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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 104

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Defaced - Week 96

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 43

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

Continued from the last issue:
2. My Uncle Jim

In the part of his article I shared last week Barrett Duke revealed he did not learn to truly appreciate animals until later in his life.

Just as it was with me, however, it was much later in my case.

On the other hand, the truly unique appreciation of my Uncle Jim was formed beyond my earliest memories of him.

For my perception of him was constant & steady throughout & has remained fully intact far beyond his passing.

The mention of him serves only to reopen cherished memories of the rare meetings with him & the far rarer effect of being in his presence forever promoted.

For so many years it's proven incapable of either yielding or growing.

It just is what it is & is what it always was!

For the experience was a unique comforting constant in life & its very nature commands it be forever accepted & perceived as such.

It was not something you lusted after, sought out or felt driven to make moves to re-enact at any time.

More like something eternally real enveloping you for a moment in a peaceful comfort the likes of which cannot be found in this world of temporality.

So startingly unique any remembrance would only serve to rekindle its full effect.

Due to financial restraints when our daughter married her wedding reception was held in a marquee in our backyard & it was a simple affair.

It had all the ingredients to so easily become a total disaster but it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone & was fondly talked of by everyone for many months.

Though its memory still generates inner peace I know that if we were ever to attempt to re-enact such an event it would probably fail miserably.

Who of us doesn't have fond memories of an event, a day or a meeting the memory of which rekindles something special & dear to us?

They are so cherished because in truth we know they were spontaneous moments in time that can never be recaptured in the same way again.

Often we make moves to try & recreate it only to bring great disappointment upon ourselves because we fail to give recognition to the temporal aspects of this life.

Similarly, we all have had experiences with people that we were so taken with that we were convinced they would be a constant in our lives.

Our own opinions of each other swing like revolving doors that seldom allow ourselves the comfort that a true constant brings.

We all forever long for such comfort in this life but it seems the only constant is change.

Yet this was the very essence of the uniqueness everyone felt in the presence of my uncle.

Everything about him coupled with the contentment his presence exuded from us never wavered & in so being it became a constant to us all.

His always intimate & individual approach to you, his commanding presence, his disarming smile & his contagious inner peace put you at peace with yourself.

For reasons beyond our simple understanding, it felt as though you were in the presence of something greater than all your comprehension of life had ever, or ever could give.

And his obvious contentment with you flowed effortlessly to cover you in a sense of true acceptance.

That was Jim, my father's elder brother, orphan, husband, soldier, prisoner of war, widower, husband again, father & grandfather.

A lowly greenkeeper, who after seeing what life can do to men, met something greater & then chose to live out his days in the simplicity revealed.

By allowing himself to be turned away from the draw of life's power upon men by prioritising family, to freely give acceptance & love in the reflection of what was given him.

That was the heart intent upon which his new life was founded & from which he drew, that in turn, freely gave glimpses to others of the power of simplicity.

Complexities of this life either bind us in our haughty struggles to overcome & unravel them or hold us in bondage bound in the very complexity of it all.

I believe my uncle entered the prisoner of war camp & was more captive to those same complexities than he was by his physical captors.

Somewhere in the midst of it, a Greater Power visited upon him & knitted him in Love to the very essence of its simplicity, & shaped the path of the rest of his life.

Leading him to turn right around & head back to where he now knew he had come from.

During his approach to that new journey's end, we met with him & spent what turned out to be our last time together.

As shared previously, in being aware I was now a Christian he now felt to share that in the prisoner of war camp he had an encounter with God.

He added that his faith life had been a quiet one.

So quiet that in my former life of spiritual ignorance, along with so many others, it reverberated loud enough to last a lifetime.

Its manifestation in him always enthralled, engrossed & fascinated me with a brief, incomplete view of something greater.

Something that in all honesty, you wished you had but could never envisage would be found on the road life was laying ahead of you.

It was something greater for it lay beyond knowledge & understanding yet it never failed to leave its touch deep within.

And thankfully at 38 years of age, the touch became an embrace. Praise God!

In all that I have shared of my uncle, am I trying to promote him as a man beyond reproach? one to be regarded greater than the rest of us?

God forbid, of course not!

Most certainly, we loved & respected him greatly, but it was never the man as such, for in all truth we barely knew him.

Rather it was the very special something that just seemed to touch you in a way beyond any ability to truly express, not that it needed to be, for it was felt generally as well as personally.

In sharing detail Holy Spirit has afforded us all a broad, overall perspective or common vantage point.

One from which we can explore & seek to discover & acknowledge a single common spiritual root in one animal & one man, both being subjects of my sharings here.

A root that hopefully reveals a seed of simplicity God can manifest within us & so move us a step closer to the conscious awareness ordained to lift us from slumber.

We have previously seen there are physical similarities between a man & a dog (animals) & furthermore both, the Bible says, will physically end up back where they came from.

Ecclesiastes 3:20 KJV

20 All go to the one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

But what about spiritually? Do both have a spirit enabling connection to God?

Ecclesiastes 3:21 NLT

21 For who can prove that the human spirit goes up and the spirit of animals goes down into the earth?

We also know that animals do not sin but man does & both labour under its effect.

But animals remain spiritually knowing what God does while awakened men can only live in a renewed hope to seek for knowing again.

Job 12:7-10 NIRV

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

Our question described both as being seen as exceptions to the rule, what rule? the rule of self?

Yes, it certainly has a part in the foundation of what is at question here for it is the concept of self that keeps sin alive at varying levels in everything we do.

But we are looking for something so completely reversed to the general rule of man's conduct, both sinner & saint, that it exceptionally reflects a Spiritual Truth of God.

For Seth the dog, it came out of his knowing what God does, but for Jim the man it required a surrender greater than that given to his wartime captors.

The King of Righteousness visited upon him in his physical captivity, & in his heart, he accepted captivity to the chains of Pure Love.

Captivity within which at some time he must have discovered the Truth animals know, that Pure Love (God) is found embodied in His True Acceptance of them within Creation.

For God Who Is Pure, Is Love, & the Death & Resurrection of Jesus is His Sign of True Acceptance, the Sign of Jonah, being as Jesus said, the only sign that would be given to the world.

That when any man who in his heart declares Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives acknowledges his acceptance into the Kingdom through Jesus & receives the Love of God.

And is now Called of God to no longer busy himself seeking other's acceptance but to give it to all men, that they might feel the touch.

Matthew 10:8 KJV

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

I believe my uncle found Pure Love embodied in God's True Acceptance of him in a very exceptional way.

Always evidenced within his freely giving what he freely received.

Question 1 (reminder):

(a) What specifically was it in each of them

that caused them to be such exceptions to the rule &

(b) is there a single correlating factor to be found there?

Conclusion:

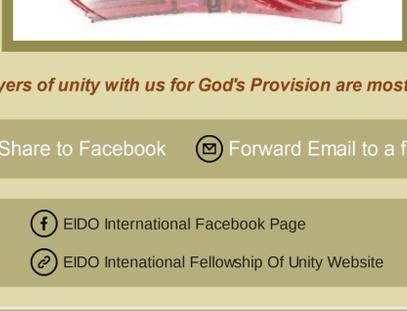
(a) A living working knowledge of God's True Acceptance of themselves &

(b) its possession enabling the giving of true acceptance first, to powerfully reflect God & His Pure Love, that first sent acceptance to us.

Love,

Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 97 follows next week]



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