

AOC TALK

WHERE THE
APOSTOLIC COUNCIL
SHARE THEIR HEARTS

MARCH
2015



FROM
KEN'S HEART
TO YOURS

a Modern Challenge of an age old practice

Introduction

Our news has been full of the increase of Islamic fundamentalism as seen in the horrific acts of ISIS and Boko Haram against Christian believers in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Nigeria. Recently released "spy communications" have revealed that South Africa has now become a target for ISIS. By and large the "West" has as yet been unable to stop these atrocities; instead there seems to be a proliferation of their activities.

One of the repeated facets of media reporting has been the aspect of "radicalization" that various groups or individuals have undergone before becoming active in ISIS. These people have dramatically changed as a result of this process.

As I have tried to process this phenomenon, I have been again impacted by the immense effect that the human soul has on a person's behavior, and the marked change in intentionality that it brings.

Biblical Soul Restoration

This has in turn brought me back to the Biblical teaching on soul restoration. (e.g. Ps 23 "He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He restores my soul.")

Kent Dunnington writes:- "We are limited in every way but one: we have unlimited desire - We always want more: more time, more wisdom, more beauty, more funny YouTube videos. This is the soul crying out. We never have enough. This causes great tension within us."

This insatiable appetite is subject to human choices. We can choose to express it in positive or negative things with consequent results being either good or bad. The terrorist and the saint have the same insatiable souls, but they deal with their soul appetites in different ways.

Our soul is part of GOD's creation. Why did He create in us such an insatiable appetite? The Scriptures teach that, in the same way our souls are insatiable in our desire for more, it is matched by GOD's insatiable appetite to bless us more. Without our soul's appetite we would not continue to discover more and more of GOD's endless love, that never runs out and never gives up on us.

The results of Soul Restoration

The issue of soul restoration goes far beyond the personal and private scope. The fact is that individual soul restoration flows into corporate influence, into family, church, city, national and international matters. Dallas Willard underlines this crucial aspect of soul restoration when he writes:- "The renovated heart is the only real hope for humanity." He also emphasises that no person or human agency has the power to restore the souls of men:- "We are formed by the sum total of life experiences but we are transformed by GOD alone."

John Ortberg writes about some of the difficult questions leaders ask in their hearts. "Why is it that I have a congregation of good people, they read their Bibles and pray, they are regular in church on Sunday, but they never seem to grow? Why is it that I never seem to grow?" - The answer to these and other similar difficult questions lies in the restoring of the soul.

Jesus, when illustrating the Kingdom of GOD, speaks of water that He gives that so satisfies that we will never thirst again. He also speaks of living water that will gush from our innermost being. While this seems so attractive, there have been many periods in history and still today when Christians enter the Kingdom slowly and with great difficulty, while some never enter. They are born again and so can "see" the Kingdom [Jn 3:3], they have been born with water and the Spirit so that they can "enter" the Kingdom [Jn 3:5], but never intentionally open themselves to inner transformation, i.e. soul restoration.

A Personal Experience of Soul Restoration

One of the basic questions we can ask ourselves to help us determine where we stand in this area of inner transformation is:- "Do I want GOD to be fully GOD in my life OR do I want GOD to be the Helper in my life." This question helps us clarify our soul's condition and also determines our progress in "Seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness."

The process of inner transformation is not an event, for example, Paul's encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road. Rather it is a process, worked out slowly step by step, over a period of time. Paul spent 14 years after the Damascus Road experience before he became fully involved in the church. Paul describes his experience as "being transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him."

Soul restoration is an inner incremental experience that take time and involves small steps, and the results are not immediately visible from the outside. So it doesn't fall into the category of the immediately noteworthy or the spectacular. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why soul restoration has seemed to have been overlooked in many places in the church.

The Example of Jesus

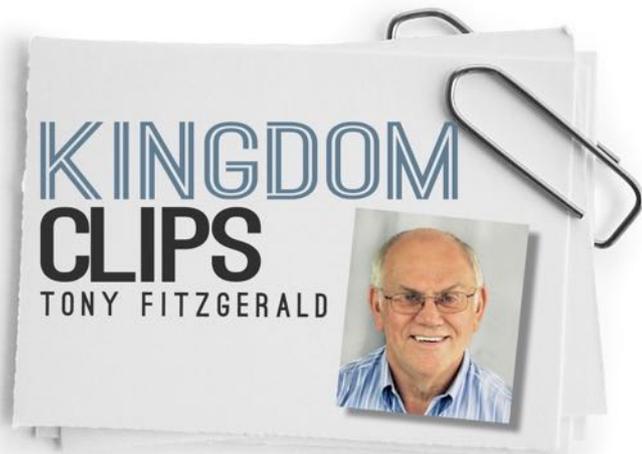
During His time on earth, Jesus gave extended time and attention to the soul transformation of the Twelve and the Seventy Two. Before He ascended, He told the Twelve to go and do the same to others, teaching them also to obey all that He had taught them. This started a revolution that still continues today, and will never cease until He comes again. This is a "now" reminder to us today.

Conclusion

I repeat the evaluation of Dallas Willard –
"The renovated heart is the only real hope for humanity."

In His love

Ken



Hope

Thank you Ken for an excellent article on Soul Restoration!

This article reminded me of a Kingdom truth that has helped me over the years, so I want to pass it on to all of you as well.

Paul said these 3 shall remain: Faith, Hope and Love.

The greatest is LOVE because God is Love, and Jesus taught that all of the law is wrapped up in it.

The Bible teaches us that "the just shall live by FAITH" and "without FAITH it is impossible to please God".

What about Hope?

The writer says in Hebrews 6:19 "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul".

The more we see through the King's eyes the more hope rises and our soul is restored.

The result is that we can live with a restored soul in health prospering in all things.

John says in 3 John 1:2 "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health as your soul prospers."

You will see your destiny in Hope, release it through Faith and outwork it by Love.

Tony

COTN EVENTS 2015	DATE
COTN LEADERSHIFT SA, Jeffreys Bay	15-17 APRIL 2015
COTN DAY OF PRAYER	13 SEPTEMBER 2015
COTN LEADERSHIFT EUROPE, The Netherlands	24-27 SEPTEMBER 2015



THE KINGS ARE COMING

Arise, shine, for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples
but the Lord rises upon you
and His glory appears over you
Nations will come to your light
and Kings to the brightness of your dawn

cotn kingdom
CHURCH OF THE NATIONS
**LEADER
SHIFT**
15-17 APRIL 2015
HARVEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SOUTH AFRICA

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