

The Biblical Examiner

An Examination of Biblical Precepts Involved in Issues at Hand

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Resisting God's Grace

The doctrine of God giving to each individual unique gifts, skills, talents and abilities for specific jobs is one of the clearest in the word of God, 1 Cor 12:6, 11, 12; 2 Cor 10:13; Rom 12:6; Eph 4:7, &c. He gives to individuals according to His own will and good pleasure, and the individual is/will be held accountable for his use of the Lord's gifts in the Kingdom work, Mat 6:33; 1 Cor 4:2, 7; 2 Cor 5:10, 11. Furthermore, no one can say to Him, *Why hast thou made me thus?* Ro 9:20; Da 4:35.

How is

God's grace resisted? With the God-given ability to study, see problems, write and present solutions to social ills, comes the responsibility to use these abilities from God. The problem is, though, that we want the gifts and abilities given by the Spirit of God, **BUT WE DO NOT WANT THE RESPONSIBILITIES** which go with the abilities. Responsibilities require work, sacrifice, standing alone for things which others cannot see, making enemies in high places (Eph 6:12), and standing against public policy and sin in every area (civil, religious, social, &c.). Most want abilities apart from responsibilities, but to accept the God-given abilities without accepting (and yes even thanking God for the abilities and responsibilities) the accompanying responsibilities, is an insult to the grace of God, He 10:29, *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite (or insult) unto the Spirit of grace?* Acts 7:51 *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers [did], so [do] ye.* We resist the Holy Spirit when we resist the responsibilities attached to His given abilities.

In Mat 25:14-30, *the unprofitable servant* refused to accept the responsibility that went with his talent, i.e. he had an ability from God, yet refused to accept the responsibility attached to his ability. I know many godly individuals (pastors & laymen) who, by God's grace (Ph 2:13), see society's problems and difficulties; as they talk about the difficulties and problems, obviously they have plausible (even Biblical) solutions, yet they do nothing

Please Note:

1. From time to time, we might enclose inserts which promote material not our own with our mailing which we feel is sound enough for your consideration. Our goal is to be of assistance to you in your service for King Jesus. We make no charge to others when we do this because we feel that our responsibility is to the cause of Christ. Remember, *Use your head and think for yourself.* Compare everything with the word of God.

2. We have started a systematic study in the Book of Exodus in Sunday School (which is the style of teaching that I personally find very difficult, if not impossible, to violate). The lessons are on tape or hard copy. If you would like copies of either, the lady who is taking care of this (very difficult for me) detail will send them to you. □

but talk about the bad situations. The grace of God has given them an ability to see the problem (the vast majority of people see no problem), God's grace provides the "thinking" ability to formulate proper solutions, and yet they do nothing. By doing nothing, they mock of the grace of God; they *resist the Holy Ghost's* (Who has opened their eyes) work in their lives; they *hath done despite* (insult) *unto the Spirit of grace.* The Master has NOTHING good to say about them because they resist the Spirit's enlightening work in their heart by refusing to take proper action. He calls them *unprofitable servants*, good for nothing but His wrath, v. 30. Note furthermore that being a man of God makes one more responsible before the Lord. In other words, with his ability from God, comes a far greater responsibility, 1 Kgs 13:26.

Though totally condemned in Scripture in passages such as Psalms 82, people's refusal to accept responsibility with their ability to grasp and understand social issues is understandable (see EN). Responsibility involves work, sacrifice, separation, loss of things one holds important and many other things which repels the fallen nature. But the power of God's Spirit enables one to accept responsibility before God. Certainly, there is great fear of what man can do (Ps 118:6; Pr 29:25), but if fear of man makes our decisions, then we have denied the faith (1 Tim 5:8, *provides not* a just society for his family. Also, Mat 10:28; Mat 6:24). Solomon, after examining absolutely every area of life, summed up man's total duty: *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man,* Ecc 12:13.

Fear & why

Christians refuse responsibility. Hebrews 13:5 & 6 gives the major reason why Christians fear what man can

