

Unchangeable Realities

Whatever you focus on, you will become.

Therefore, whatever you are running away from, you are certain to run into.

I find it interesting in life to watch what motivates and manipulates folks. One of the things I have found as a constant is how focus.... Real, interior focus.... tends to control outcomes. This is true both in negatives and positives.

Take, for example, someone terribly hurt by their father. They will often recoil in hurt and anger, then deep in their heart determine, "I will NEVER be like my dad."

Oh yes, you will. As a matter of fact, I would submit that you perhaps already are. It is often the deep motivations of our own hearts that irritate us about others the most. We fight them down viciously.... And when we see someone who is playing those feelings out, we react in anger. Our angry reaction is probably the very thing that was driving our father—and bingo, we are like him. Oh yes, we may couch our reactions differently, but the underlying reality is very much the same.

When we suppress deep feelings... pushing them down and denying their existence, we are making an effort to bury them. Problem is, when we bury a seed, this is called planting. What is planted, grows.. and brings forth after it's kind. A deep feeling of hurt, buried, will one day rise up and hurt someone else. Anger, buried, will produce a whole horror of fruit.... Bitterness, rage, murder, retaliation etc etc... all of which will wound and produce more anger in others. These buried feelings become motivational forces in our life, often looking good to those around us, until harvest arrives. This interior drive is true focus.... the real heart.... the "deep things of a man".... and control outcomes while affecting relationships.

These deep things also become our secret fears. Within, we know—you know as you read this—that it is a truth you cannot escape by willpower. Our insides are already crawling with the fear that we must face the consequences of what we so much hate.... because we have lived it. So now we hire on fear as an additional focus motivator.

I quickly tire of discussions about "religion". Folks react violently to some hurt, real or imagined, from their early years in church life. "I hate religion", they say. "I want nothing to do with empty tradition and man-made rules".

Really??

Their life goes forward, and the picture unfolds. It is like watching an old rerun movie.... Sure enough, the end is always the same. **WHATEVER YOU RUN AWAY FROM YOU WILL RUN INTO.** Half a lifetime down the road will undoubtedly find them a slave to an empty religion, whipped by the taskmaster of man-made rules. Oh, it may not look the same as what they were running from..... but it is. The empty religion of hollow services and dead sermons has been replaced by loud, hopping, mobs and

meaningless rhetoric. The man-made rules of the church have been replaced by the devil-made rules of Hollywood and Madison Ave. To disobey the rules would mean ostracism in the cruelest form. And once again, focus rules.... for running madly to escape the bear, we have run into a grizzly.

Or some well-meaning folk decide that we will escape the clutches of this wicked world. Yes, we will run from the world and its evils. So they head off into some remote region, or separate themselves from all those around them to create a buffer zone. Somehow forgetting, that **WHATEVER YOU RUN AWAY FROM YOU WILL RUN INTO**. Give this movement half a lifetime, plus a generation.... And you will find them most worldly indeed. So much focus and energy will be expended ,by this juncture, on running from the world, that their consciousness of **THIS WORLD** will be greater than the heathen around them.

Am I suggesting there is no way out? Are we doomed to be reactionaries trapped by our own human stupidity? Are we programmed by a loving God to lose?

NO!! Remember, whatever you focus on you will become!

And so, we present Christ.... The very Center and Nature of Eternal God. Look on Him, Gaze at His splendor and spotless glory. Turn toward Him, and begin.... ever so slowly, to measure by HIM alone. Turn to the one who wounded you, and forgive. He did. Turn back to Christ. Turn toward religion, and reject the fear it is built on. He did. Turn back to Christ. Turn toward the world, declare it your enemy, and stop taking ANY cues from it. He did. Turn back to Christ. Love, take time and be gentle toward children.... but do it because HE DID.

Slowly, ever so surely, your HEART will turn toward Him. Ask at every turn, “ Is this the very Nature of an Eternal Christ?” Say it out loud. Sing it. It will become your FOCUS..... and whatever you focus on you will become. Read Him, believe Him, speak Him, pray Him. Anything that comes between you and that focus, must be taken to the cross and nailed there. He already has... now it’s your turn. Wake up and realize you are already dead and raised in Him, so now it is HIS life. You have no more rights to it, so stop fighting already and let HIM be front and center, and ALL. Beg Him to wash over and baptize you in His Holy Ghost Fire. Pursue Him... and whatever you focus on, you will become.

Such a wise and deep proverb, that. Seems like God would have thought of it, too, and maybe even bothered to tell us about it. Oh wait.... He did! ” Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: for as He thinketh in his heart, so is he: Prov. 23:6-7a/ Mt 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. “ The issue of focus is the issue of the mouth is the issue of the heart is the issue of the cross, is the issue.

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