

## AWAKENING

We sometimes find ourselves blithely traveling down life's concatenated pathway, obligingly, almost pseudo-ceremoniously "following the rules" simply because we feel we are expected to do so. Life becomes insipid and flavorless. We then "turn the other cheek" with the hopes that perhaps we have missed something while turning over stones as we look for the key to our satiation of desires. Paradoxically enough, we never really realize what these desires are; we only know that something is missing.

This opens the door to an opportunity to sin. We are cautioned in the book of Proverbs that not everything which seems right to us is, in fact right[1]. A prudent and wise person should seek counsel in these situations[2] rather than blindly following what we think are the expected rules of the game. Once we have gotten into such a position, of our own doing, we find our selves "on the horns of a dilemma" where we can not win no matter what we choose to do.

Solomon was in that set of circumstances and, as a result, wrote the book of Ecclesiastes upon the realization of his shortcomings in his life. Saul was also there when he chose to make sacrificial offerings of the cattle he had taken from the enemies of Israel, the Philistines, rather than to destroy them as he had been commanded to do[3]. David also was there when he sinned with Bathsheba and then tried to cover up his sin by his own devices, and, as result, sinned even further. Arguably, David's sin was the cause of the division of Israel, and her fall from power in the world. She still suffers, possibly as a result of this sin of David when he followed his lusts rather than following the Word of God.

Peace is listed in the book of Galatians as a part of the Fruit of the Spirit[4] and is contrasted to the lust of the flesh in this passage of scripture. The way of the world is to gravitate to the lusts of the flesh because of the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden[5]. Adam tried to "wiggle out of the responsibility" of this sin by shifting the blame to Eve, and, ultimately, to God.

We are, in this world, in a fearful set of circumstances, what with the constant threat of war looming ominously overhead like the sword of Damocles. This can now, because of man's technological "advancement", lead to a nuclear annihilation on a global scale. We have drifted far from the fruit of the spirit as outlined in the book of Galatians, because we have drifted far from the Savior through whom the fruit of the spirit comes.

This seems to be a pattern to the sin process; Act out of lust, and then deny any responsibility for our actions by either trying to cover up for our sin or to blame someone else. Solomon wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes in what I feel was a penitent state of remorse for his disobedience to God's commands of:

1. Not amassing huge wealth,
2. Multiplying for himself wives from other cultures and
3. Allowing them to veer him away from following The God of Israel.

Solomon did eventually come to terms with life as he counseled us to "fear God and keep His commandments"....telling us that He will bring all things into His judgment[6] .

Saul probably realized his failures, albeit too late.

David penned the 51st Psalm and others in sincere repentance of a sin against God. These people all had an awakening to the fact that "all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God"[7]. God brought about this awakening in His own way....Individually for each person. Some heeded the message in time....others waited too late.

Some time as you are meditating upon the miracles of God's magnanimity and His Love and Care, remember that if we believe, we have had an individual awakening of our own. Perhaps not as dramatic as some have had, but none the less it was individually crafted for our calling to His service. As Christians, we have awakened to hear the call. Now let us come to attention to heed the message.

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[1] Proverbs 14: 12

[2] Proverbs 12: 15

[3] 1 Samuel 13: 1-15

[4] Galatians 5: 16-26

[5] Genesis 3:1-24

[6] Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14

[7] Romans 3: 23