

Teachable-ness in Threshing

(Threshing Part Five)

One Vital Ingredient

There may be a lot of things to gain from understanding threshing. One area we may begin to understand is that the trials and tribulations of threshing are not about enduring purposeless suffering, but are meant to be part of a process in which Jesus may grow in us. Understanding God's heart and purpose to form Christ in us through all these things can help turn our crisis into an increase of Christ. Though we have discussed many aspects of the threshing process, there is one vital ingredient that is required in the "threshing hours" at which we have yet to look. This vital aspect is "teachableness". If this ingredient is skipped and not added to us as we lay in our troubles, then it will be impossible to rise up from the threshing floor changed from the tribulation. Just like baking a cake, you may have the flour, eggs, sugar and milk all mixed in, but if you forget to add the rising agent, the cake will not rise and will be inedible. Like the children of Israel wandering in the wilderness, stiff-necked and stubborn, we will just continue to circle repeatedly through the hot trials and crushing circumstances unchanged if our hearts are not teachable. It is not the suffering alone that makes the difference, nor the understanding of what God is trying to do through the trial, These elements can work together in the process of conformity, but they are not the only "ingredients" needed. It requires God Himself to bring forth the increase of the Seed of Christ in us. However, God will not violate our will to do this. He needs our hearts to be with Him in a certain way in order for Him to truly bring forth His Son from the furnace and His Seed from the threshing.

The Belief That We Know More Than God

One of the strongest forces in the universe is the belief that we are right in our view of things. Even at the end of this world, when all things have gone through incredible tribulation, there will be those who will still resist God and remain untouched by the tremendous pressures they have passed through (Rev. 16:11). Their self-righteous stance will remain intact despite incredible outward devastation. The inner man of the heart can remain unbroken though the outer man has endured many crushing trials. We can either "hold our

breath” through these things, just waiting to somehow make it through, or we can find God and embrace Him in the midst of our times of trial. We must seek God for a broken and contrite heart that will open to His view, His Seed, and therefore His increase in us. Transformation that revolutionizes who we are by the coming forth of Christ cannot happen if we cleave to our views above the Holy Spirit’s dealings. How sad it would be to go through an incredible time of upheaval and loss, knowing it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to gain Christ in a new way, only to later realize that deep within you would not let go of your old views that hindered His new Life from growing. To embrace the threshing process in the deepest way that will truly bring forth Christ requires faith that God knows more than we do. It requires that we trust that God is Fathering us in ways we have not yet attained to in maturity. We must let the sifting and dividing go deeper than the surface and reach into the hidden and inward parts where God alone discerns what is truly His Son in us formed and governing.

As we lay on our “threshing floors” undone before the glory of God, we can determine in our hearts that we will not get up until God raises us up by the Life of His Son in us. We can either linger there, in the presence of the Lord, waiting to hear God’s heart and find His desire in the midst of it all, or we can choose to simply excuse ourselves from His dealing. May we determine to remain before Him until He fully communicates His heart to us. May we humbly yield to His instruction and submit ourselves to His Fathering so that the increase of Christ can truly be brought forth. Only then can He send us forth as vessels filled with His view and Life.

“The Position of this Heart Condition”

Throughout our search on the threshing process, we have seen how God in His great love, desires to use our trials and tribulations to bring us into a deeper fellowship of His Life through Christ being formed in us. The hour to believe this is when we are overcome by the trial; undone and at the end of our own strength. We may find ourselves feeling like a pile of threshed wheat laying before the Lord in utter weakness. This moment is our opportunity to open ourselves to God in His eternal work. Here is where the ingredient of “being teachable” must be added to the process. Rather than assuming we understand everything God is doing and becoming filled with our own explanations, our heart must humbly turn to our Father in honor and submission. We can

become pliable and rest as clay in the Potter's hands. Our words will be meek and our ears will be open. Responses will flow from our lips ordered by this heart condition; "Speak, Lord, for Your servant listens"... "I am Your servant; grant me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies"... "Incline my heart to the words of Your mouth; let Your speech descend on me like the dew". From the "position of this heart condition" God can continue the deep and eternal work He desires to perform in us through all we are going through. We are opening the door to Him, and handing ourselves over to Him Who alone can bring forth an increase of Christ in us. Though all things may not yet be settled externally, our hearts will find peace as we wait upon the Lord.

Some Stories...

"Two Sons and the Family Business"

Here are some stories that can help illustrate our point. The first story begins with a man who had two sons. The older son was naturally very smart and diligent in everything he did. He was an over-achiever and prided himself in his ability to succeed. For most of his life, things came easy to him and he was usually ahead of everyone else. The younger son had learning disabilities. He had a hard time understanding things and always seemed to finish last. The time came for their father to begin to impart his wisdom into his sons, preparing them to eventually take over the family business. Oddly enough, every time the father would share with the older boy, this son would claim he already knew what his father was saying and doing and would stop listening almost immediately. Whereas, the other son had no confidence in his own wisdom and would diligently listen and receive everything his father taught him until he had truly heard his fathers mind and heart. Contrary to what was expected, the younger son who had the learning disability began to grow and mature much faster than the other brother. Soon the responsibilities for the business were entrusted to him, and the older brother was his assistant. The older brother was bitter against his father for promoting his "stupid" brother above him, and was embarrassed as his position beneath him. In time, the father died, and the two sons were on their own to run the business. It became clear that the younger son was the only one who really knew how to run the business. The older brother came to a crisis where he realized that now, because he did not become teachable with his own father, he was going to have to humble himself and become teachable before his younger brother... for no

one else could impart the wisdom necessary to carry on the family business. He had to determine in his own heart what was most valuable to him, his pride or his desire to know his father and be a part of the family legacy. The end of this story can only be determined by the choice of this son's heart.

“A Ruler in Training”

Our second story begins with a young boy who was born of royal birth. This child had no idea that he was royalty because at a very young age he had secretly been sent to live in a humble little house with house-parents/guardians that were really teachers and trainers. These “tutors” were expected to train, nurture, and prepare this child for his destiny to govern and serve as king to the people. While knowing all that was destined in this child's future and the responsibility he would bear, the tutors worked diligently to train the child. Yet, with time, the child wearied of the constant correction and instruction. The boy felt that he was being “picked on” and treated badly. Eventually the child grew bitter towards his instructors believing they were being unnecessarily critical and cruel towards him. He stopped listening to their counsel and closed his heart to their correction. When it came time for this son to enter into his destiny as king – he was not ready. Many people suffered under his foolish and cruel reign. Because he was not teachable, he was unfit to rule. He may have been born into the right family, but that did not dismiss his vital need for the necessary ingredient of “teach-ability” to enter into and fulfill all that was meant for him (Galatians 4:1-7).

Conclusion

Now is the time to cultivate a contrite and teach-able attitude of heart. We can dare to believe there is so much more of the Lord that we have yet known, and with a child-like heart, sit and listen to the counsel of our Father. As we find ourselves broken before the Lord under the weight of crushing circumstances and fiery trials, may we maintain an open heart and open ears to receive all the Lord has for us in ways we have yet to know concerning the Life of His Son formed within.