

Beware the folly of ignorance

In the early hours of the morning, the Lord spoke about ignorance in churches, and how there is no excuse for ignorance. The saying goes that 'ignorance is bliss', yet with the Lord and with His Kingdom, such reasoning is merely folly and not wisdom at all.

It says in Hosea 4:6: My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

A lack of knowledge speaks of ignorance. The definition of ignorance is that it a lack of knowledge or information. In Hosea 3, the people were warned that they were being destroyed because they rejected the Lord's knowledge. The Holy Spirit according to Isaiah 11 is the Spirit of knowledge, wisdom and understanding. The Spirit was poured out to lead and guide us in all truth; therefore, there is no excuse for ignorance. We are called to walk in God's Wisdom, and not the wisdom or the knowledge of this world. And we must be careful not to interpret the truth according to the wisdom formed or shaped by our own perceptions, ideas and education. Indeed, *the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy James 3:17).*

But the Lord placed it on my heart there are things we teach, preach, advocate, proclaim, encourage and embrace as being a truth, or there are truths of he Lord that we oppose, merely because we lack understanding and we lack knowledge, thus we walk in ignorance. If we fail to walk in the complete truth of God and remain not seeking the right path, therefore not repenting, then we have rejected truth. The spiritual realm is complex, and not everything is at times so clear cut and simple. The prophets understand the reality of the complexities. Thus we need to totally and utterly submit to the Lord for our guidance on the path of truth, lest we do not walk in deception and thus deceive others.

This is not a trivial matter, for if we preach not the entire truth of the Gospel we then are accursed (Galatians 1:9) and we thus embrace and teach and preach a curse. Even worse, we run the risk of mocking, rebelling against Him for not walking in His Truth (and rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft) and we are in danger of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. And so it says in *Galatians 6: 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* And also *Mark 3:28-30 New King James Version: 28 "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; 29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"— 30 because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."*

To blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to demonize the work of the Spirit, or to call the work of the Spirit unclean, or even the work of man. Today in churches there is still great ignorance regarding the move and work of the Holy Spirit. And because of our ignorance, despite our best intentions, we even can blaspheme against the Spirit of the Lord.

One clear example is the speaking of tongues – not the gift by the heavenly language (s) – but eh tongues of the heavenly kind. Right now in churches this is being branded and regarded as being demonic, and it is called a profane fire. Thus millions of believers who speak in such languages are now all of a sudden demonic, deluded and under some of illusion, including the author of this work. Arguments go that that Jesus never spoke in tongues (yet we truly do not know), and we point out that tongues are only speaking in other dialects and early languages (which Is true), but in our ignorance we now claim this is demonic or a work of the flesh. Yes, this is but ignorance, and so we grieve the Holy Spirit is our ignorance, and even blaspheme against the Spirit of the Living God.

This comes down to all the work of the Holy Spirit, or the ways of God, or the ways of the Kingdom. In our lack of understanding, we make erroneous statements and claims, even supporting such claims through misinterpreting Scriptures. Reality is that there is great but great danger in ignorance and ignorance comes from a lack of wisdom and knowledge from God that accumulates into true understanding. And so God is warning the church against being ignorant, for sometimes our arrogance and prides also fuels such ignorance. After all, we would love to be right, but to be right doesn't always mean we are walking in the truth. This is the time more than ever of *Galatians 6: 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.* Indeed, we need to make sure in our walk with God that we do not walk in ignorance, for this is dangerous to our spiritual condition.

It says the following in *Job 36: "Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding. 6 He does not preserve the life of the wicked, But gives justice to the oppressed. 7 He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; But they are on the throne with kings, For He has seated them forever, And they are exalted. 8 And if they are bound in fetters, Held in the cords of affliction, 9 Then He tells them their work and their transgressions— That they have acted defiantly. 10 He also opens their ear to instruction, And commands that they turn from iniquity. 11 If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures. 12 But if they do not obey, They shall perish by the sword, And they shall die without knowledge.*

It is made clear in *Job 36* that a lack of knowledge does lead to our demise, and such ignorance comes from a lack of obeying God. Jesus said if we love Him we shall obey Him. He has called us according to the Great Commission to proclaim all that He has taught. By the way, when it comes to *Job*, remember how *Job's* friends came him all kinds of ill advice? This is because they were ignorant to the truth and the spiritual reality of things.

The Lord is very serious that we need to start walking in wisdom, in true knowledge and understanding, lest we fall into the pit and trap of ignorance! It says in *Proverbs 5: 22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. 23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.* Indeed, our ignorance shall lead us astray if we wish to remain folly! For such ignorance will ensnare us, and bring about spiritual confusion. And so we are reminded of *Psalms 1: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,*

And in His law he meditates day and night. If we therefore remain in the Lord, in His Word, led by the Spirit, we shall then surely not be led astray down the path of ignorance's folly.

Let us read of Israel's leaders in *Isaiah 56: 9 All you beasts of the field, come to devour, All you beasts in the forest. 10 His watchmen are blind, They are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. 11 Yes, they are greedy dogs Which never have enough. And they are shepherds Who cannot understand; They all look to their own way, Every one for his own gain ...*

Of the 39 kings who ruled the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel after Solomon, only five did what was right in the eyes of God. Here Isaiah makes it clear that the leaders of Israel – the kings and even the priests – are ignorant, sleeping, slumbering and seeking their own gain. They DO NOT UNDERSTAND which speaks of ignorance. We must guard against ignorance! We must guard against pride and arrogance, seeking to twist God's Truth for own gain or profit! We cannot merely advocate a "truth" for our own agenda if we are not sure of such a truth. This is dangerous.

Isaiah warned the leaders that they were sleeping, lying down and loving to slumber. Paul warns of this as well in 1 Thessalonians 5 in context of the day of the Lord, meaning that we must not continue in our ignorance or arrogance, for the indeed the day of the Lord is far closer than it was 2000 years ago. We read ... *4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*

Paul urges us to keep walking as children of light, to be sober, to be alert. This of course all speaks of our spiritual condition, where we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. This also implies that we must strive towards holiness, and grow in the knowledge and understanding of the Lord. There is basically no more time to be ignorant, or to act ignorant or even plead ignorance. Paul acknowledges his ignorance in 1 Timothy 1:13 when he writes: *Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.* Yes Paul was ignorant, but it was because he was unbeliever. Surely therefore a child of God who is supposed to walk in spirit and truth must and should not be ignorant or walk in spiritual darkness.

The author of Hebrews also warns of the peril of not progressing. It is written in chapter 6: *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits. 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*

His plea is supported by what Peter writes in the first epistle, the first chapter: *3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*

And also *2 Peter 1: Fruitful Growth in the Faith: 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Paul writes in *Ephesians 5: 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* Therefore, more than ever we as children of God need to seek the Lord, and we need to cry out for wisdom, and we need to walk in discernment and knowledge! Ignorance holds great danger, for only the Truth of the Lord sets free. Ignorance breeds religion, traditionalism and legalisms. Ignorance enslaves and ensnares. Paul writes of the spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 and begins by saying in verse 1: *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant ...* Paul wants the believer to fully grasp and understand the work of the Holy Spirit, to thus be equipped by such knowledge and understanding so that WE ARE NOT IGNORANT. Believers, we can no longer be ignorant. It is time for us to mature and to grow in maturity, thus in knowledge and wisdom.

Paul also writes in *1 Corinthians 14: 37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant....* His words echo what the Lord said in **Revelations 22: 11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.** The time is upon us to choose ... choose to serve God in fullness, and in the knowledge of God, thus not being led astray by ignorance, or we will choose the path of ignorance and so go astray and lead others astray.

Take note of what Paul says in *2 Corinthians 2: 10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive.* For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, **11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices ...** It says in *1 Peter 5:8: Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* Again,

we find the call to be sober, and to be alert. We as believers we need to be alert spiritually, thus awake to the schemes of the devil. And such schemes include introduction deception, heresies, strife, confusion, falseness, idolatry and a pseudo religion within the Body of Christ. To be sober and to be alert is truly a call if walking in discernment which comes by wisdom, therefore not being ignorant.

Only when we abide in the Lord, and we seek His wisdom and knowledge, can we become wise to the plans of the devil and counter it. We need to be alert, thus not ignorant, of his schemes and strategies, as we live in a world of New Age teachings, humanism, secularism, the occult, paganism and esoteric teachings. We need to be alert to how the devil has slipped into the church by introduction a Gospel which is false and dangerous. We think back to the days of Gnosticism to our modern day of prosperity teachings, the Word and Faith Movement, Jesus Only Doctrine and so much more. Yet if we walk in ignorance, how can then we guard against being not ignorant of the ways of the devil or his devices?

We must always remember *1 Timothy 4: Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.* And also *2 Peter 2: But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*

Consider the book of Jude, and then we realise this is day and time where ignorance has no place in the heart or mind of any believer. We need to be sober, alert and seek the Lord to walk in His Truth all the time. And then at the same time, not be in danger of rebelling against God by rejecting His truth by exchanging it with our own version of the truth.

One fears the church is caught up in all kinds of apostasy, deceptions, idolatry, strife and spiritual adultery, simply because we remain ignorant in our ways and therefore remain oblivious and ignorant to how the devil has come to steal, destroy and to kill right in the midst of the church! For the influences of the devil that has caught the church off-guard because of ignorance has resulted in *2 Timothy 2:23 (Amplified): But have nothing to do with foolish and ignorant speculations [useless disputes over unedifying, stupid controversies], since you know that they produce strife and give birth to quarrels.*

Yes, in our ignorance we have allowed division and strife to tear the church apart! We have allowed for idolatry and apostasy to cripple the Church, because we remain ignorant to the truth, to the spiritual realm, to the Kingdom of God and yes, the ways of the devil. It is time to wake up and to rise from our slumber to know what truth is and to proclaim such truth, for the truth of the Lord sets free (John 8). And so we are gain reminded of *1 Corinthians 15: ³⁴ Be sober-minded [be sensible, wake up from your*

spiritual stupor] as you ought, and stop sinning; for some [of you] have no knowledge of God [you are disgracefully ignorant of Him, and ignore His truths].

Take note of what Paul says in *1 Thessalonians 4 (AMP): 4 Finally, believers, we ask and admonish you in the Lord Jesus, that you follow the instruction that you received from us about how you ought to walk and please God (just as you are actually doing) and that you excel even more and more [pursuing a life of purpose and living in a way that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation]. 2 For you know what commandments and precepts we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, that you be sanctified [separated and set apart from sin]: that you abstain and back away from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor [being available for God's purpose and separated from things profane], 5 not [to be used] in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God and are ignorant of His will ...*

Do we truly know the ways of God or are we still ignorant of His Will? Do we truly know His Truth, and can we truly seek His Kingdom and His Righteousness above all else? Indeed, it is time to be set apart, sanctified from this world and from ignorance, so that we may walk in the Glory and to Glory of our Lord.

As a last though, we consider *Ephesians 3: 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*

It should be our heart's cry, our intention, our yearning, our journey to understand, to perceive and to know the manifold wisdom of God, so that we do not walk in ignorance, *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4: 13).*

For then we shall walk as a people who understands the reality of *2 Corinthians 10: 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.* Indeed, we must walk sober and alert, in the fullness of God, so that in His wisdom and truth we may rise against all things counterfeit, and everything that exalts itself up against the Kingdom of God. And we can only do so in the wisdom and counsel of God, and certainly not when we walk in ignorance and plead ignorance.