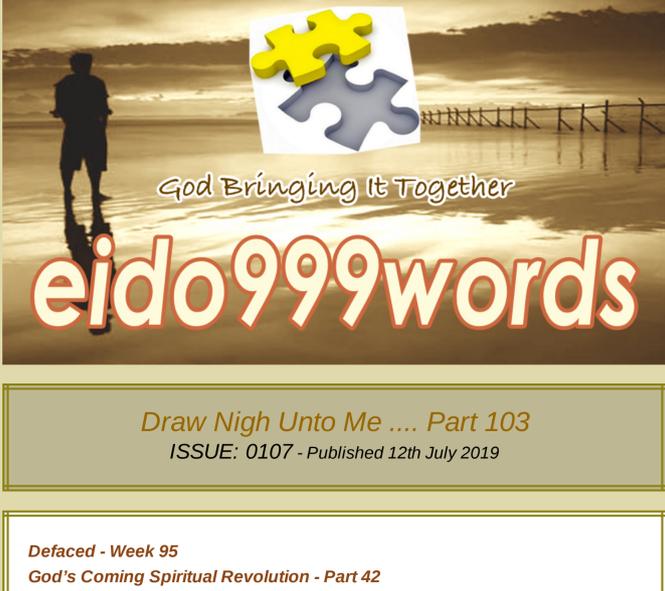


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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 103

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Defaced - Week 95

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 42

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (continued)

You may recall it is some weeks now since I was led to pose two questions regarding what I had shared concerning my dog Seth & my Uncle Jim.

Though you may have lost sight of the fact, I have yet to specifically answer them which I now hope to do so.

Question 1. What specifically was it in each of them that caused them to be such exceptions to the rule & is there a single correlating factor to be found there?

1. Seth The Dog

I previously made a point that in coming to know Seth I came to understand that animals are similar to humans in many ways & suffer many of the same things we do.

Like us, they have different temperaments some of which develop naturally, while others are forged through the experiences & treatment they encounter in life.

Seth won our hearts instantly with his welcoming temperament that seemed to instantly envelop you within a soothing sense of total acceptance.

If he had been a human with such a temperament, I'm sure the life he had to live would have taken a discernible toll on him & his ability to be so accepting.

His original master was a young man just entering adulthood.

Due to circumstances of life, his master went to the city to work leaving Seth with his father in the family home.

Some years later he returned again, virtually giving Seth two masters in the one home, only to later move into my daughter's home & soon after having to shift again into our home, where I became his master.

He came to us because after returning home for some time the young man again left the family home to settle into married life with our daughter & he took Seth to live with them.

As his father always had a dog in his life, he now felt the need to purchase a replacement puppy of the same breed for him now he had reclaimed Seth.

While his father chose a new puppy at the kennels, his son & our daughter both fell in love with its sister & decided to purchase her for themselves.

Believing she could be a companion for Seth, it proved to be an idea Seth did not exactly take kindly to.

Then when Seth was taken to visit his former home, that of the father, he was to discover yet another puppy of his breed had also replaced him there.

This proved to be a bit too much for Seth & he became very disturbed which then resulted in his coming to live with us until eventually, he passed on.

Yet, any time he came into the presence of either or both of his former masters, he acknowledged & responded to each one out of his intimate knowledge of them as individuals.

He respected & honoured each one for the roles they had played in his life while at the same time asserting & reaffirming his acceptance of me as his current master.

Seth was an animal, yet his continual welcoming acceptance & respectful character forever shown toward all men mirrored that found in my Uncle Jim.

If Seth were human I am certain he would have been as much of a very welcoming refined & distinguished character as my uncle was.

I am sure he would be found forever embracing everyone with that same rare true & welcoming acceptance to be so easily perceived & received by all.

Ecclesiastes 3:18-21 (NIRV)

18 I also said to myself, "God tests human beings. He does this so they can see that in certain ways they are like animals.

19a Surely what happens to animals happens to people too.

Like humans, what happens to animals can also adversely affect them in a myriad of ways that can likewise become self-evident in their approach & behaviour.

Let me now share about another dog we came to know, taken in by our son's wife after being handed down from her brother to the father & then on to her.

This dog was always lifeless & depressed, hiding under a bed all day if you let it & her constant inaction & moodiness resembled a person who had lost all hope in life.

Her ways were completely opposite to what was so easily perceived as Seth's ability to envelop you within a true acceptance that soothed the soul.

There was a great need in her for a personal revival as she appeared to have little ability to care, much less accept.

I saw such a stark contrast between these two dogs temperament, behaviour & ability to share themselves with humans.

If we are like animals in certain ways then conversely they also are like us & our behaviours affect them just as theirs affect us.

This may be so, but additionally, any acknowledgment that animals cannot sin should lead us to rightfully recognise an ability for them to teach us in areas our sin has blinded us.

Job 12:7-10 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

7 "But ask the animals what God does. They will teach you. Or ask the birds in the sky. They will tell you.

8 Or speak to the earth. It will teach you. Or let the fish in the ocean educate you.

9 Are there any of these creatures that don't know what the powerful hand of the Lord has done?

10 He holds the life of every creature in his hand. He controls the breath of every human being.

If you acknowledge The Word of God as infallible, this scripture then unearths yet another question, for in light of this knowledge how could one animal lose sight of its meaning?

More especially as another seemingly oozed forth an interpretive translation to those with ears to hear what God is revealing to us through it?

I believe a major part of the answer can be found within the opening remarks of an article entitled

"10 biblical truths about animals"

Written by Barrett Duke.

Ref: <https://eric.com/resource-library/articles/10-biblical-truths-about-animals>

"I grew up in the city, without pets.

My appreciation for animals developed much later in life.

In fact, if it weren't for a Golden Retriever named Rusty that I got for my children in 2004, I might never have made my journey toward animals.

Rusty was the dog everyone should have—loving, playful, and eager to please. He was no Lassie, but he was plenty smart.

Before long, Rusty was part of the family.

Rusty made a convert out of me.

He taught me that there are no bad dogs, only bad owners who make dogs, and many other animals, bad.

Animals do what they do.

They are innocent even in their cruelty because they have no concept of morality. Morality is the territory of humans.

We have the knowledge of good and evil, and we can choose between the two.

Rusty taught me that animals deserve my respect and care.

He helped me understand that **animals are also uniquely God's creatures.**

When I considered the teaching of the Bible about animals from the perspective of my relationship with Rusty, I gained a new appreciation for all animals.

The Bible teaches us that God created animals.

They aren't the product of happenstance or fortuitous natural processes any more than humans are.

Genesis 1:24-25 says God created the animals, from the beasts of the earth to the creeping insects.

Scripture even tells us that the breath of life resides within them (**Gen. 7:15**).

By virtue of our creation in the image of God, we humans are uniquely special in comparison to all of creation, but that does not mean the rest of creation has no value to God or that he doesn't enjoy it." (emphasis added)

As I had previously remarked in Issue 0103 "A most glaring fact is that all men fell into & continue to perpetrate sin, while animals do not sin but suffer under the effect of man's sin."

Animals know what the powerful Hand of the Lord has done (**Job 12:9** see above) & exist in the innocence God Created them in.

But as humans, we continue to fail to acknowledge or know what the Hand of the Lord has done & we ourselves continue to exist outside of the innocence God Created us in.

With sin manifesting all kinds of various effects far beyond just ourselves.

For all of God's creation surrounding us is continually contaminated by our sin, bringing individual & adverse effect to bear upon all living things.

Sin is held together by the concept of self, the 'I' in the middle.

Even for us Christians, any resistance to the Obedience of Christ truly defacing our disobedience gives life to a sense of righteousness emanating from within ourselves.

This alone can only ever produce but a form of true obedience to God's Word, for the only man Truly Obedient was Jesus.

Only He who fulfilled all the Law & the Prophets can truly deface our disobedience.

Jeremiah 8:7 (NIRV)

7 Storks know when to fly south. So do doves, swifts and thrushes. But my people do not know what I require them to do.

Such is what led Apostle Paul to write the following verses to not only acknowledge but openly declare his weaknesses revealed in the Light of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:5-10 (NIRV)

5 On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.

6 But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me,

7 even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep [a] me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. [b]

8 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me,

9 but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power [c] is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

10 Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

This also is why the Bible tells us that all creation, in knowing what the powerful hand of the Lord has done, longs for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Romans 8:19-24 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

19 Everything God created looks forward to the future. That will be the time when his children appear in their full and final glory.

20 The created world was held back from fulfilling its purpose. But this was not the result of its own choice. It was planned that way by the one who held it back. God planned

21 to set the created world free. He didn't want it to rot away. Instead, God wanted it to have the same freedom and glory that his children have.

22 We know that all that God created has been groaning. It is in pain as if it were giving birth to a child. The created world continues to groan even now.

23 And that's not all. We have the Holy Spirit as the promise of future blessing. But we also groan inside ourselves. We do this as we look forward to the time when God adopts us as full members of his family. Then he will give us everything he has for us. He will raise our bodies and give glory to them.

24 That's the hope we had when we were saved. But hope that can be seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

Indeed the ways of God can be very mysterious to us yet from somewhere within those mysteries He delivers great Truths to our hearts.

Romans 11:33: KJV

33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

There is one great aspect of Truth I believe animals in their innocence are admirably capable of enacting so much purer than mankind in its sinful heart could ever hope to.

One that Seth's constant demonstration of has now led me to discover.

The Truth that Pure Love is found embodied in true acceptance.

Love,
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 96 follows next week]



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