

Spiritual Awareness

Sunday Morning, September 21, 2014

Thesis:

Maintaining Healthy Spiritual Eyes, Ears and Heart Toward God Will Enable Us To Present "The Truth" as Jesus Would Have Us to Do. This is Why We Are Here On Earth.

Introduction:

Alicia Keys New Song: "We Are Here?"
(Her Worldview as compared to Believers Perspective Through Spiritual Eyes, Ears and Heart)

Article on sundayworld.com website interviews Alicia as saying...

The song a strong social commentary on the world. "Let's talk about Chi-town / Let's talk about Gaza / Let's talk about Israel... let's talk Nigeria / and the mass hysteria / Our souls are brought together / so that we can love each other," Keys sings. Releasing the song on her facebook page Keys wrote: "Why am I here?? This really hit me on a deep level. I realized no one had ever asked me that question before." The song inspired by her desire to make a difference and create a kinder and more peaceful world for ALL children." Keys is using her voice to reinforce her vision of an empowered global community in which all people are heard, respected, equal, and treated with dignity. She's rallying fans and challenging them to raise their voices for the causes they believe in — because real change begins with all of us." Keys said, "It's not about me, it's about WE. This is OUR world. And we are here."



I. Keep Your Spiritual Eyes, Ears and Heart Vibrant... Least They Become Blind, Deaf and Hard.

(Isaiah 29: 9 – 14)

9 Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves & be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink.

10 For the Lord has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

12 Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please."

And he says, "I am not literate."

13 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths & honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, & their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, & the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."

(Isaiah 6: 9 – 10)

9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

10 "Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed."



(Deuteronomy 29: 2- 4)

2 Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: “You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land—
3 the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders.
4 Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

(Mark 4: 1 – 9)

1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.
2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:
3 “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.
4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.
5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.
6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.
7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.
8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased & produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, & some a hundred.”
9 And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Spiritual insight is maintained when an individual desires to know the will and truth of God.



II. What is the Benefit of Having Healthy Spiritual Eyes, Ears and Heart?

(Matthew 5: 13 – 16)

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.
14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.
16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

To keep from being useless for God's Kingdom work, keep your eyes, ears, and heart intently on God.

III. Spiritual Awareness is Essential to Bear Witness to the Truth of Christ

(John 18: 33 – 38)

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”
34 Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?”
35 Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?”
36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”
37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

(More of this passage on next paper)



Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

We Are Called to Uphold and Present the Truth Following
Jesus' Example

Be courageous and defend Jesus and the truth of
His Word.

Conclusion:

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Toward God Will Enable Us
To Present "The Truth" as Jesus Would Have Us to Do.
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