

Have You Been Fighting With God?

Take a long look at the activities of your life. Do you see a pattern of struggles and difficulties? Does your life seem to be going nowhere? Have all your hopes and dreams become dashed upon the rocks of life?

Have you set out on this adventure called life with great hopes and plans only to see them disappear in a sea of confusion and hopelessness? Are you banging your head against the proverbial wall, wondering why things are not going the way you think they should?

I want you to stop for a minute and examine your approach to life. Have you been trying to live your life apart from God? Did you decide, either consciously or subconsciously, to walk away from God? Or did your life just get too busy for Him? Have you ever stopped to ask yourself if perhaps you could be fighting against God?

Many of us have set sail, as the captain of our own ship, only to realize that, after years of wandering, we don't have any idea where we are going or what we are doing. Now we are older, lost at sea with a dense fog all around, and no land in sight!

My question to you is this: Have you forgotten the God of your youth? Back in the days of your younger years, were you taught about God? Do you remember the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Do you recall the account of Joseph and his coat of many colors? How about the stories of David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace? Do you remember Jesus Christ and how He died and rose again?

This God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God you once heard about, is still there after all your years of wandering around in the dark! He remains the God of LIGHT AND TRUTH! And He is your only beacon of hope in this dark world!

Jesus Christ has come to offer you a way out of the gloominess and into His glorious light. He said, "...**I am the way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (Jonn 14:6). You see, there is a clear way out of this life's fog and darkness and that WAY is Jesus Christ! He said "Come unto Me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). Are you in need of some serious rest?

Consider your life and where you are now without a close relationship with God. Do you want a life filled with countless joy, purpose, hope, and dreams that will come true? God loves you more than you will ever fully understand in this lifetime.

God is calling you back to a close relationship with Him! It is through Jesus that you can experience real, true, and everlasting life. It was Jesus who died for us that, through Him, we might have life forever. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only

begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16-17).

And in Jeremiah 29:11-14 in the New Living Translation we are told, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. **In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you,’ says the LORD...**”

The Godhead, both the Father and the Son, are making a special effort at the end of this age to call back all those who have wandered off, lost their way, or have been wounded and damaged by the various forms of “Christianity” today.

God loves all His children. “For **the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.** What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so **it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish**” (Matt. 18:11-14 NKJV). The one that became lost was, at one time, part of the “body of Christ”—the Church, but has wandered off and become missing.

God is right now out searching for all that are displaced. If you are one of God’s prodigal sons or daughters who has lost your way in this world, there is hope!

He said, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse [utter destruction]” (Mal. 4:5-6). God has already turned His heart back to you. Will you turn your heart back to your heavenly Father?

If you turn to God with all your heart, you can find Him again! We are told in Isaiah 59:1-2 that, “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

Maybe you have been calling out to God all these years with “I need” and “give me” prayers not realizing that it has been your sins that have separated you from God and have kept Him from hearing your prayers.

So where do you go from here?

Find a quiet, private place and cry out to God, confessing all your sins and ask God to forgive you. Ask Him to cover you with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Turn to God with all your heart and resolve to seek Him daily. Repent of turning your back on Him by trying to run your own life. Then determine to draw closer to Him through daily

prayer and the study of His Word. Allow Jesus Christ to be the Captain of your life and you will never be in darkness nor be cast upon the rocks again! He will be the source of your light!

God has said, "...to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word*" (Isa. 66:2).

If you would like personal counseling regarding your relationship with God, drop us a note by mail or an e-mail with a way to contact you by telephone at a convenient time for you.

Begin now to devour the booklets and articles on our website. We suggest you begin your quest with the *Doctrine of Christ* and *The Gospel Truth*. Ask God to guide you daily into all truth.

May God bless you as you endeavor to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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