

The Famine of Hearing the Word of God

Amos 8:11

In to-day's current society, there is no difference between the church and the world. Amos 8: 11 & 12 - Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

How similar is it today? Are there not many Bibles, many preachers, & many TV evangelists? The argument should not be which version you are using, but what is done with it.

James 1: 21 to 27 - Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein , he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

John 8: 43 - Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Luke 8: 21 - And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

Because the religious people were not right before God, they could neither understand the Word of God in person or on paper.

Mark 7: 6 - He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

For those whose hearts are right before God;

Luke 24: 44 to 49 - And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

John 16: 12 to 15 - I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

John 14: 26 - But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

1 John 4: 1 to 6 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

So there are two definite groups of people. One is of God, and the other is of the world. One has the spirit of truth, and the other has the spirit of error and anti-christ. What would the ungodly do, if they wanted to appease their consciences?

1 Kings 12: 26 to 33 - And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the

sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

2 Timothy 4: 3 & 4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

So these teachers will not be speaking the truth. Therefore, how can those under them hear the truth?

Romans 10: 12 to 17 - For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

So how can you discern what's of God, and what isn't?

2 Corinthians 13: 5 - Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Hebrews 5: 10 to 14 - Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

When evaluating, check where they stand on Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the Blood.

2 Corinthians 11: 4 - For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not

received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him .

It is extremely important to know what we believe, because he who does not stand for something, will fall for anything.

Matthew 7: 15 to 27 - Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

So our guide for discerning between good and evil, is the Word of God. I urge everyone to check out their beliefs, because their eternal destination depends on it.

As Roman Catholicism claims to be the largest faction of Christianity, let's look at it first.

1 Timothy 2: 5 & 6 - For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Yet they believe that Mary is the mediatrix between God and man. The Mary they worship, is not the Mary of the Bible.

Mark 7: 13 - Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: & many such like things do ye.

RCs have made their traditions equal to the Word of God.

Hebrews 9:11 & 12 - But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come by a greater & more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats & calves, but by

his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

John 19: 30 - When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

The Mass makes the Lord's sacrifice a regular ritual.

Matthew 7: 16 - Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

The abuse scandals are not over by any stretch of the imagination.

As for the Protestants, they aren't much better.

Hebrews 13: 8 - Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Yet, the Jesus they preach is an historical Jesus, who doesn't do anything for them to-day.

Mark 16: 14 to 18 - Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Full of unbelief, they don't practise most of the great commission.

John 10: 28 to 30 - And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

Yet many don't believe that Christ's Blood is good enough to provide eternal life. They think that you can lose your salvation.

Many of them ignore the Holy Spirit, and live defeated lives. The Reformation needs a Godly revival to-day. But there is another group that needs our attention. The Word Faith Movement has taken the world by storm. How does it measure up? There is much evidence around, & if you're not familiar with it, Ankerberg has a little book, called "Facts on the Faith Movement". An Indonesian pastor Leo Setzepfandt spent 4 years at a Word faith school. His testimony is called, "Rescued from the Word Faith Heresy". Matthew 17: 5 - While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Yet some of the Word Faith leaders have said that Jesus was the greatest failure in history. Some even claim to be able to do the same atoning work that Christ did.

1 John 1: 7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Mark 11: 22 - And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. But it gets switched to "have the god kind of faith".

The faith that they advocate, is the Star Wars force, that magically makes things happen.

Luke 8: 11 - Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

They say that your money is the seed & will take as much of it as they can.

Matthew 28: 18 to 20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Their main gospel is the prosperity message. Do you always get ten-fold in return, when you give to them? No! That's what happens when you follow the lying spirits in the false prophets.

1 Kings 22: 22 - And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

Luke 23: 46 - And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

One of their biggest lies, is that Jesus Christ had to go to hell, to be tortured by the devil, to become re-born. What utter garbage!

You will find that belief in paganism. When Word Faith started, most of its members were probably saved. But the teachings have gotten so far from the Bible now, that the people aren't hearing the correct truth; so how can they get saved? Even if they use Christian terminology, that does not make them Christians. So I now refer to them as Word Faith Occultists.

Matthew 7: 21 to 23 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Religious works, even deliverance, don't buy eternal life.

Acts 19: 13 to 20 - Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Also

there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Acts 19: 11 & 12 - Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

Can you see the difference?

Acts 8: 9 to 25 - But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me." So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned

to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. In this encounter, the genuine Simon Peter prevailed over the counterfeit Simon Magus. Now what would happen, if you combined Simon Magus with the sons of Sceva? You would have people with great spiritual power, doing great works in god's name. If there was no Christian pretence, it would be called spiritism. If it has a Christian flavour, it's called spiritualism.

Kurt Koch describes them in "Occult ABC".

I would not be surprised if satan has his false lights, or false deliverance groups to ensnare the unsuspecting. So how can you tell the difference? First, check out their doctrine, especially if they have a WF/MSG connection. If they are not rooted properly, the deliverances are not of God. If they only deal with small issues, or feely-goody things; watch out. If they refuse to deal with the occult; why?

There was a lady who came out of a spiritualist family. She had been going to a deliverance group for years, without receiving prayer for the occult.

That group blew apart shortly after this was made known.

Check out their writings and credentials. One even claims to be a doctor, but was kicked out a long time ago. Win Worley had an interesting encounter with her. There was a tape, "Expose of a Closet Witch", which describes encounters with them.

Watch out for theatrics, just because there's a lot of manifestations, doesn't mean there's a lot of deliverance happening. If left unchecked, the demons love to put on a floor show. Try binding the counterfeit manifestations, and don't let them show off.

It is extremely important in these last days, to be vigilant.

Matthew 24: 4 & 5 - And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

The latest deception of the devil, is to trap the people, as they seek to get closer to God. As they try to get holier, satan snares them with legalism, & inaccurate interpretations of God's Word. Eve was hooked this way.

Genesis 3: 1 to 8 - Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be

desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And in the early Church, the devil didn't wait very long before pouncing. Acts 15: 1 - And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

Notice the tactics. First, they mesmerize them, so they doubt the Word of God. Galatians 3: 1 - O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

They then put extra conditions on salvation.

Acts 4: 12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Ephesians 2: 8 & 9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Mark 14: 24 - And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

How do they do it? By playing the Old Covenant against the New. But we are no longer under the Old One, for salvation.

If you don't believe me, what does Our Lord Jesus say?

John 19: 30 - When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

They create confusion by pitting the Christian's worshipping on Sunday, the Lord's Day, against the Jew's sabbath.

Study how Our Lord treated the sabbath.

Mark 3: 4 - And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

And to those people, the violation of the sabbath was the worst crime, except for them.

Luke 13: 15 - The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

Romans 14: 5 & 6 - One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth,

eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

For those who want to play those religious games, don't be a hypocrite, follow the whole package.

2 Kings 17: 37 - And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods.

That means obey all of them.

So what you do, if you have been ensnared. Renounce and repent of false doctrine. And get deliverance from all those religious spirits, especially the Pharisaical ones.

If you want to see what Our Lord thinks about this, study the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, in Luke 18.

Spiritual growth is not an option, it is a requirement. We have God's Word, but we need the Holy Spirit to guide us in the right direction.

John 16: 3 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

So with Our Lord's help, we can stay firmly on the highway of holiness. Amen.

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