

CHAPTER 18 HAVE YOU SEEN THE DINOSAUR?

WE MUST DISCOVER WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR INSIDE NOT OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES

We all have an inner peace we can learn to consciously access.

External rational thought creates external feelings.

Internal conscious thought accesses internal feelings.

If Spirituality is to be meaningful in your life, there are three things you need to do:

(1) You need to know the difference between solutions and answers.

(2) You must want to seek the solution.

(3) You must apply the solution to your life.

Here are three questions that relate to the three things you need to do:

(1) "Do you use the solution to discover the answer, or do you use the answer to discover the solution?"

(2) "Have you ever heard someone preach on the Book of Revelation?"

(3) "Have you seen the Dinosaur?"

GOD GIVES SOLUTIONS NOT ANSWERS

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOLUTIONS AND ANSWERS

Do you use the solution to discover the answer, or do you use the answer to discover the solution.?

Of course the answer to both of these questions is "yes".

Sometimes you use the solution to discover (or "illustrate") the answer, and sometimes you use the answer to discover (illustrate) the solution. Knowing that you do both is not as important as understanding the question. If you know the answer to one problem that is all you have solved. If you know the solution, you can solve any other problem the solution may fit.

In the old days I would preach on a Gospel story. I would try to discover the meaning of the story, and in doing so would go deeper to get the solution behind the story. People would leave church, hopefully, with an understanding of the story. Then I took a complete reversal in my preaching. I began preaching on the solution and using the story as an illustration. Then people would leave church, hopefully, with an understanding of the solution which they could then apply to every other "story" to which that solution might be appropriate.

The solutions to all spiritual problems are not difficult to know. First of all, you must learn to discover what you are looking for inside not outside yourself. And you can do this by learning to use our sense of awareness to experience of the inner peace of God.

Secondly, we must accept the fact thoughts, not events, create feelings. People who think events create feelings will always be victims -- powerless and out of control. Their past determines who they are. If they could change their way of thinking, they would change their lives. Believing events create feelings is the cause of all dysfunctional behavior, psychological problems, sins, and separation from God. Thirdly, accessing the inner peace of God which is within all of us, is the key to eliminating all dysfunctional behavior, all psychological problems, and all sins and separation from God. We can learn to access the peace of God by using our conscious faculties.

These are all the spiritual principles you need to know. Each time you apply them to life, you will gain a deeper understanding of them. It's all about seeking the solution rather than trying to find the answer..

SEEKING THE SOLUTION RATHER THAN THE ANSWER

People must be willing to look for solutions rather than answers if their lives are going to be meaningful. Rather than the "quick fix" they must find the "jump start".

In marriage counseling, most couples are looking for an answer, not a solution. "What do we do right now!".

Parents want to know exactly what they should do with their kids. They want instant answers (which the "how to" books give them). Never mind taking time to understand the long-range solution. This may take a little more time, but is lasting. Say they do get "the answer". Then, when the problems change, they will have to go back for another answer. If they understand the solution, they could apply it directly to many situations even if they are very different. As the situations change, they still have the means for solving the next set of problems.

The difference between solutions and answers is the same as the difference between "revelation" and "revelations".

Here is a question: Can you ever remember hearing a sermon preached on the Book of Revelation? If you have, you are among a small group of very unique people. An even more compelling question: Have you EVER heard ANYONE, ever, preach a sermon or even write about the Book of Revelation?" You might THINK you have, but most probably what you actually heard was preaching on the Book of Revelations --that is "Revelations" with an "s".

When people preach on the Book of Revelation, they tend to preach on the signs of the coming end of the world. These signs are "revelations" (with a small "r"). But they are not what the Book of Revelation is about. When most people read the Book of Revelation, they look for the "signs of the times". They take notes and try to figure out

dates and symbols. But this won't bring them into the Revelation of the presence of Jesus Christ

There is only one "Revelation" and that is to experience the peace of the presence of Jesus Christ. In order to do that, you must learn to make the switch from analytic thinking to wondering, from the rational to the conscious, from the physical to the spiritual, from the worldly to the godly.

We all have two faculties. We need to learn to choose to use one or the other so they can ultimately be used together in harmony. The word "revelation" comes from the Latin "re-" (meaning to "take away") and "vel" (from the word for "veil"). So revelation simply means to "take away the veil".

There is a deeper meaning: To put down the analyzing and take up the wondering. What the writer of Revelation is trying to do is to get you to wondering and focusing on Jesus. When you do this, you have the chance to experience the real sense of "taking away the veil."

If you understand this difference, you are now among the few unique people who have heard clergyman write on the meaning of The Book of Revelation.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE DINOSAUR?

Knowing the solutions alone does not mean you understand them. This is where stories come in. Stories give us the opportunity to practice the principles of the solution. The more we practice them, the better we understand them, and the more they gradually become apart of our life style.

One time my sons gave me a picture that looked like a pastoral scene. They told me if I would begin looking "beyond" the picture, I would be able to see dinosaurs -- in 3-D no less. I couldn't see anything. I knew the principles they were telling me about, but no matter how hard I tried, how sincere I was, I never saw the dinosaurs. I finally gave up and gave the picture back to them. The dinosaur picture is similar to the picture that looks like black sticks. When you look at the spaces in a certain way, the name of "Jesus" appears very clearly.

You need both the stories and the principles. Just knowing the principles is not enough. You need the stories to practice on, using them as examples to better understand the truth. It is a matter of applying the principles. Only when principles are attached to stories can the meaning of the stories be opened, and, in turn, the principles understood.

ONE DIAGNOSIS ONE TREATMENT

When you apply the principles to the problems, you wind up with one treatment and one diagnosis. The issues people think they have are caused by their thinking about the events that have happened to them -- not the events themselves.

Problems can be used to practice these principles. People come with a problem marriage.

They want to know what the answer is. The diagnosis is, They are out of the peace of the presence of God. If they were in the peace, they would not be arguing. They would be listening and understanding with compassion. They would find the answer is not "yes--no" but "both--and". Then their marriage becomes a "win--win" situation rather than a "win--lose" situation.

If parents could teach their children these principles, their children would grow up living healthy lives, making healthy choices, and raising healthy children. What more could you ask? If people would practicing being in the peace, they could overcome childhood hurts. Their lives would shift from being victims, out of control, and powerless to overcoming the past, becoming powerful, and gaining control. You can best understand how these work by applying them to your life. Let the reader take a moment and recall a difficult and possibly painful situation. It may be a relationship in which someone has hurt you, and you are angry and unforgiving. Or perhaps you hurt them, and they are angry and unforgiving. You feel guilt about it. Let the reader experience this approach. Some people will understand it and others will need more time.

To understand it, you need to move from the analytical to the conscious, from the head to the heart, by wondering and reflecting, rather than by judging. Consider these truths: The first truth is, when you think of an event, you feel the hurt. Now take a moment and remember a time when you thought of the event, you felt either more or less hurt.

Next reflect on the fact the mood you are in does make a difference. When this becomes obvious, realize the event cannot be causing the pain. If you do not feel the same pain every time you think of the same event the same way, it can't be the event. It must be the perspective.

Again reflect on this truth: You do not always have to feel pain every time you think of what happened to you. Reflect on this until you see it as truth. You may begin to feel a sense of power and control coming back into your life.

Take to heart the final truth: When you think of what happened, it would be possible to be in the peace of the presence of God. As you are reflecting on this truth, open yourself up to the presence of Jesus, which is the peace of God.

If you are experiencing that peace . . . well then . . .you have seen the dinosaur