

WHEN A DUMB DONKEY SPEAKS

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Even the Donkey Got Saved in Noah's Ark by Believing

*When you Know Everything,
but Do Not Apply It to Yourself*

Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but **was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.** (2 Pet. 2:15,16) ESVS & (Numbers 22:23-34)

Don't Be Like A Dumb Donkey; Surrender and Delight Yourself in the Lord

I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will advise you with My eye upon you. **Do not be alike the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding,** Whose trappings include **bit and bridle to hold them in check,** Otherwise they will not come near to you. (Psa. 32:8,9) NASB

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O hearth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and **the donkey its master's crib,** but **Israel does not know, my people do not understand.**" (Is. 1:2,3) ESVS

True Believers Know in Their Heart that God's Witness is TRUE

All who believe in the Son of God **know in their hearts that this testimony is true.** **Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar** because **they don't believe what God has testified about his Son.** And **this is what God has testified:** **He has given us eternal life,** and **this life is in his Son.** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. (1 John 5:10-13) NLT 1

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:16-21)

Why Is It That Some People Love Darkness (Sin) More Than the Light

Some people love darkness more than light because of their Sin Nature. While in the carnal body on Earth a saved man has three natures (discussed in Study # 12). But, here we will only discuss the Sin Nature because it answers the above question. Paul calls it the Carnal Nature, the Old Man. You could also explain it like this... (Self Righteousness, Self Will, Self Centeredness); in other words, it's a desire within us to act independently from God. Here are some characteristics of the Carnal Nature, the Old Man before you got saved.

- 1. PRIDE** - *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*
(Prov. 16:18)
- 2. IGNORANCE** - *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:*
(Hos. 4:6)
- 3. FEAR** - *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* (2 Tim. 1:7)
- 4. WORLDLY ENTANGLEMENTS** - *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* (1 John 2:15)
- 5. UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS** - *Anyone who goes too far and does not remain in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who remains in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.* (2 John 9-11) NASB
- 6. REBELLIOUS SPIRIT** - *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.* (1 Sam. 15:23)

7. **STRONGHOLD of SATAN** - *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)*

Finally If You Don't Respond - God Puts You Away on a Shelf

If God has done everything He can to help you; and you still resist and rebel against Him, He has no choice but to put you on a shelf and forget about you. This is extremely dangerous as you can even lose your salvation. At best, you will live a miserable life, at worst you will lose your eternal soul.

God's Children Love God and Live in His Light (Obey and Submit)

God will use you to minister if you repent and submit to His Will. God has given everyone a gift (gifts) to use within the body (the Church). When you try to use someone else's gifts, God will have to discipline you.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and **walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth**: But **if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another**, and **the blood of Jesus Christ** his Son **cleanseth us from all sin**. (1 John 1:6,7)

The Difference Between Discipline and Punishment

God disciplines all His children because He loves them. He wants to purify them and ready them for Heaven. On the other hand, God greatly punishes those that belong to the Devil and rebel against Him (destruction in Hell).

For **the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.** **It is for discipline that you have to endure.** God is treating you as sons. For **what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.** Besides this, we have had earthly fathers **who disciplined us and we respected them.** Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? **For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.** For the moment **all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.** (Heb. 12:6-11) ESVS

Wisdom is the Right use of Knowledge

To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom. (Charles Spurgeon)

*It is important to remember that **Jesus never said**; “Go into all the world and have revival.” Nor did He say, “Go into all the world and work miracles.” Our mandate as the church is to “**Go into all the world and preach the Gospel**” (Mark 16:15) and to “**make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19,20). *Revival and miracles can certainly be part of that, but preaching the gospel and making disciples are the two prime directives that Jesus has given us.**

Remember, LOVE NEVER FAILS

*Not only did Jesus give the Great Commission, He also issued a Great Commandment. “A new commandment I give to you, that **you love one another: just as I have loved you**, you also **are to love one another**. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love for one another**.” (John 13:34,35)*

ESVS

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but **have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal**. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing**. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, **but have not love, I gain nothing**. (1 Cor. 13:1-3) ESVS*

Being strongly endowed with spiritual gifts is no excuse for a person to be haughty, harsh, or rude. When Paul says, “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts” (1 Cor. 14:1), we are reminded that love and power are not mutually exclusive. We should not endeavor to excel in either area; love or gifts; while neglecting the other.

Love Speaks the TRUTH

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **it does not rejoice at wrongdoing**, but **rejoices with the truth**. (1 Cor. 13:4-6) ESVS*

(Eph. 4:15)

Love without Truth is Hypocrisy, Truth without Love is Brutality: