

HOLDING ON TOO TIGHTLY

Most of us are familiar with the first of The Ten Commandments--"You shall have no other gods except me". (Aramaic translation.) As tradition has it, the Commandments were given by God to Moses to pass on to the Hebrew people. The Commandments were a set of Spiritual regulations which the Israelites were to live by and practice.

The Israelites had been exposed to the customs and religions of many "pagan" cultures and, from time to time when they felt their God had abandoned them, would put their faith in idols they had fashioned out of gold and silver. Praying to and believing in something tangible, like a golden calf, sometimes seemed to make more sense than prayers and faith in a "god" that could not be perceived by the five senses.

Moses realized that when some of the people fell into the acts of pagan practices that it severely impaired the faith and well being of the whole Israelite nation. And, when you stop and think about it, what "power" could an image made by the hands of men really have on their lives?

Now days, here in the Western world at least, we don't witness too much idol worship or people "bowing down to graven images". We seem to have moved well past that point--or have we?

Probably most all of us have been around, or know of, people who are wealthy--and their money and possessions have become the centers of their lives. Their concerns seem to be totally focused on accruing more wealth and possessions and holding on to what they already possess. Their biggest fear seems to be of losing, or someone else taking away, their precious money and possessions. Their lives are lived in an atmosphere of fear--fear of losing the luxuries they have amassed. They hold on as tightly as they can to everything that "belongs to them". Is that not "worshipping" something other than God?

And yes, we've seen the husband or wife, boy friend or girl friend, insanely jealous of his/her partner whenever the partner even looks at someone of the opposite sex. Like the people who "worship" their money and possessions, these people seem to "worship" their relationships.

Holding on to the other person appears to overshadow most all other priorities in their lives. Again, living in fear that the people they love with all their hearts and souls will somehow be taken out of their lives.

Many times the people who overly love their money and possessions or their significant others do indeed wind up losing them. Their fear of losing something or someone becomes their overriding thought. As I have pointed out before, fear is an extremely powerful, creative emotion and living with that continual fear in our consciousnesses just may, eventually, bring that fear into manifestation. Gautama Buddha put it this way--"You only lose what you cling to". Holding on too tightly to what we love, or "clinging to those things", can bring us much unhappiness and heartache.

Maybe, instead of focusing on holding on to something or someone we love, and the fear we feel with that focus, giving thanks for our wealth, possessions and relationships would be a better road to travel. When we focus on the gratitude of what God has provided we, somehow, lose much of the fear of potentially losing the people and/or possessions we have in our lives. We begin to create new openings in our lives for even more possessions and loving relationships!

Although wandering in the desert for 40 years was not pleasant, the Israelites found that when they "returned to God", and were thankful that God provided for their needs, they were eventually guided to a land of their own--a "land of milk and honey"! And we, when we focus our attentions on being thankful for all God has given us, instead of living in fear that we might lose something or someone, will also be led to more bountiful and wonderful lives!

All my best--

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