A Voice From The Wilderness

Do We Really Believe In Creation?

I am sure this seems like a startling question. Why of course I believe in creation. Why of course we as professing Christians believe in creation! Genesis chapter one shows us clearly that God spoke and it was done. Our world didn't just evolve over millions and billions of years. He spoke and it was done!

He said, "Let there be light: and there was light", immediately. He said let the earth bring forth the grass, flower, and tree and they were there at that very instant in perfect form, in delicate and intricate beauty, in lush verdure, and in full stature. The Creator called for birds in the air and fish in the sea and as soon as He spoke the words the skies were filled with birds of all sizes and colors and their songs brought joy. At that same instant fish of every shape, color and size began swimming through the pure waters.

Our family had the opportunity to spend two days at the Great Barrier Reef while in Australia. What a tremendous experience! I told my family that I could have stayed for a month just enjoying all the beauty of God's created underwater world that I had never seen before. We saw thousands of fish in many varieties of shapes, sizes, and colors. At one time we snorkeled for over 2'/2 hours captivated by the beauty and peacefulness of God's creation, but we just couldn't take it all in.

I love the beauties of creation. I love working in the flowerbeds and the gardens. I love to sit on our porch and look out over the trees and mountains listening to the birds sing. I am learning to predict the weather and seasons just by watching the birds and listening to their songs of praise. I love feeding the wild deer from my hand, seeing the occasional bear or moose meander through the yard, or watch the determined squirrel at the bird feeder. I enjoy hiking into the back country or to a mountain top. But mostly I love watching my children enjoy all the fun, beauty, and simplicity of these things too.

God truly is a God of creation and He did all this for us - for our enjoyment! He wanted it to be a constant reminder to us that **He is the God of heaven and earth and the Creator of all!**

And now dear friends, I want to share why I asked the question at the beginning of this article - "Do we really believe in creation?" We have no difficulty believing God's creative power from the things around us in nature, but what about that same power, His creative power for you and me? Isn't this where we start to have doubts? The same God who spoke and it was done, speaks to our hearts in love calling us to a better way - His way.

How sad it is to hear many express doubts when God speaks to their hearts. When truth and duty come to them, they say, "You don't understand..."

"I came from a divorced family. I never really had a father figure."

"I was raised where my mother did everything and I never really learned how to work."

"My parents weren't Christians, so I wasn't raised with the values you had."

"I am a single parent."

"I was an only child."

"My father and mother never got along."

"We never really had anything as kids."

"If you only knew my father and mother."

And the newest one, which pretty much covers it all: "I came from a dysfunctional family." These factors all help develop us into what we are but our Creator bids us, "Take up thy bed and walk." Mark 2:9.

Have any of us come from a family where everything was perfect in God's way? But these expressions of doubt lead to the next step: "And that is why..."

"I can't..."

"It is too hard."

"It will never work for me."

And so we begin to list all our **excuses and reasons** why the power of the Gospel of Christ is not powerful enough for us. We have created terms to put onto wrong behavior and attitudes that become an excuse or justification to let self continue to rule and be miserable, sour, unhappy, discouraged, stressed, and complaining. Our excuses, our "I can'ts" show we are faithless, graceless, and evolutionists. We are stuck in the dungeon of "Doubting Castle" with "as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7.

I know from experience how this works. I have said some of these same things and others like them in the past. I had become conditioned by society and even in Christianity to excuse myself or justify why I couldn't or it was too hard instead of taking hold of the raw promise of God - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13.

Friends, we can't because we won't!

Friends, **we can't because we won't!** We won't let go and let God have us. We won't give Him time in the morning to strengthen and fortify us through study and prayer for what lies ahead of us in the day. We won't listen to His still small voice that speaks to our hearts - "Don't say that" or "Don't do that." We won't say no to our appetites and passions. We won't consult His will in His word in making our decisions. We just won't! We often do not come right out so bold and say, "I won't", but we live out the "I won't" experience. We want to manage ourselves and when we get into difficulty or a mess we immediately begin to rehearse all our reasons and excuses why we cannot overcome.

Are we in our homes and in our family relationships showing ourselves evolutionists or creationists? Let me illustrate. I have sat on the couch and said to myself, "I'm too tired." "It's too hard." "I'm just not a good mother." "I've blown it again." "I'm just never going to make it." "I don't know how." "They would be better off without me." "I just can't do it." And friends, that is true! I can't do it alone or at all, and neither can you. I have proven that all too many times. I **need God to recreate** me - my heart, my mind, my attitudes, my opinions -everything! And He has, He is, and He will for me and for you. He is the God

of creation. He does not leave us in our frail, miserable condition. He speaks to our hearts through our conscience and reason and invites us to take hold of Him to be created anew - now, at this very moment.

Every time I have had the "I can't" attitude He speaks to me saying, **"I can, will you let Me?"** Will I cooperate and respond? Here is where the real question lies. Will I let Him do for me what I cannot do for myself? Will you? I wonder sometimes at our stubbornness to allow God to change our misery into peace and joy.

I have had to make the choice many times to let go and let God have me. I have gotten up off the couch of despair and had a new desire, energy, and the wisdom to do what just a moment before I couldn't do. He spoke to my heart, and by my choice and cooperation, He did what He said He would do in me. A new attitude is created toward the circumstance, the person, my husband, my child, whoever, or whatever I have un-Christ like feelings about. I see them in a new light. A love - a heaven born love - is created in my heart for them. A new hope and confidence takes hold and I see that my heart has been touched - has been recreated – Christ doing in me that which was and is impossible for me to do for myself. Not only does my heart change which means my attitudes and dispositions, but there is a physical change also. My body relaxes and has renewed energy to do that which the Creator has asked me to do.

His re-creative power must first work in my attitudes

And it doesn't stop here. When God creates a new spirit in me it has a rippling effect much like throwing a stone into the lake. It begins to influence and have an impact on those around me. I have seen a change come over my child through God's creative power working in my heart. I have seen a change in my husband by the influence of the Spirit working in me. They too experience the joy of letting go of self and letting God's creative power change them. And it has worked in reverse. When I have been in doubt and despair I have felt the power of God through my family to me.

It isn't always instantaneous because we have learned to let go by degrees, which doesn't bring the real peace and the full joy until we let go entirely. This is where we as Christians become more evolutionary in our experience. We give a little and see a little change, but we hold out on the full and complete surrender and become conditioned to think that we will evolve -into being Christ-like without any further effort. Surely the Christian experience is a growing one, but we can have the full peace, joy, and rest all along the way. This is what Jesus taught in Mark 4:28, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

Friends, when the Creator of the universe calls to our heart - our thoughts - and we choose to let Him have His will in our life, we can have complete peace even if the circumstances of the trial haven't changed. This is why David has entreated us, "0 taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed (happy) is the man that trusteth in Him." Psalm 34:8. When something tastes good we want to eat it again and again, so with Christ, once we experience His re-creative power it gives us an appetite - a desire - for more and more of that which is holy, right, and good. **Everything begins to change**.

One of the first areas the Lord called to my heart in was that of appetite. I used to love peanut M&M's. I would buy a small bag of them every day at work. There were times I would think that I really didn't need them but found myself excusing myself by thinking that since I didn't have a weight problem it would be okay. Then one day I realized that the real truth was I had no control over my appetite, the M&M's had the control. In my heart I knew what God was asking me to do but I thought I would just eat them occasionally, but in reality found the occasions came more frequently. This was the evolutionary process. I remember the day I was willing to surrender them totally without excuses, justifications, or rationalizations and from that day forward by the **power of the Creator** I have never had another M&M. But more importantly when temptation came I knew my only safety was in the Christ

who would empower me to say no to my clamoring appetite. At first it was a struggle, the flesh versus the Spirit, but as I have learned that I am **hopelessly helpless without a Saviour** and surrender to Him, the old habits are overcome and a new way is created that brings real peace and happiness.

This victory over the M&M's was the beginning of what has become a deeper understanding not only in the area of appetite but in all areas in my life that the Creator wants to make anew. He not only wants to change how we live on the outside, but more importantly what is the motive action in our hearts and minds. As I am willing to surrender He is changing my words, as exaggerations, and overstatements come all too easy when I am trying to make a point - my point. He is also changing the cutting remarks, the foolishness, the jesting and flirtatiousness, the joking and the self-aggrandizing comments all of which are foreign to His character. I say changing, not because it is an evolutionary process, but because as I recognize God's voice speak to my heart and choose to let go and let Him have me, new thoughts and words are created in my mind and a new way of responding is being cultivated. But, if at any time I take the management of myself back instead of abiding in Him I will, like all of us do, begin to rehearse the reasons and excuses and fall right back into the old ways which are miserable and disastrous.

God has helped me see that His re-creative power must first work in my attitudes, feelings and thoughts in order to bring about a true heart change. He has deepened my love and commitment to Him as my Creator and Saviour and this in turn has deepened my love and commitment for my husband, children, and others as well as an earnestness for their souls. I realize more than ever that only as I am willing to let Him have all and be All to me can I find real joy, peace, and rest.

Paul asks, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35, 37-39.

Are we really persuaded that there is nothing, absolutely nothing that keeps us from the full and complete life in Jesus? There are no excuses, reasons, or rationalizations that separates us from receiving His creative power to make us new creatures in Him, it is simply our choice. We will not evolve into His likeness, into oneness with Him; it is a moment by moment decision in the littlest of things. Oh, that each one of us would allow His power of love, His re-creative power of love, to fill us fully and completely in all things and at all times and become new creatures in Him that has given all for us! Are we willing to go to Him and ask, "What must I do to be saved" - to be created anew?

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