

Hello Everybody,

You may be thinking this is a really strange subject line "Seeing beyond the Physical Realm" but I feel this is a very important concept as Christians we need to consider, let me explain. I would like to begin this explanation with an illustration (story, something that has recently happened in my life):

Suppose there is a situation where there is someone that you are related too who has not treated you very well in relation to friendship with respect to family/relatives relationships, etc.

You are very upset with this person yet, whenever you see your relative you treat him/her nicely and act as if there is nothing wrong. Thus, you believe you have always treated them well, and have never done anything mean to him/her in question. Then one day, someone comes along and says that you really have not treated this person nicely. Upon pondering this statement a question you might ask yourself is "how have I not treated my relative nicely?"

(This story is to set the stage for what I would like to discuss concerning the subject of this email "Seeing beyond the physical realm." Now this is a very deep topic one which is of utmost importance when we talk about the kind of world view we live our lives by which is supposed to be a Biblical world view.)

Now that the stage has been set, the problem deals with having a relative that has treated you badly but you have always treated them nice, trying to show them the love of Yeshua (Jesus). Those of us, who have been raised in the faith, know that we are to love our enemies (even those relatives who make themselves out to be our enemies). So we get to the question that you might have asked yourself "how have I not treated my relative nicely?" There is something you may not have thought about. It concerns the condition of our heart. The prophet Jeremiah wrote that the heart is desperately wicked, who can know it, (1) and the apostle James wrote how the tongue no man can tame, and how it is an unruly evil. (2) The problem is within our hearts we have cursed those who have done us wrong. It may seem very casual and of no consequence but have you asked yourself these questions:

Do I believe the things I do in the physical are only what matters to the Lord? What about the intentions of my heart? What about the way I really, truly feel about those people who have hurt me? What I say, think, and do in private (behind closed doors and the backside of others), does it really matter?

I feel the evil thoughts of our hearts have become common place in our subconscious as a result of this world of evil we are surrounded by today. We think badly about people, rather than recognizing the spiritual state one is in, asking God to help us to forgive them for what they have done to us, and then praying for the person who has hurt us.

Did you know, that it is written if I regard iniquity in my heart, God will not hear my prayers, besides the prayer of repentance? (3) Yeshua said that if you bring an offering before the altar for sacrifice, that if you have "ought" (anger, disagreement, anything at all) with your brother, that you should go to **your** brother, make reconciliation first, and then return to the altar to make your sacrifice. (4) Furthermore,

Yeshua also said that if we can not forgive others their sins, how can we expect the Father in heaven to forgive us our sins. (5) This is something he repeated in the book of Matthew (6) and in the book of Mark (7), but the Apostle Mark went further and said if you stand praying, forgive. Have you wondered why Yeshua would make such statements? It is because if we regard iniquity in our hearts, God will not hear our prayers. With this in mind, how helpful are our prayers for others, if we hold anger, annoyance, vexation, exasperation, crossness, irritation, indignation, rage, fury, wrath, outrage, irascibility, ill temper, etc toward the person we are praying for. I believe these things nullify our prayers until we make our hearts right before the Lord.

The thoughts of our hearts are of utmost importance in our walk as Christians, because according to scripture, if we regard iniquity in our heart towards others, our prayers will go unheard. Have you wondered why your prayers are not being answered? This could be a reason why.

Let me give a biblical example how important it is for us to have a correct thought life. In the book of Daniel, chapter 9, Daniel after having been in captivity for 60 plus years was praying. Notice how he still dates according to the biblical sacrificial system making reference to the evening sacrifice. (8) Daniel having been exiled to a foreign country, after 60 years still maintains a Biblical world view, practice, and condition of the heart, and it is counted as righteousness to him for as soon as he started praying, his prayer was answered and the angel Gabriel was sent to speak with him. (9) In like manner we need to guard our hearts, forgive those who have sinned against us asking the Lord to help us to walk according to his ways, and to pray for those who have hurt us.

This is why I titled this email "Seeing beyond the Physical Realm" because we need to be looking at the condition of our hearts towards others. I struggle daily with this very thing; I have found HaSatan is always bringing up those things in my life that have caused me hurt and pain. When that happens, I always think back to what Yeshua taught concerning forgiveness and I answer HaSatan saying, "it is written, I am to forgive those who have sinned against me." As soon as I do this, my pain leaves me and a period of peace comes over my heart. I know it to be the Spirit of the Lord comforting me in the midst of the hurt and pain I personally have gone through. I can only pray that you will do the same.

Dear Lord, I ask that in the midst of our pain, the walk of life, that you would help us to forgive others the sins they have committed against us.

Help us to maintain a right heart towards others in the purity of love Yeshua demonstrated in his life towards us, laying his life down in a humble spirit that we may be forgiven. In Yeshua's name I Pray, Amen!

References

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- 1 **Dan. 9:21** In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
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Blessings in Messiah Yeshua

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