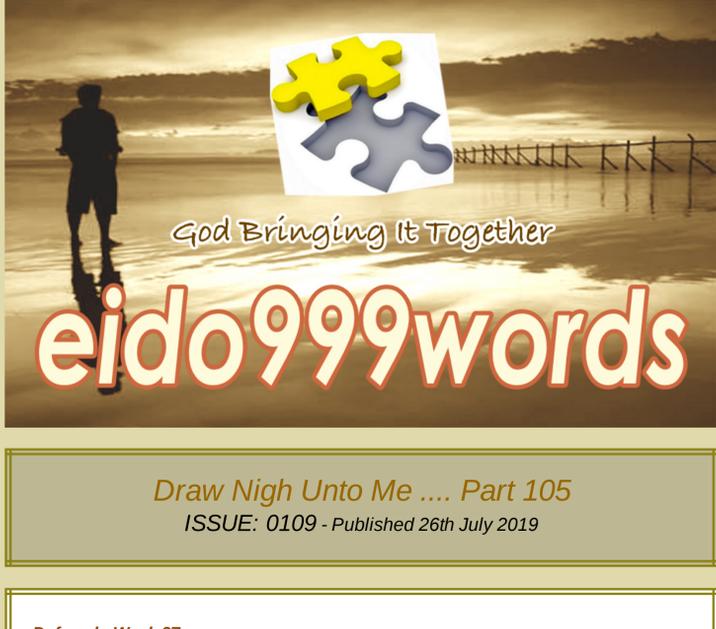


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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 105

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Defaced - Week 97

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 44

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

Continued from the last issue:

Q2. What do I see caused me to declare the actions of both my uncle & my dog as reflections of what I came to find in my coming to Jesus?

As I have previously related, my wife, unlike me, did not hesitate to accept our son-in-law's dog coming to live with us permanently.

For me, it needed time to develop, but for her acceptance was seemingly immediate & total, treating Seth as though we had a child in the home again.

In the evenings the lounge was his, until bedtime, when she would rally him out of his slumber to go outside for the final time before retiring to bed herself.

One night he was in a very deep sleep when she came back into the room, stood over the lounge & exuberantly bellowed for him to come outside.

Now Seth was far from a diminutive lapdog for he was a Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or Staffie as they are affectionately known.

He was a particularly stocky example of his breed which is very muscular & unusually strong with an instinctively pugnacious or combative nature.

In being startled he lunged at her, baring his mouthful of frightful teeth while holding an angry menacing stare.

It lasted only as long as it took to collect his thoughts, but long enough for her open acceptance of him to be completely lost for some days until she recovered.

For him the moment he realised what was going on his instinctive nature to guard & protect went into instant withdrawal.

The menacing eyes became downturned pools of sorrow, the stern expression became remorseful & the tense body relaxed into an expression & stance that now sought understanding & forgiveness.

Awakening to full consciousness was enough for his spirit of loving acceptance to quell his instinctive combative nature.

Instantly restoring the true acceptance he had given when we first met along with full recognition of the deeper respect developed since.

However, it was such a fright to my wife that it took three days before she could even begin to desire to re-establish her previously held acceptance & trust of Seth.

Having witnessed it from across the room I tried to calm & reassure her it was just instinctive behaviour kicking in, for she had startled him while in a deep sleep.

But for her at the time, there was now a path of recovery set before her that only she could travel, for it needed to be resolved within herself.

Even though she must have also seen his instantaneous turnaround the moment he had conscious awareness of what had startled him.

For this was her instinctive reaction to the incident & being human, of course, the concept of self readily interrupts to hinder us.

In Seth's case, being an animal, his awakening to reality found everything intact & all I saw him display was a need to affirm it was instinctive, that he did not mean to do it.

But we humans need to reconsider everything focused upon self, with our natural focal point being whether it be beneficial or detrimental to us as an individual.

This is part of the wages of sin, serving only to bind ourselves up in ways that maintain conflict in our hearts regarding self.

For animals, their natural reactions are instinctive & their behaviours often learnt or moulded from the environment & those around them.

Definition of instinct:

1. An inborn pattern of behaviour that is characteristic of a species and is often a response to specific environmental stimuli.

Furthermore, because of the absence of sin in animals, their focal point is outside of self, hence the loyalty & obedience we found so fascinating in Seth.

That is why when in the presence of humans, the sin of mankind can adversely affect them, happy master, happy dog, abusive master, forlorn dog etc.

It is not only our direct behaviours toward them but also our detrimental actions against the environment in which they live that adversely affects them.

So it was that a year or so after our first experiencing Seth's ready acceptance of us, I was to witness this incident between him & my wife.

A moment in time, that reaffirmed that Seth's original acceptance was true acceptance which opens the way to true love.

One so genuine that barring the unpardonable, the door to it was so fully open it was impossible to shut.

For it is the one door through which true love flows through sinless, selfless hearts.

The door to the Heart of God.

John 10:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Now, as I have previously shared, I also found another form of such true acceptance when in the presence of my Uncle Jim.

And yet he, like all of us, was human & therefore far from having a sinless or selfless heart.

But he most definitely emanated something so very rare that even though you did not understand what it was, it blanketed you in a true living peace & joy.

So much so that every fleeting memory of what was felt serves only to prove to us that it remains alive somewhere deep within the unfathomable parts of our being.

There was another uncle who brought great joy not only to me but everyone in my family.

He was a relation to my grandmother, a bachelor, seemingly without a place to call home, appearing to be just toing & froing in life & always appearing out of nowhere.

He rarely came to visit the family but his coming was always a complete surprise that was welcomed with enthusiasm.

He was quite a character, a bit of a rascal really & a practical joker who loved to tell stories & entertain us children by getting everyone laughing & joyful around him.

The difference being he was a man of the world, pampering to his & others lusts of the flesh, through soliciting an attraction designed to take captive the centre of attention.

The typical ever playful mischievous relative every family seems to have, who brings lots of fun & enjoyment but nothing to build a strong stable life upon.

He openly projected an image of leading a uniquely unhindered life, full of fun & games, adventure & a shameless disregard to the normal 'rule' of life.

His draw to temporarily join him outside its boundaries held us captive & enthralled, within a sense of blessing, by way of some release from life's boredom.

He drew everyone to his feet, causing them to hang on every word or gesture less they miss out on something, holding us in bondage to the temporal joy & peace on offer.

Then he would disappear as quickly as he came & all was forgotten till next time, the joy departing with him to leave only dead memories that produced no true life.

Furthermore, any realisation of truth would reveal it was just as much, if not more, about him than anyone else, rendering its memory incapable of producing true peace.

Serving only to produce a slumbering or a loss of awareness in us that in turn, only fosters illusion to prevent understanding of what we have truly turned our backs on.

For such moments, though enjoyable to the flesh, are unsuitable pasture for true joy & peace to grow & tend only to steal, kill & destroy the hope thereof.

John 10:10 New King James Version (NKJV)

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

This man was a stark contrast to Uncle Jim, the quiet genteel gentleman who did nothing outwardly to entice, embrace or hold your attention.

Where one was overbearing, the other serene, one the master, the other subservient, one taking, the other giving, one contagious, the other treasured, one detached, the other intimate, one giving, the other providing.

Two different men, both of whom brought contrasting forms of joy, one carnal the other spiritual, but only one brought peace.

One set himself in the middle of everyone's attention to hold them in bondage & the other released you to graze in pasture capable of producing a sense of true joy & true peace as he watched on.

John 10:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

12 But a [a]hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

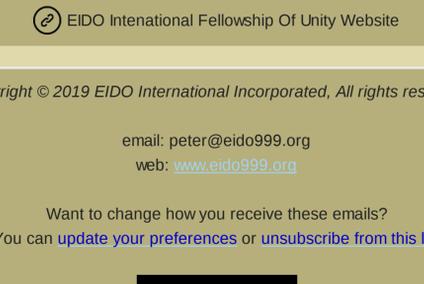
16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

- To Be Continued

Love,

Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 98 follows next week]



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