

GETTING THERE

BY: BRAD CULLEN – MAY 23, 2003

GETTING FROM “HERE” TO “THERE”
ELIJAH/ELISHA – FROM BRAD
I HEARD, “CONSIDER ELISHA.”

GETTING FROM “HERE” TO “THERE”

That words are merely inadequate symbols used to convey thoughts is easy to understand intellectually. That many of us have emotional attachments to words often belies our intellectual understanding. One easy path to seeing the difficulty is to hear what is considered by some to be an obscene four-letter word, in what is also considered by some, to be expressed inappropriately for a particular social setting. The oft repeated phrase, “Please... there are ladies present!” should bring us to collective understanding here. All the arguments to the effect that, “it is only a word,” do not dispel the immediate trauma created by using such an expletive in front of such an audience.

The religious antennas that most of us have in operation about certain “spiritual” words are no different. Let me provide two glaring examples. First, just the mention of the word “cross” in front of a Jehovah’s Witness brings an immediate reaction into play. Why? Because a JW understands that the word “cross” is an incorrect translation from the original language and moreover it has Pagan origins that make it an anathema to the very thing an Evangelical Christian is trying to express. The second example that comes to my mind revolves around a South Pacific culture that has supplanted the phrase, “The Pig of God,” in place of, “The Lamb of God.” The translator had difficulty because there simply is no equivalent to sheep in that particular island nation. The fact that a pig in that culture is sacred does nothing to reduce the consternation among the ranks of Evangelical Christians that hear it... with the emotional significance they place on both terms.

Can we agree that words create challenges for each of us? Both “carnality” and “spirituality” are examples. When we study the roots of these two words we have a small beginning of understanding of just how limited words are as tools of communication.

The following is an attempt to lay down a linguistic basis for “getting from here to there.” When I use the word “spiritual” I am making reference to the things that we cannot see with our physical eyes... but are nonetheless real. In fact, “spiritual,” as I am using the term, connotes REALITY that supercedes the illusion of what we “see” with our physical eyes. The word “carnal” (which simply means destructible by fire) hardly gives us a clue toward understanding the religious connotation of the word... though to be fair most religious (or anti-religious) people use the term “carnal” to mean “unspiritual.” In fact... “religious” and “anti-religious” are opposite sides of the same coin!

Here I am with a clear understanding of what I want to convey... bogged down in trying to explain it to others who have the capacity to see as well as I... but may use different terminology. There, I have used an entire page of words and phrases in an attempt to communicate. Still with me anyway?

How do we get from being stuck in the place of believing in and understanding that the unreality of the “seen” physical realm is “REAL” -- to being in the place of believing in and understanding the REALITY of the unseen “spiritual” realm? Let me toss out this reminder... the science of physics, i.e., atoms, is that of understanding what cannot be seen... yet is proven by mathematical theory and experiment... by definition, physical.

A nuclear explosion meets all arguments against the existence and theoretical make up of atomic particles head-on with dramatic force.

The detonation of an atom bomb is created by several ingredients, among which is the proper assembly of necessary materials. Nobody in his or her right mind argues about the existence of atoms anymore. Many mushroom clouds later... everyone is a believer.

Why is it that certain spiritual phenomena have so many unbelievers and detractors especially among those who say that they believe? I am going to deal with only one particular phenomenon. That is, what Jesus promised was available to anyone that believes in him... Frankly, something is pretty stupid when you stop and think about it. He not only promised that it was available... (is Jesus a liar?), but Jesus gave clear instructions in the original language for obtaining it. What’s more... just as with the many mushroom clouds later... nobody with any real intelligence can deny that many people that are following these instructions are obtaining the promise.

Only under rare conditions do I give out my phone number... with an e-mail audience of many hundreds reading and responding to my articles -- an audience that is growing rapidly, the new website and (currently) limited finances – at this point I must answer all my own e-mails personally – getting into the hundreds per week... I simply could not handle a large number of phone calls... even though there are so many of you I would love to talk with on a regular basis... hopefully you know who you are.

Circumstances have come about that one businessman thousands of miles distant does have my phone number... and he called me almost speechless this morning to tell me about several supernatural “happenings” that occurred just over the last couple of days. An atomic explosion, so to speak, of God inside him doing all sorts of things through him. This is being multiplied many times over... as more and more people are beginning to understand that just a few of the things that are cited in the little book “Unlocking the Treasure Chest of God’s Gifts” are real and available to anyone that follows the instructions. Note: None of us that are moving in this arena claim to do anything – it is the Father in us that does the works!

Back to the problem of why so many don’t believe what Jesus promised. I wrote the following when I was still in the organized church... I believe that it uncovers one reason for unbelief.

ELIJAH/ELISHA – FROM BRAD

I had a vision one night that what kept us from moving on into a place of overcoming – was making the wrong comparisons. We tended to compare ourselves with other people. Usually the comparison I made would consist of “I’m not as bad as so and so.” What held me back even more was comparing myself with someone whom I thought was more spiritual than myself.

Why was that even more detrimental to my progress on the path to higher spirituality?

Then I saw it... the only one who came to set an example for us as a man was Jesus. Once I saw the truth of that – all kinds of Scriptures “popped out” at me.”

The clincher was Jesus’ own words... “Everything you have seen me do, you will do also, if you believe.”

What did Jesus do? He walked on water, turned water into wine, raised people from the dead, healed the sick, cast out demons, gave sight to people even that had been born blind... etc., etc.

This was the comparison... the only comparison that I should be making.

I meditated on this and prayed for clarity. I was scheduled to speak two days later at a Bible conference at a state park near Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I knew Holy Spirit wanted me to use this as my theme. I saw that I was not prepared! I had been used by God to heal diseases and knew what my authority was regarding casting out demons... and, therefore, in comparison to most other folks in the organized church... I was okay in my own eyes.

Okay, I said... I see how I am totally lacking when comparing myself to Jesus. I was on my face praying and pounding on the floor that I wanted clarity to know what I should say.

I HEARD, “CONSIDER ELISHA.”

I had heard of Elisha and remembered that he had attached himself to Elijah as a servant of sorts. Elijah? Anyone who has ever gone to church, Sunday or Sabbath school has heard of Elijah. One of the great miracle-working prophets of Israel of all times. I looked up Elisha in a Bible concordance and found several references.

The second chapter of II Kings tells about how God was preparing to take Elijah up in a whirlwind... not die mind you, but take him off this physical plane in a whirlwind – past and excluding death.

Some of you that have read some of my articles will understand where I got part of my theology about “translating” or “transcending” instead of dying. The narrative has Elijah telling Elisha to leave him. Over and over this was the scene... “get lost kid.” Elisha refused to go – and finally Elijah asked him what he wanted.

Elisha said, “I want twice as much of Holy Spirit as is in you.” We need to note this... underline it in our minds. Here was one of the greatest prophets since Moses... and Elisha had the audacity to want double the amount of Holy Spirit that was operating in Elijah. Elisha kept badgering him... saying that this is what he wanted.

Elijah finally said to Elisha... "Okay, you have asked for something quite difficult... far more difficult than you can imagine. But here's the deal... if you are with me when I am taken up and you see me go... then you will have what you want."

It happened exactly like that. Elisha would not leave Elijah's side nor could he be distracted from keeping his eyes upon Elijah. As I went through I and II Kings, I saw that Elisha performed just about exactly twice the number of miracles that Elijah had performed!

I asked Spirit, "What am I supposed to learn from this?"

I heard, "Tell them to compare themselves to Jesus. You are trying to be a great conference speaker. STOP! This only causes wasteful comparisons of themselves to you. Go in humility. Go in My own presence and power... and tell them to compare themselves to Jesus. Tell them to be like Elisha. Attach themselves and refuse to take less than twice the same amount of My own Spirit operating in Jesus. You go demanding this and see if you are not hidden in Me and that I AM glorified."

It happened. That was just about the last speaking engagement that I took because I was shown that the church did not want this message. I was to remove myself, as most of you have read, from the organized church.

It is so simple. The destiny that Jesus proclaimed for us all, IF we believe, is to demand and keep demanding to be able to do what he promised anyone who believed in him can do. Everything he did and even greater things than he did.

This is our mission. We are being called to be in unity with one another... not in the shadow of reality that we refer to as the "church," but to bond to one another in fellowship in the presence and power of God's own Spirit and share the message that His authority, presence and power are available to anyone.

Are we ready?

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