

## **OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THE SOURCE OF OUR POWER**

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Text: Proverbs 21: 1-3

1. The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever he will.
2. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.
3. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

It is said that no man is an island. No man alone can conquer a nation, nor can he subdue all his foes alone, no matter how powerful he or she may be.

We can however, move many mountains and close valleys of inequality together, through a collective organizing process. This process alone, though highly effective, is subject to a power much greater than the process alone. As faith based organizing is enacted within our various societies and congregations, we must understand that the process itself must become subject to the one who created all things and all men!

The prophet Jeremiah declares in Chapter 18:6, "Oh house of Israel cannot I do with you as this potter? Saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potters hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."

Proverbs 21:1 also declares, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it withersoever he will."

Such unlimited power of our God is an awesome thing to be in alliance with! For us to understand and align ourselves and our work, with our God and his power, gives us unparalleled power to affect that which is right in our circles of life.

To think also of the element of faith as the tool that must be enacted and cemented in our hearts and minds as we encounter the various Goliaths in our lives, is crucial.

Hebrews 11:6, declares "But without faith it is impossible to please him. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him!"

To say that we organize by faith and to not stand on that faith, when the mountains loom large and the hills become hard to climb, is to have a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof!

It allows our God to challenge our efforts, and to search our hearts, to find out if our love for Him and those we represent is true!

Jeremiah speaks to this heart searching effort, in the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter 10<sup>th</sup> verse, where he says, “I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give to every man according to his ways, and according to fruit of his doing!”

For us to ponder, if our hearts are energized by our faith in our God will be for us to determine. Also for us to determine is if our faith is in our God or ourselves; this will prove itself in our work and in the results.

We are my brothers and sisters about a righteous work! A work that is dedicated to bringing that which is unjust; unequal; unethical; and unfair to the doorsteps of our God, and in turn petitioning Him to examine the request based upon what He has first declared in His word!

Remember, no man is an island!

So we come to God, stripping ourselves of habitual sacrificial rituals that are good only to keep the status quo at times in our churches and we bare our souls to God; and we present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. We echo the sentiments of the Psalmist David in Psalm 26: 1-2.

1. “Judge me O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity; I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide.”
2. “Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.”

Justice and Righteousness are two of Gods favorite children.

He cares for them  
He watches over them  
He moves mountains for them  
He subdues kingdoms for them he feeds them with power  
He directs them by His Holy Spirit  
He surrounds them with the power of His word,  
And H challenges us to embrace them as He embraces them.

Solomon says, to do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice!

If the efforts are centered in our faith and real faith is exercised in the efforts that are righteous and just; the we can be assured of victory, no matter what the outcome!

I asked our project, CCOP, at one of our initial meetings at the start of this three year effort what do they smell? The people looked at me strangely, thinking that I was talking about a gas odor or some other odor; I then proceeded to tell the group that I smelled victory! Not based solely upon who we were, but based upon the God that we serve and

His power to hold the heart of the king in His hand, based upon His ability to turn the king's heart wherever He chooses!

It is good to know that you are on the winning side even before you go in! Isn't it a good feeling to know that you've already won before you go in? This is based upon being on the side of righteousness and the exercising of our faith in our God and our Creator!

It is important for us to realize that our relationship with God is extremely important, it cannot be neglected!

This walk and our relationship with our God, simplifies itself for us, in this way, I believe. "If the personal, is not personal enough then the personal will become public (repeat) and will be seen as: a car without gas; a bank without money; a river without water; a fire without out heat. In other words, our personal relationship with our God must develop to the point where we are in touch with Him in a very personal way, so that when we lead and we ask others to follow, based upon the work of God, we can have confidence that God will perform His word, without reservations on our part.....the personal just be, personal!

There must be in the effort that we make nationwide; an unretractable effort to seek an ever closer relationship with our Lord and Savior; our Deliverer and our soon coming King; no victory will have its everlasting effects, unless our God is the initiator.

Psalm 27: 1 – 6 says:

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
2. When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
3. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.
4. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple.
5. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; he shall set me upon a rock.
6. And now shall mine head be lifted upon above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.

May God bless you all!