

## **Art and Faith. Have we dug deep enough to find treasure?**

I ask myself what God has called me to be in this world. The answer seems to be a vessel of honour, to be a light in a darkened world. To be salt that seasons a beautiful but often bitter world. To be as Christ in a world that is ignorant of a higher and more glorious way, HIS way. I am not a preacher, I hold no office in the 'church' so, what can I do? Believe God in all things and LIVE.

I am an actor, a singer, a writer, a believer and follower of Jesus Christ and I am in total union with the living God that is, as Jesus said '**I and the Father are one**' and not separated as so many Christians unfortunately believe is their position with God. I address pastors, leaders, ministers and members of the Christian creative community, whatever discipline that addresses (Actor, Filmmaker, Singer etc.) First I must know that I exist by the life of my Saviour who said He will never leave me nor forsake me. He is bound to me and I am bound to Him by HIS inseparable LOVE! If I cannot believe this and if I cannot live and operate in the creative field in accordance with the impulses that God has set within my DNA and make up, then I have not fully believed or entered into the script that God has already written for my life as an artist and all that that may entail. Did Michelangelo know that one day he would be responsible for decorating the ceiling of the Sistine chapel? Did CS Lewis ever expect that one day his great stories of Narnia and Aslan would become well made and inspirational movies that can stir your heart and instruct them as well ,if you listen with heavens ears? When we really look at things with a redemptive eye or spiritual inquiry we behold a greatness that God has breathed upon a man's work, for it is HIS to give, in the first place. GOD speaks to those who are willing to listen.

Dear artist, if I do not totally believe in the power of the blood of Jesus to deal with my sins, ALL OF THEM! (Past, present and future!) Or the work of the cross by the Spirit of GOD to accomplish in me that which I cannot do in myself, I will remain unsure of my security in Him and the choices I make as an artist. We are children of the Creator and until we get away from pleasing man in the world or the religious bodies we are trifling and playing with our gifts and our destiny. God is pleased by faith so we must believe that God is who He says He is. We must be those who know who we are in Christ and know what we have been called to do and be courageous enough to do it and BE concerned about nothing but what the Father tells US to do, IN THE CHURCH OR OUT OF IT! I know that can be a controversial statement but let the chips fall where they may. We must be a free people, especially us creatives who stand or fall before God alone and our conscience in our work.

We must own up and confess that as the body of Christ we have been very slow to realise, but are now waking up to the fact that the Christian community of artists and entertainers wherever they are, have

not always been understood, excepted, supported or catered for. Or perhaps it has been the other way round where they are applauded and held high in esteem as celebrities first and CHILDREN of GOD second. I say, CHRIST must have the pre-eminence at every stage, of a performer's life. This life as GODS creative instrument cannot be ordered by man, this life can only happen as our LORD brings us to a place of yielded worship and obedience to be HIS SERVANTS ONLY. Only this fits us to serve others, both the believer and unbeliever, HE works in us HIS heavenly, spiritual and unseen work. HE BRINGS US, WE CANNOT BRING OURSELVES.

Many have not been encouraged to take their gifts into the world and make a difference where it matters. How many talents do you have Filmmaker? Composer? Painter? Poet? Actor? Dancer? God gives the increase, in fact only HE can if it's to be lasting fruit! We work with what is in our hand, HE BLESSES AND INCREASES. The church drama group on a Saturday morning with a skit may grab someone's attention and may even so called 'win them to Christ', all well and good but then what next? They will have been bought into the kingdom and then go home and turn on the TV and suck up the staple diet that the world has to offer, none the wiser. Probably because it is not all bad, we don't really pay attention to it. And neither am I advocating all Christian stuff to be aired! We need the faith of God to move us in what we do as artists and believe in HIS POWER to have influence with what we create. The mind shapers of this nation, in music, theatre and film must be engaged wherever possible with ideas, creativity, and inspirational exposure that God has worked in us, in order to work it out again, into the world through us. WORKS that create a SABBATH rest for the soul and mind and creates a true spiritual joy.

*'All the fashions and stimulants of the world cannot create or sustain joy if the Spirit of God is outside of them all.'*

#### **Philippians 4:8 King James Version (KJV)**

***<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***

We are of the Kingdom that brings redemption and righteousness into the earth, as it is in heaven. It takes faith to not run the route of the world and to believe for new ideas of drama and film, poetry, music, and I believe it helps a long way when a church or group of believing artists understands that God

wants His people representing Him on the highest level in the arts and can seriously invest in this medium. But the saints must know that they are entering a domain jealously guarded by Satan, vainest of the vain and his cohorts and it is only by a united, prayerful advance with vision and God sent ideas, with agreement, faith and action that we stand and take ground for the Kingdom. We must believe that He will bring our goliaths down that WILL be there to block our path! And let me tell you creative person, your first Goliath will lie within **yourself**. Your fears and doubts, what will my church or pastor say? Is God really telling me to-do this? Say this? Create that? Should we not be doing it Hollywood's way? When I stand up in front of the church am I performing or praising? Well how about both, creative person, the abilities come from God anyway! I believe the world has yet so see God's glory rise through the Arts at a level we could only have dreamed of before. We must make way for those coming after us. If those of us in the arts can be honest about our struggles and battles in our profession as artists and are not afraid to show what the frustrating and trying side of faith looks like (*Which to a large degree is really unbelief and impatience*), we will be teaching the world something of an artist being ruled (**led**) by GOD. We advance in rest not in strife! If by our success we illustrate what perseverance has wrought we will have achieved something. If the world starts to talk about what Christians are putting out across the nation and world, they are hearing our message! The engine that powers all we do is CHRIST OUR LIFE and by HIM and the work of the BLESSED HOLY SPIRIT, the world will find that it is listening, watching, and hearing something that God has given us to share with them. God does the impossible with people who can say yes God I'm willing to walk hand in hand with my Art and Faith.

***'Help us Lord to see all things through your eyes'***

Gary Cordice Oct 2014