

## One Way Of Looking At It

The other day, I was tossing a little green ball for our dog. The ball is actually designed to be a cat toy. However, since she is a Pekingese, and is therefore not a large dog, the little ball seems to be just the right size for her small mouth. She is actually smaller than the three cats she lives with, and is not at all intimidated by being outnumbered and out sized by her three feline playmates. The game usually goes as planned except when her ball goes under a couch or behind a piece of furniture. It is at that point that Meili (the dog) gets upset and begins barking to alarm me that she is unable to reach her little ball. She also gets upset if I cannot locate her ball as soon as she feels that I should be able to, and does not waste any “words” in letting me know of her displeasure.

This is reminiscent of my self when I do not feel God is handling things in quite the fashion I feel He should, “considering His years of experience on the job”....So to speak. This is an age old problem, not unique to me. I suppose the root cause is sin, but it manifests itself as selfishness and pride. Remember how King Uzziah was faithful to the Lord, yet in one moment of pride he entered the Temple in order to burn incense before the Lord himself. His actions were opposed by Azariah the priest and he was, because of his prideful actions, smitten by God with leprosy to the day of his death.

Pride is condemned in the Bible. A survey of the great heroes of Old Testament scripture will reveal that one of the main problems here was one of pride. King David viewed himself too highly and in a prideful rebellion to God’s laws committed both adultery and murder just to have the woman he saw bathing in a rooftop chamber. Samson was prideful and the end result was disastrous to him, resulting in his death at his own hand in a final moment of realization that he was the cause of his own downfall. Even Peter, in the New Testament, though making a

Prideful claim of loyalty, betrayed this claim of fidelity when he denied knowing the Savior prior to the crucifixion.

Pride affects our every aspect of being. It jaundices our outlook as we focus not on the Christian’s ultimate solution to our problems, Jesus; but with our flawed “I can handle it myself” view point, our focus is screwed sideways to see only how the problem affects us personally. It is at this point, that we have placed ourselves in the driver’s seat of our life, assuming an attitude of “I am in control, so leave me alone”.

In one sense of the word, we often think that we can not always afford but to give some concern and focus of attention to the problem itself. Unfortunately, it is then that we are focusing our attention on the personal side of the problem. We see that the problem has hit us “where we live”. This, then, can make us forget that God has sent us a helper. This helper is His Holy Spirit who uplifts and carries us, when we allow Him to do so, in tough situations. The operative words here are “when we allow him to do so”. It is when we allow God to let His Holy Spirit be in charge, that we are able to see not only the problem, but also God’s solution. This puts God, us, and the problem all in proper perspective. God allows us to be in control of our lives, even if we are making a mistake in judgment as we travel down life’s thoroughfare. He is, however, only a prayer away. We have but to call on Him and He will be there ready to steer us in the right direction. To receive Him, we must humble ourselves, giving up our pride, and opening up to Him to come into our lives to mold us into what He wants for us.

2 Chronicles 26:1-15

2 Chronicles 26: 16-23

2 Samuel 11: 1-27

Judges 13-16

Matthew 26:31-75; Mark 14:1-72; Luke 22:1-62;

Luke 24:49; John 14:26