

THE OBSERVATION SERIES

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Observation 4 – Bogus Spirituality

When we embrace a theology of kindness and breathe the Spirit of the King, they will illuminate our understanding and excite and animate (*breathe life into*) our conscious will. The embrace gives us strength and confidence to believe and practice the Spirit-led journey of faith. However, many will argue to the contrary in this postmodern chaotic consumer era. They say, “religion is old school.”

But, the Christian faith is not a religion and the Holy Spirit is never old school, even if the same message has been preached a thousand times. The Spirit of God is the same manna (*bread in the wilderness*) but always fresh every morning to guide us on our walk of holiness. That walk is along the same trails that the Spirit has forged over millennia with the same objectives and the same distinctives of discipleship. That journey is indeed a mentorship for change.

The Holy Spirit has never been and never will be a populist movement, a fad or a fashion, or a pseudo-science, nor is He a new style or a “new and improved” methodology of faith or celebrity cult figure.

Like Father and the Son, the Spirit is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Those who seek anything or anyone other than the same *manna* will never find the truth and they will always be tempted to listen to their flesh instead of the Spirit.

Fresh *manna* is to seek the Kingdom of God and yield allegiance to its King by obedience to His governance. For in such governance and obedience lies true freedom both now and forever. Not liberties to take things as we see fit, but a freedom that embraces what God sees fit. The difference between freedom and liberty is miles wide.

But, it’s hard to let go of self-determined liberties. Curious that “flesh” spelled backwards is “h-self,” or “himself/herself.” Flesh means self-serving and self-determination based on emotions, what’s-in-it-for-me attitudes, an illusionary worldview, and bogus spirituality. But I had not planned the obvious acronym: BS to mean Bogus Spirituality or PS to mean Pseudo Spirituality. Nevertheless we are inundated with bogus spirituality, that is, bogus meaning: fake, faked, spurious, false, fraudulent, sham, deceptive, misleading, and pretense. And pseudo, meaning: imitation, artificial, mock, quasi-, fake, feigned, false, faux, spurious, counterfeit, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, assumed, contrived, affected, insincere. Need I say more?

But what is spirit?

Spirit is the human spirit, the Spirit of God, or evil spirits also known as familiar spirits. But, that is another essay.

Nevertheless, the human spirit is lost in a world of its own making, a world of deep woundedness from which no one is exempt. It has been lost to chaos since the human spirit first declined (even rebelled against) healing and wellbeing from its source, God the Creator of all humankind.

Yet the human spirit longs for homecoming but does not know where to find it. In its search for homecoming the human spirit invents bogus (pseudo) spirituality because it needs a sense of purpose, of destiny, but it will not accept the one real spirituality that requires them to submit to divine governance, that is the governance of Christ, which is the only truth that sets the human spirit free. His Spirit will turn our worlds upside down. Or rather, it takes what is already upside down and sets it straight. And it goes against our grain. We aspire to control our destiny including the people and events in our lives. Control means power and power means success and wealth. Therefore, the clarion call of Christ to die to self is an anathema to human behaviour. But only in dying to ourselves will we experience the rebirth of freedom. It's as Christ said, the leader becomes the servant and the rich poor.

His governance embodies servanthood and must not to be confused with progressive success or the outcomes of perceived progress which more often than not is regress. All other truths are bogus and pseudo. As an outcome, the human spirit is often drawn to the appeal of primitivism. Primitivism is a mode of aesthetic idealization that either emulates or aspires to recreate or copy primitive experiences because of a certain base- behaviour that appeals to the appetites of mankind. Many fail to recognize that such primitive behaviour is demon inspired. Particularly in Western society and culture, primitivism has typically has borrowed from and become fascinated by non-Western, prehistoric, or aboriginal practices because the sheen on Christian practices appears to have dulled.

We must not pass judgement upon the practices of non-Western, past or present, aboriginal peoples. But criticism is valid in the way westerners have mastered the marketing and merchandising of aspects of primitive practices as trinkets, novelties, and confectionary rituals and ceremonies, with no intention to make us be like the primitive because God-forbid if we had to do it all without modern conveniences and technologies.

Nevertheless, the *primitive* of bogus spirituality is based on a flesh-centered spirituality whose focus is the self, who is enamoured by illusions of "spirits" that can be satisfied and appeased by acts of human endeavour whether sacrificial, ceremonial or behavioural . An example closer to home is democracy, which is a pseudo-governance that offers a perceived benefit of freedom yet practices the increase of slavery in every socio-economic sphere of life.

To conclude, true freedom is only birthed from truth which is the same yesterday, today, or ever. All other truths are birthed out of a false perception of our need to control truth as determined by cause, effect, conditions, relevancy, and self-determination. Theocracy is not a dirty word if the human spirit sincerely seeks after the one and only "Theo" who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Such *seeking* is only possible by faith and not fact because (true) faith overcomes. Facts disappoint because to "worship at the altar of facts" is to accept a fabrication of spirituality based on incomplete and unsourced data and misunderstood experiences.