

Maximized Influence



I don't mind dying.
I just don't want to
be there when it
happens!

Dear Agatha: My family moved cross country recently. I miss being 'home' terribly. I feel so limited when I hear of problems they face among my young adult nieces & nephews whom I love. I miss being there to encourage them or help. Or to encourage them in their faith. Especially with all the recent events. **Karen.**

Dear Karen: You're not helpless and can still affect, even intervene, in their lives

in significant ways.

PRAYER is important and matters immensely. It is not a monologue, but a dialogue with God. Amplify your prayer power thru 'agreement' in Matt. 18:19. The Greek word for agree there is rendered 'together make a symphony', Amp. Bible. Look for a woman friend you can pray with.

Start with a devotional. (That's 365 scriptures a year!) It's best to do this in the am and in a quiet place. Pray for

forgiveness. (See Is. 59:2) for yourself & your family.

Read your Bible. Listen quietly. His Word is alive & speaks. Or, a quiet certainty may come. Name each loved one. Pray scripture over them, to be encouraged and inspired, that they will chase & embrace His truth - and thus reject every lie. *Prayer only works for those who believe!* Yet a mustard seed is all you need. Pray.



Don't tell God you have a
BIG problem.
Tell your problem you have
a BIG God.

Grace. Sweet Grace

Dear Agatha: My next door neighbor always tries to 'convert' me. I'm a believer & we attend church. She also tries to make me feel guilty for celebrating our sons' birthdays. How can I be civil to her. She's sweet but I need help...so I can be! **Gail** **Dear Gail:** Well, on a positive note -at least she cares! But apparently she thinks you

won't go to heaven unless you attend her church...a common belief. But untrue.

This is a mark of 'religion', not the liberty scripture provides. The gospel focuses on Jesus whom He sent to stand in our place for sin. It's about being saved by Grace, not of works. Gal. 2:8. Religion offers a set of rules to follow. Faith says trust in

the sinless life (& death) of Jesus. Religion is uncertain about our standing before God. I John 5 says 5 times we can KNOW we're saved! Religion is about what I have to do to win God's favor - faith is about wanting to please God knowing we *have* His favor! She's *deceived*. Speak the truth in love to her. Eph. 4:15 Then leave her alone...



'**Journalism** is printing what someone else doesn't want printed. All else is public relations.' *George Orwell*
Be Yourself. No one can tell you you're doing it wrong!

Misguided People Aren't God's Fault...!

Dear Abigail: I'm 24, unmarried, and I'm a new believer. I am frustrated that I can't understand the Old Testament - just too many laws. But I know Jesus brought Grace & Truth. Please help me here. **Jenny**

Dear Jenny: First, God doesn't expect you to walk in what you *don't* understand! If we just walk in what we DO, His kingdom would be ahead! We get snared here...

The Old Testament was mostly *theocracy*, meaning the law was threefold (they didn't have other laws)

Civil: If a bull got out, who owned the calf of the cow he bred? Or fixed the fences?

Moral: Murder, rape; any injustice was covered here.

Ceremonial: This involved the worship of God and cleanliness guidelines to prevent disease. Federal & state laws now cover the latter under democracy.

This is an example of how we make mistakes through Bible ignorance - "You do err because you *know not* the **scripture**, nor the **power** of God", Jesus instructed. Matt. 22:29

Misguided folks are not God's fault! They're everywhere! Look to God, (not people) & to Scripture.

I suggest a morning devotional - it enables God to write 365 scriptures a year on your heart. Find a Bible study with others.