

SAVING OUR FAMILIES

Some time ago, I wrote an article on the family and how China would eventually become the world's leading nation. At this time it seems that the powers that be have partnered with China to sell us down the river. Let's take a quick look at some of the latest news on this matter from the "WASHINGTON CHRONICLE."

IS THE UNITED STATES BEING SOLD TO CHINA?

China and the United States now operate as co-financiers of many deals. The fields of Beijing are littered with sites where vendors and subcontractors of American deals are doing business. But China will never bow down to American interests, and corporate clarity or unity cannot be assumed or even hoped for. American presence in China is minimal, and this is offset by a steep possession of Chinese ownership of American t-bills. China has become America's banker.

This situation puts the American government and the American economy at the mercy of the Chinese. How can a country without financial independence operate and enforce trade sanctions and labor rights abroad when they are in fact wholly or partially already a subsidiary of that country?

China is hardly an ideal partner for American business interests. Shipping and language issues, as well as cultural divides and political variances make the end of any Chinese deal sour. The United States foreign trade deficit is tracking about 25% of the GNP, that's a low number until the trillions that make up the American budget deficit and its obligations abroad are spelled out. The American dream now might as well have "Made In China" stamped over it. That means Chinese people in communist uniforms now own one arm or one leg, or at least one wheel of every American car. The Chinese own the note on one room of a four bedroom house, probably the backyard as well, and the lead paint on your child's Barbie doll as well.

So, with this and everything else that's going on in government and in the world, where do we stand individually? What about our homes? How do we save our families? In order for us to have any bearing on the world we must have something solid to stand on, therefore, our house is where we must begin.

Does your house need to be saved? Literally, spiritually, or both? Is there a physical, spiritual, or financial disaster threatening your house? Is your house torn by strife, tension, alcohol, or sexual sin? Your faith? Your marriage? Is there a need for a genuine miracle? For deliverance? We should all know that Satan is trying to destroy homes and families in any way possible. These problems are a direct result of the moral and spiritual decay in our country and in our society.

Searching through scripture, I came across the perfect answer to saving our homes and families. Let's look at Acts Chap. 10 for an answer. Concentrate on Cornelius and how he happened to become the first of the gentile race to receive the blessings of the Holy Spirit. On the day that Cornelius and his family received the Holy Spirit, Yahweh gave them a private Pentecost that shocked the assembly in Jerusalem, upset the theology of Peter, and opened the door for the salvation of the gentile race. All because this man 'Cornelius' was determined to save his family. Acts 10:2 says, "he prayed constantly to Yahweh".

Let me ask you, “are you really wanting to save your family?” Do you really want access to the Holy of Holies like the book of Hebrews promises? We don’t spend enough time in Yahweh’s Holy word, getting our faith renewed. We spend hours glued to the television idol, getting our spirits vexed and opening our homes to the powers of darkness. We go to the bible just long enough to point out promises that we can claim. We want to simply name it and claim it. Some people have said to me, “why all this talk about prayer and fasting? It’s been done for us. Just speak the word of faith, believe, and it’s yours. It’s so simple.” That is simply a lazy way to bypass Yahshua’s calling to holiness. I can prove to any open minded believer that praying and fasting are much more than an exercise of our faith. It is much more than a mental or word game, my personal testimony stands on that. What’s more is that scripture proves it and the life of Cornelius proves it. Yahweh seeks absolute devotion, total obedience and ceaseless praying.

Consider the ways in which Cornelius saved his house and the miracles his devotion brought in Acts 10:2. A devout man and one that feared Elohim with all his house, who gave many alms to the people, and prayed to Elohim always. He didn’t even have the Holy Spirit in him yet, urging him to pray and seek Yahweh. Still he always prayed. His prayer life made him a giver of alms. Even though Yahweh had not yet answered his prayers for his own household, he gave generously to those in need. He was not so tied up in his own needs that it took all of his time, money and attention. Yahweh answered Cornelius because he was dedicated. In scripture, we see that righteous, dedicated men prayed. Look at Gen. 20:17, Num. 21:7, and 1 Sam. 2:1 for a few examples.

Consistently, throughout scripture we can see miracles combined with prayer, and Yahshua prayed constantly. Look at Luke 3:21, Luke 9:18, and Luke 11:1. We should all know where the answers to our problems lie. We should know that prayer is the only way to save our homes and families; not quickie praying, not lazy praying, but the pouring out of the heart before Yahweh. We have the Holy Spirit in us, calling us, moving us to hide away in a quiet place to worship Him. We should know that in His presence, we are safe from the world and that His wisdom is there in our time of need. Then, why don’t we pray? We need to quit doing all the worldly things that we do throughout the day and spend some time praying. If we would take one unnecessary thing that we do in the day and spend that extra amount of time praying, we would see miracles and the transformation of families just as Peter saw when he visited Cornelius.

We have a problem. We’ve become strangers to Yahweh. We’ve ignored and neglected the altar in our homes. By ignoring what Yahweh desires the most, we’ve been left to our own foolish devices. We need to be honest. Unless we ask Yahweh to give us back our hunger for Him, until we pay more attention to talking with Him, unless we stay in His holy presence, we will not get answers from Him.

We are not going to save our homes with half-hearted praying or some kind of pumped-up, false faith. Yahweh does not work on behalf of those with a divided heart, who play around with secret sin. I am sure He is moved only through the zealous, dedicated praying of true believers. Cornelius received clear, detailed instructions from Yahweh. It’s exciting to realize that in its perspective. Acts 10:5-6; “Send to Joppa and call for one, Simon Peter. He is staying with one called Simon-, a tanner, He lives by the sea. He shall tell you what to do.” At the same time in Acts 10:9-20, another praying man, ‘Peter’ is getting a vision from Yahweh to prepare him to go to the house of

Cornelius to bring salvation. Yahweh works on all sides when His people are sincerely praying. Yahweh has countless angels. He has the hosts of heaven. He has the power. All Yahweh waits for is a heart set on Him. A heart that communes with Him, wholly devoted to Him. A heart not only set on Him, but a heart set apart for Him. So, when all the problems of the world seem to be on the verge of carrying you away, cling to that altar desperately for protection for you and for your family.

In the old days, only the high priest was allowed to enter the holy of holies once a year to ask for forgiveness for the sins of the people. Let's look at Hebrews 10:19-21, 19 "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Yahshua. 20 By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; 21 And having a high priest over the house of Elohim; We can enter anytime, all the time."

Today, the only altar in many homes is an idol. A television set, in which many important hours are sacrificed. If we really want our households saved, then why do we waste so many hours involving ourselves in things that influence our minds in negative ways?

Why do we try to solve all of our problems on our own power? If our families are so important to us, then we need to be in that sanctuary of prayer. Nothing is going to happen, nothing is going to change, it will just get worse unless we get back to Yahweh in passionate prayer and rededication.

Let's go back to the story of Cornelius in Acts 10:33 "Now therefore, are we all here present before Yahweh to hear all things that are commanded thee of Yahweh." Cornelius was ready to obey all that was commanded of him. Of the words that came out of his mouth, there was nothing about, "tell us what Yahweh can do for us." Or, "tell us how to get rich," or even how to get healthy. No, all he wanted to hear was, "What does Yahweh want from us in the way of obedience?" and, "what is commanded"? These early believers were more interested in knowing their responsibilities to Yahweh than in learning how to get something for themselves. Obedience was of a great concern to them.

The words of Yahshua still rang fresh in their minds. "If you love me, you will obey me." How many of us could pray the way Cornelius prayed, for himself, and for his family? Can we go into a secret place of prayer, putting aside all promises, all requests for blessings and good things, and open up to Yahweh for a revelation of what our responsibilities are to Him? If He told us to tear down all idols, including tv, so our homes could be saved from corruption, could we do it? Why pray for Yahweh's protection over your family and then set them down in front of such an idol and let their minds be bent towards evil under your very own supervision? What if the Holy Spirit convicted you to quit all gossiping, all hearing and telling of the failures of others and that with obedience to that, He would shine on you and your family with great peace? Would you obey?

Cornelius sat his family down, looked Peter in the eye, and said, "We as a family, want to know what we are to do to save our house. What is commanded of Yahweh"? Yahweh moves quickly to answer that kind of prayer, read Acts 10:34-44, so quickly in fact, that Peter didn't even get to finish his sermon. The spirit of Yahweh fell upon them in the middle of Peter's message.

In Acts 10:44, Peter makes it clear that Yahshua was ordained to judge the quick and the dead, so in effect, Yahshua is not only the judge of the sins of Sodom and of

those who mocked Noah, He is the judge of our sins as well. The truth is, our sins have hindered our prayers from being answered. Unrepentant sin in us has caused Him to hide His face from us. Isa.59:2 reads, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your Elohim, and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear." We have forgotten that He is our judge whom we will answer to. We choose to see Him only as a giver of good things. We focus on Him as a deliverer from our problems, which is true, but sometimes we seem to forget that Yahshua was ordained to judge us. The spirit seeks to humble us and show us the exceeding sinfulness of our transgressions, to reveal Yahshua as the Holy, awesome judge to whom we will one day, give account.

We can save our homes by setting our hearts to obey Yahweh at all costs. While others go to Him to be blessed, we must go to Him to listen, with open ears and a willing heart. Yahweh will reveal His will to you. He will show you what is needed on your part, and you can obey and clear the way for true restoration of your homes.

Acts 10:44-46, 44 "While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify Elohim..."

Yahweh saved the house of Cornelius by sending an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. All because one man set his heart to seek Yahweh until He answered. And here we sit in the days of the outpoured spirit with little or no evidence of His workings, or His presence in our homes. Scary but true, many of our homes are now under the control of the spirit of the world rather than the spirit of Yahweh. We need to take back spiritual authority in our homes. So, let's pray. Pray for cleansing, pray for new power over our sins. Pray for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our homes. We can save our homes and families only by prayer, obedience, and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.