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## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS NOT SURE?

Do you know someone who is not sure about the Christian faith? Not sure whether the Bible is really God's word and trustworthy? Not sure whether Jesus was the divine Son of God? Not sure whether Jesus is the only way to God? A very important verse is in the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John that answers these questions, but it is a verse that we rarely hear mentioned.

Jesus went up to the Feast of Tabernacles, a huge annual celebration that the Jews celebrated by going to the Temple in Jerusalem. When Jesus arrived at the Temple area, there was much arguing and complaining about Him. Some of the people were saying, "He is a good man, He's a prophet, He is speaking the words of God to us!" Others, including the Pharisees and their followers, vehemently objected. "No!" they said. "He is a deceiver. He has been healing people on the Sabbath. I heard that he even forgave someone of their sins! Why, that's blasphemy! He is an evil man."

Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of the crowd and spoke out forcefully so that everyone could hear him. This is the crux of what He said: ***If anyone wills to do His will, he will know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.*** (John 7:17)

What a revelation! Jesus said that anyone who desires in his heart to do God's will, to obey Him, to surrender to Him, to truly submit to Him as Lord and God, will know the answer to all his questions about Jesus Christ. God will never answer our questions if we are merely curious, blasé, full of ourselves. God reveals Himself to serious seekers and only to serious seekers. You may be frustrated by a family member or friend who has been exposed to much Christian teaching but who doesn't seem to "get it." They say they are not sure about Christianity and the Bible. Why can't they see the truth? The answer is very simple: they are still in rebellion against God. They are not ready to bow the knee to the Sovereign God of the universe. They love their independence. They understand that to "accept Christ as Savior and Lord" means to surrender to His will, and to this point they are saying "No!"

I have run into the same attitude many times while trying to minister deliverance to someone. Usually they are brought to the church to receive ministry by a relative or friend. Their problem is very severe: a life-controlling addiction, tormenting mental or emotional problems, etc. In the course of interviewing and praying for the person, our team is completely stymied. Nothing seems to work. I will finally catch on and ask the person, "Do you really want to be free of this addiction to drugs, or to this bondage to fornication or homosexuality, or to this involvement with the occult?" They will get very still and think about it for a period of time, and then they will answer either yes or no. If they answer yes, we

can proceed through the power of Christ to set them free. If they answer no, I explain to them that there is nothing we can do. Is God's power limited? Absolutely not. But He has limited Himself in that He will not violate a man's free will.

The Amplified Bible words it this way: **If any man desires to do His will (God's pleasure), he will know (have the needed illumination to recognize, and can tell for himself) whether the teaching is from God.**

## THE MINISTRY OF INNER HEALING

From time to time someone has challenged the concept of inner healing. They usually claim that Jesus took care of everything on the cross - past, present, and future - and that when we accept Christ there is nothing more to be done. It is certainly true that Jesus' work on the cross was perfect and complete. (He proclaimed, "It is finished!") But scripture indicates that His work in us takes a life time. In fact, the Bible indicates that salvation itself is past, present, and future. It is an on-going process. PAST: Eph. 2:8 - *By grace you have been saved through faith...* PRESENT: I Cor 1:18 - *...to us who are being saved, the message of the cross is the power of God.* Phil. 2:12 - *Work out your salvation (on-going) with fear and trembling...* Ro. 12:2 - *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* FUTURE: Ro. 13:11 - *Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*

Also, there are many words in the Bible that, when properly understood, substantiate the premise of inner healing. For instance, Proverbs 10:16 says, The labor of the righteous leads to life; the wages of the wicked to sin. The word "wicked" is defined in Strong's Concordance as follows: "Wrong, violently disrupted, lawless, guilty. Some sense of violent internal disturbance may be conveyed, as if to say that a man is wicked because of unresolved inner turmoil."

Harold Dewberry had a teaching about the Greek words, *epithumia pathos*, which are found in several places in the New Testament. *Epithumia pathos* is defined by Strong's Concordance as: "The strong sensual desires that spring forth from the unhealed pain in the heart (or soul)." This term in Greek is found in several New Testament passages where it is translated with different English words:

- I Thess. 4:5 - *"that each of you should know how to possess his vessel (wife, or body) in sanctification and honor, not in **passion of lust**, like the Gentiles who do not know God."* Leads to compulsive behavior.
- Col. 3:5 - *"Mortify your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, **inordinate affection**, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is*

*idolatry.*" Pain-based relations, leading to office romances, etc.

- Ro. 1:26 - "*For this reason, God gave them up to **vile passions.** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is unnatural.*" Pain inside leads to porn, homosexuality, incest, bestiality, etc. Only Christ can bring healing and peace.

If your heart is not healed, it will lead to compulsive behavior, to pain-based relations, to perversion and bondage. (These truths are hidden in the Greek word, *eputhumia pathos*.) You will try to get from other people what you can only get from God: love, acceptance, affirmation, hope. You will try to fill up the emptiness by demanding perfect love from your spouse or children, or by building your own kingdom by success on your job, or by getting more and more money.

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If you have made an honest commitment to the Lord, He won't let you get away with it forever. You will come to the end of yourself. And if you listen you will hear Him whispering that He wants to heal your wounded heart and give you the love and peace you have been searching for.

## **BIG BIBLE CONTEST**

Everyone is excited about my big Bible tests. Hundreds of people responded to last month's test (but apparently the letters all got lost in the mail and the emails were diverted to the Recycle Bin). That reminds me of the reaction to my preaching. I had to return the new Studebaker to the dealer. You will recall that I asked if you know the seven "signs" or miracles in the Gospel of John, why they are called signs, and what they signify about Christ. Actually, there are eight big miracles in John. (That was a trick part of the test.) I'm sure you all know the answer to those questions. If you don't, you can look them up right there in the book. Are you ready for this month's test? Here it is:

**In the Bible, there are only three occasions where it is stated that "God is" something. Everyone will immediately call to mind that "God is love."**

**What are the other two? Where are all three statement located? Do you understand the meaning of all three statements, especially the third?** (If you do, you are way ahead of the rest of us.)

To enter this contest, just jot your answer down on the back of your generous check and mail it to me.

## **ON BEING THANKFUL** (from Max Lucado)

For fifty-one years Bob Edens was blind. He couldn't see a thing. His world was a black hall of sounds and smells. He felt his way through five decades of darkness. And then he could see. A skilled surgeon performed a complicated operation and for the first time Bob had sight. He found it overwhelming. "I never would have dreamed that yellow is so yellow," he exclaimed. "I don't have the words. I am amazed by yellow. But red is my favorite color. I just can't believe red. I can see the shape of the moon, and I like nothing better than seeing a jet plane flying across the sky leaving a vapor trail. And sunrises and sunsets. And at night I look at the stars in the sky and the twinkling lights. You could never know how wonderful everything is."

Please, put this paper down and look around in your room at the richness and colors. Look into the faces of your family. Look at your dog or cat. Walk outside and look at the trees and bushes and clouds and sky. And be thankful.

God Bless,

Glenn

Web-site: [www.glennbrownministries.com](http://www.glennbrownministries.com)



I would like to thank each of you for your support of this ministry. If any of you want to receive tax credit for your financial contributions, you may send them to:  
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