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The Sea of Subjectivity

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Sub.jec.tive

3. A: characteristic of or belonging to reality as perceived rather than as independent of mind: - B: relating to or being experienced or knowledge as conditioned by personal mental characteristics or states

4 A (1): peculiar to a particular individual: PERSONAL <subjective judgments> (2): modified or affected by personal views, experience, or background <a subjective account of the incident> b: arising from conditions within the brain or sense organs and not directly caused by external stimuli <subjective sensations> c: arising out of or identified by means of one's perception of one's own states and processes <a subjective symptom of disease> - - compare OBJECTIVE

5 : lacking in reality or substance: ILLUSORY

Merriam Webster

When we leave the parameters of the Word of God, we drift onto The **Sea of Subjectivity**. In this Sea, spirituality becomes relative to whatever new revelation or vision that comes forth.

As the "streams" of various Charismatic and now also "classical" Pentecostal persuasions have come together to form the "River", multitudes of hungry souls looking for "more" have left the Gibraltar of *Objective Truth* (the Word of God), to rather float upon leaky rafts in the blissful Sea of Subjectivity (that which is experienced).

It feels good. We hear so often, "I know, because I've experienced it." "Don't question my experience". "I'm having a 'deep and intimate' relationship with Jesus". Experiences in abundance are available! What started as "holy laughter brought on by "holy wine" from the "holy bar-tender" moved into manifestations of the barnyard as staid ministers joined the crowds to become roosters, dogs, cows, etc.

"Don't question," we are told, "as now the great End-time church is being birthed". Oh yes, there are even "birthing rooms" where the travail and labor cries are coming forth.

There is a common thread uniting these streams that are flowing together and that is IMPARTATION. Yes, what is claimed so valiantly to be a *Sovereign Move of God* actually needs some help along the way, so the "anointing" is passed along via the means of IMPARTATION. This is the way the "streams" have been connecting.

Recently at a Women's Conference in Brownsville (Pensacola, Florida), it was noted that the three "rivers" were coming together at that meeting. They seemed to mean Sunderland, England, Toronto, Canada and Brownsville, Florida. Carol Arnot read from Ecclesiastes 4:12 in the NIV which read, "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken". Obviously, as the three "rivers" flow together they become more powerful.

Carol Arnot spoke further:

I have an impartation of the sword of the Lord. Now the sword of the Lord is a prophetic symbol, and all through the scriptures, God uses symbols. . . you see the sword of the Lord isn't just this imaginary sword, this is a symbol of an anointing and it is done by faith, not by feelings, some of you will feel and some not. But just like with your salvation, you'll say yes, I'll have it. And I'm going to read the prophetic word that was given and why I read it is because there's a fairly heavy warning that goes along with it.

*"This is my sword, this is not man's sword. This is my GOLDEN SWORD. The way you have been using my weapons and the methods you have been using in the past - you are to throw them away, because I am giving you my sword now. The **old** ways of doing things will not do. The old methods will not be acceptable to me anymore, because I am doing a **new** thing. Do not look to the yesterdays, but look to the future, because I am doing a **new** thing. And this way is not the old. This way is new and you must **throw away the old ways** of doing things and take up my sword. Because my sword is made of pure gold and it is pure and it is mighty. If you wield it the captives will be set free, the*

chains will be broken and the healings will be manifest. Because it is not by might, nor by power, but by my wonderful Holy Spirit, it is by Him. It is by Him that this New Wave will be manifest. . It is by Him, it is by Him, that this new wave will be brought forth. It is by Him that the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords will ride again. In this next wave I am requiring those to take up this Golden Sword, to be refined, to be pur and to have all the dross refined in the fire. Because if you take this sword and there are secret sins in your life, the Sword will kill you. The next wave is not joke, it is not a laughing matter. (at this point everyone is falling down and moaning). Those who do not want to give up their sin and are fearful like Gideon's army - stand back (whoa!!) Because I am calling men and women in these days that will allow me to refine them and chasten them, but not with anger because I am a loving God. . . . take up the Golden Sword for I will use you in ways that you cannot imagine. But I must purify you first."

Carol Arnot then went on speaking:

Now Father, I will pray over them. I command the enemy to release you from the generational curses of your mother's side and of your father's side in Jesus mighty name. It comes off in Jesus' Name!. . . . (The sword is making a hacking gesture in the woman's hand - lots of noise and moaning). It comes off the generational line - right down any immoral sins down the generational line - I cut you free. I cut you free. I cut you free.

Lois (Gott) has one more thing we want to deal with before we impart the sword of the Lord. (Lois is one of the River women from Sunderland England. She has been shaking violently beside Carol Arnot for the past ten minutes, her head bobbing uncontrollably as she screams loudly):

The old ways aren't good enough either. Christianity is a love story. God to man, man to man, man to God, God to man, man to man, et al The Lord hates division. . . He must have unity! The Lord says put to death the words that divine. Put to death the sword that pierces and divides. Oh! Oh! Oh! (She has a horrible look on her face and is almost writhing - like she is in excruciating pain).

Carol Arnot then speaks again:

I want you all to take a step walking out of the old and into the new. (All the women stand with one foot lifted and then take a step) and say, I step Lord into freedom, into the Grace of God, into the Grace of God I bless you to be mighty women of valor.

Now the impartation of an increased anointing. You may feel it, you may not. You must pray for others for the sword of the Lord.

A wonderful example of the "sea of subjectivity". What Golden Sword? What is an impartation of the Golden Sword? Why must I go to one of the "rivers" to get the "impartation". Where will it take me?

The question arises, how and why is there so much confusion? The confusion comes because of the lack of objective truth to support what is happening. When you are afloat

on The Sea of Subjectivity, you feel great! The experiences are exhilarating and delightful. However, in the end, you will find the leaks in your life-raft will take you to destruction.

This is very difficult to write as I keep on hoping that I will be proved wrong. The evidence is overwhelming and only serves to reinforce that we must be faithful to declare the Counsel of God. There have been many dear friends who had clear discernment, but as they rose in the "ranks" of the organized Church, their discernment has become cloudy and they joined the multitudes who are happily splashing in The Sea of Subjectivity.

Words take on new meanings for this new *paradigm* that is bewitching so many. Intercession has a whole new meaning. Reading much of this material and listening to so many tapes available today, it is a small wonder that a whole new realm has been opened to the subjective seeker.

Lila Terhume is the "Intercessor" on staff at Brownsville (Pensacola) Florida. She speaks in many parts of the country and the tapes are easily accessible.

Of deepest concern is the emphasis to bring the children along on the leaky rafts into the enchanting Sea. Lila explains that she visited MORNINGSTAR (Rick Joyner's Ministry) and while there met with Bob Jones (of Kansas City Prophets notoriety). Bob was ministering to the children, ages 6-12, and asked Lila to join him.

Bob Jones said, "Listen, Lila, tonight I am going to go in and I am going to be teaching the children - the 6-12 year olds. The little guys. I am going to be talking to them about the prophetic . . . So I went in. . . the children were so wonderful, they were worshipping and they were doing worship intercession and these are the little bitty guys, they are just like the MORNINGSTAR. . . where the intercessors are there with the musicians. These little bitty guys are doing exactly what the bigger intercessors do. . . they were just worshipping the Lord and it was wonderful and then they turn around and chew their gum. This is what turns us off about kids. This is why we don't think the kids are really sincere. Are we any different? Oh thank you Jesus. Hey, I love that outfit you've got on.

We are no different. . . they are just kids, after all.

Bob Jones then put two chairs in the platform and asked Lila to sit down on one. To continue with Lila speaking on the tape:

*He (Bob Jones) says, "I know a lot of you children know me already". Bob has wonderful rapport with the children. Prophets are the weirdest people. You think intercessors are weird, any of you guys know Bob Jones? He is a delight, but he stretches me . . . he has the accurate Word of the Lord. . . he had us both sitting on the platform. . . and he says, "now, children I want you to look at Miss Lila and I want you to pray for her. I want you to close your eyes and I want you to **INNER-VIEW** her. I thought he said "interview". No, no no! He looks at me with that twinkle in his eyes, and he said, "No, I said **INNER-VIEW** her."*

I mean to tell you, it was awesome. . . then he had someone take the microphone out to the kids - now, "what did the Lord show you about Miss Lila?" And little hands started

popping up all over the building. Those kids read my mail. It was awesome. . . these are the 6-11 year olds prophesying, having visions. See, it is being nurtured and we need to learn to do that!

After this, Lila called up the young people under 30. She said to the gathering:

I would like the leaders and pastors here to speak into this next generation. They need to have an IMPARTATION of authority from pastors. I believe WE NEED TO CALL FORTH THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY INTO THESE YOUNG LIVES AND SEE WHAT GOD WILL DO.

Somewhere, somehow we have floated very far out on the Sea! How many know what Bob Jones means when he says "inner-view"? Did that just float by you? Do you have any frame of reference to know what is happening to these children? After spending months transcribing tapes from Bob Jones in the late 1980's, the terminology became quite familiar. Bob Jones claims to have the "Golden Senses". He defines this as when he lays his hands on someone, he actually enters their body. He sees through their eyes. He hears with their ears, he can think their thoughts, etc. This is what he is teaching the children? To **INNER-VIEW?**

In the tapes from the late 80's, another important teaching that came across was the emphasis on The New Breed or The Anointed Seed. The children being born were to be the great End-Time Army that God was raising up. They would walk in the Supernatural! Children then were taught to move in the "prophetic" and were having visions, etc.

Lila spoke about this generation as Generation X. She believes it is mentioned in the Bible:

. . . Generation X - the Lord began to deal with me about when Jacob, the grandfather, was blessing his grandchildren. . . . Jacob is dim of eyes, but he is going to give them a Grandfather's blessing. The oldest was Manasses and he should have had the right-hand blessing which would have been the superior blessing and Ephraim the younger son should have had the left hand blessing. But we see that Jacob did something very interesting. (We were talking about parabolic actions to speak something. . .) What did he do? He made an X. He crossed his arms and blessed with his right hand the younger boy and with the left hand the older boy. I believe those many centuries ago he was making a parabolic action . . . Call me crazy. . . . I believe he was speaking something in the realm of the spirit that was following even to this day. So this generation is very special and we need to nurture them!

In the same service, Lila spoke about what she believed to be the beginning of this present "move". She had learned about a man who had been a missionary in Argentina by the name of Edward Miller. She was so thrilled when she had the opportunity to meet him at his home in Atlanta, Georgia. He related his experiences from Argentina when he went into "deep" intercession.

*(See the following article entitled, "**Thoughts on Edward Miller**")*

Prayer and fasting are to be practiced as part of a Christian's walk with the Lord. However, again there are dangers even connected when one goes into these "exercises" without maintaining all the time the parameters of scripture when it comes to the experiences that may result from these times of "deep intercession".

Lila gives the example of being in England with a group ministering. She had just finished a 40-day fast and that evening there was a prophet from Australia ministering.

He preached about Generation Acts. It was awesome. . . . he called the young people forward. . . then the Spirit of Intercession came on me and I was on the floor and thank God it was one of the kinda chaotic meetings. . . . I was on the floor, nobody is going to pay attention because everyone is bonkers that night, you know. Anyway, a deep intercession. I was weeping and crying. . . and I couldn't stop. I said, "God what is this?" He said, "It is Rachel weeping for her children." I said, "Rachel weeping for her children, God, what does that mean?" . . . "Leah was the mother of the Jewish nation, not Rachel, why?" And the Lord dropped into my spirit, "Because Rachel was the mother of Joseph who had the double portion." And He says, "That is what I have reserved for this generation. And He said, "They are hidden in Egypt, so that they will be preserved. The enemy doesn't know where they are, and they don't know who they are, but there is going to be a mighty army of young people that are going to rise up and they are going to have such an awesome anointing. They are going to be the Psalm 102 generation.. . . . There is a generation that God is raising up that is going to be a double portion generation. They are going to be an 'in your face' generation."

"Intercession" has taken on a different meaning as occultic practices are being introduced. In the Old Testament while Moses was on Mount Horeb communing directly with God and while God was giving the law to Moses, the people grew tired waiting for their leader to return.

Aaron, instead of providing Godly leadership, allowed the people to collect their gold and from that gold formed an idol (the golden calf). One of the commandments read, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." How the heart of God was grieved when He looked upon the condition of His children's hearts.

What a picture of today! God has given us His Word. He has preserved It down through the generations. Instead of following God, according to that Word, man is making himself "shrines" of other gods. Yes, gods of his own desires. Gold has again become an object of desire as the latest is for people to flock to Toronto to receive "gold" fillings in their teeth. Stories are abounding of Gold Dust falling in the meetings.

Jesus said, "*An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, and there shall no sign be given it but the prophet Jonas.*" Matt. 12:39.

**Thoughts on R. Edward Miller
and the Peniel Revival teaching**

Char Stucki

My husband and I met Ed Miller in 1963 at the Peniel Bible Institute in Mar del Plata. We lived in Argentina for the next three years and worked in affiliation with the Argentine Bible Assemblies, which he founded. The last year, we lived at the Institute and were in close contact on a daily basis with him, sitting under his teaching in day time classes and nightly meetings.

I have to acknowledge that I was personally "bowled over" and "awed" by the mystique of this man. I venerated him deeply as a person of intimate acquaintance with God. I believed that he had "penetrated" into a place in God far beyond the average run of the mill Christian, and having a very mystical bent myself, I wanted to discover the secrets of the Kingdom that he seemed to have discovered. I would often weep when he spoke about God, and then be alternately frustrated because his "gnosis" seemed to be so far beyond mine and so out-of-reach.

It took many years to unravel the knot that the Peniel teaching that was perpetrated by Bro. Miller and his sons produced within me.

The name of their ministry, Peniel, perhaps best summarizes the focus of their teaching. Peniel was the place where Jacob, alone, wrestled with the angel of God and his thigh was finally disjointed and he declared, "I have seen God face to face and my soul is delivered." Brother Miller himself claimed to have had such an "experience of God" years before in Mendoza, which he wrote about in his book, *Thy God Reigneth*, now published as *The Flaming Flame*. After an intense period of seeking God in prayer and fasting, God revealed Himself to him, and he heard things that were "unspeakable to utter". Things that he said that he could never tell anyone, not even his wife. Secrets, hidden things, mysteries of God that could not be shared.

Looking back on those years when my young, yearning heart longed to also be one of the "enlightened ones", I realize that this was nothing less than mysticism, a christianized version of gnosticism. That there are those with a higher knowledge of spiritual things, people who have met the conditions, have pressed through into deeper spiritual realms and acquired an understanding that only comes to those who "strive to enter" and "battle through all of the opposition" into that heavenly dimension where God manifests and reveals himself.

Besides this mystical knowledge of God that he possessed, and which others who were willing to belong to God's inner circle could also possess, there was a strong emphasis on "holiness unto the Lord". The church which Edward Miller founded in Atlanta, Georgia bears that writing on its pulpit.

Brother Miller believed and taught that a Peniel-type encounter with God would also produce holiness of life and that a believer who had seen God face to face would manifest godliness of life and be a person of prayer, devotion, service, worship, separation from the world etc. He believed that a genuine revival would bring believers into that kind of a life-style. He was passionate about urging people to "experience the manifest Presence of God" where they would have a face to face meeting with God that would result in a

changed life. Who could argue with a goal like that, especially when as a minister, one is surrounded by people who often seem indifferent to God, or who struggle with sins in the flesh, or who manifest other carnal behaviors and attitudes?

I cannot argue with the desire for genuine godliness or the fruit of the Spirit to be borne in the life of a believer. My contention is not as much with the "what" as it is with the "how" of the Christian life as it was taught at Peniel. (Though I would be careful to say that prayer, devotion, worship, separation from the world etc. characterized the Pharisees and that all that glitters is not gold.)

Romans 10 speaks of the people of God who had a "zeal for God but not according to knowledge." A people who "being ignorant of God's righteousness went about to establish their own." A people of whom Isaiah said, " they seek Me day by day, and desire knowledge of My ways. As a nation that has done right, and not forsaking the judgment of their God, they ask Me about judgments of righteousness; they desire to draw near to God."

What was the problem? The problem according to Romans 10 is that they "sought righteousness, but not by faith." They sought a righteousness that one had to "ascend into heaven to bring down." Or alternately, to "descend into hell to bring up."

One of the major emphases in the Peniel teaching was that two pronged mysticism. We were taught that "high praise" would bring the manifest presence of God into a meeting. That when the level of desire and intensity

reached a certain point, God would descend and "manifest Himself" and then people could experience Him. On the other hand, we were taught that God could only reveal Himself to a broken and contrite people, so other meetings would be a "descent" into agonizing prayer and weeping and repentance over sins, and when the contrition and repentance was 'deep enough', God would also respond. The focus was always on the subjective conditions that God required from the soul in order for Him to accomplish His inward work. I NEVER heard the objective proclamation of the Gospel facts which are to be believed and received in simple child-like faith, or again as Romans 10 says, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we proclaim) ." It took many, many years before the mental garbage and clutter could be swept out of my mind, and my heart could begin to rest in the finished work of Christ, the righteousness that has been given to every believer, that does not depend on my fickle feelings or subjective experiences, or some inner work that the Spirit does "in me", but rather is a righteousness that is "in Christ", forever settled in heaven. The righteousness that is based on believing the Truth of Christ and Him crucified, not upon my "experience." And that it is as true of the weakest believer as it is of the most "mature" one. (Whatever that means.)

This teaching was carried to its extreme, but probably logical, conclusion several years ago in Atlanta when Brother Miller was still pastoring there. I am hesitant to write about it, because I was not personally present, and only have the stories of a number of very disillusioned people who were there. The church experienced a 'move of God' which originally began in Holland. What characterized this 'revival' was that people began to

have terrifying experiences of hell and judgment and their lostness. These were people, many of whom had been believers for many years. I am told that they would literally at times, feel the flames of hell, feel themselves hanging over a pit ready to fall in, would "see" scenes of the Crucifixion, would feel their guilt for having killed the Son of God. They would lie prostrate and scream and wail and weep, sometimes for hours, in agony. And then, for the fortunate ones, relief would come and they believed that they had been truly "converted" or "born again".

This became the standard for an authentic conversion, and those who did not pass through an experience of this nature believed that God had by-passed them and that they were not really saved. I have personally talked to at least eight people who were not among those who had this experience, and one who did, and they are all totally disillusioned and have been unable to recover from the damage that this wreaked upon their faith.

There are so many ramifications to all of this, and I personally have spent years re-discovering the truth of the Gospel which I lost during those Argentina- seeking- for revival years. The essence of it all, however boils down to this:

The Gospel makes our starting point what religious zeal makes the destination. The believer who does not understand the Gospel of God's grace is constantly striving to 'arrive' at some higher level of spirituality. Always trying to find a way to fix his sinful flesh. To become more devoted or godly. The Gospel justifies the ungodly and sanctifies the sinner and makes him "in Christ" as righteous and holy as he will ever be. Because his righteousness is not in his flesh, but in the Man Christ Jesus. The Gospel freely gives a man who believes a perfect standing in the presence of God. And now, because we are justified, we are sanctified, we are cleansed, we are free, we can walk in love and the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us by the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. It is a life of rest and peace, not constant striving to "become." It is a life of quiet "abiding in Christ", not trying to get "into Christ". It is a life of believing, not achieving or trying to meet conditions of intense prayer, warfare, break-throughs to reach a God who is afar off. It is a life of being identified with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension, not a life of agonizing for that mystical moment when God sees that I have met the conditions and comes and "visits" me.

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