – is introduced into us.

We must continually keep our eyes open to the fact of God's creative purpose, and never confuse or cloud it with our own intentions.

Once we realize that it is through the salvation of Jesus Christ that we are made perfect – and fit for the purpose of God, we will understand why Jesus Christ is so strict and relentless in His demands. He demands absolute righteousness from His children, because He has put into them the very nature of God.

The true expression of Christian character is not in good-doing, but in God-likeness. If the Spirit of God has transformed you within, you will exhibit divine characteristics in your life, not just good human characteristics. God's life in us expresses itself as God's life, not as human life trying to be godly.

Temptation comes to us suggesting a possible short cut to reaching our highest goal – it does not direct me necessarily to what I understand as evil. We will never be free of temptation in this life. The purpose of this life is to learn NOT to yield to temptation. When Jesus Christ puts His nature in us, we will be able to resist temptation.

The secret of a Christian's life is that the supernatural becomes natural in him as a result of the grace of God. When we come in contact with things that create confusion and a flurry of activity, we find to our own amazement that we have the power to stay wonderfully calm even in the center of it all.

“Overcoming” does not mean having no trouble at all. “Overcoming” means that we can be calm and peaceful in the midst of terror and chaos, knowing that God is in control.

What are the consequences of Misrepresenting the Character of God?

What are the consequences of NOT believing that God can do the impossible – in ALL areas of our life – and the life of everyone who has ever lived? What are the consequences of “selling God short”?

The consequence is an inability to truly understand God's Word. That person has eyes, but cannot see. He has ears, but cannot hear (understand). He walks in darkness, with no light to shine on his path.

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. . . 1 John 1:6

"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.
John 3:19

Christians do NOT believe that God “is able.”

Christians do NOT believe that God is able to “reconcile ALL to Himself” - Universal Restoration. Col 1:20

Christians do NOT believe that God can “heal ALL our diseases, if we follow His laws, commandments and decrees.” Deut 7:11-15 They prefer doctors.

Christians do NOT believe that God can heal mental illnesses completely, and give us the “peace that passes ALL understanding.” Phil 4:7 They prefer psychiatrists and psychologists.

Christians do NOT believe Jesus Christ when He says, “You did NOT choose Me, but I chose you.” John 15:16 They prefer to believe that THEY have “freewill” and that THEY have “made the right choice.”

When Jesus asks, in ALL these instances, “**Do you believe I am able to do this?**”

Unfortunately, the Christian – and his church - answers, “No.”

And he remains in darkness!