



Great hearts can only be
made by great troubles.
Great faith must have
great trials.

Charles Spurgeon

I promised a "Part 2"

As someone who studies the pseudo Christian religions I can't help but compare how the people trapped in such systems might cope with a year like the last June to June season Joe and I experienced with how Christians cope. They don't seem to fare well.

The points are 1:1 from June's newsletter.

- 1) We have friends. So do folks in false religions. If you're a potential convert, new to the area and need work, they can rustle something up. Need yard work done, a babysitter, groceries, or furniture? They have you covered. "Love Bombing" is a hallmark of a cult. Instant friends when you "need them the most". *But*, have an errant child or a troubled marriage and just see where these friends go. Struggling with your faith? A sin? And confess it to an elder? Poof, gone are the same people who brought you casseroles after that errant child was born. Persist in questioning why your group's doctrine doesn't jive with the Bible and you could find yourself shunned. Persona non-grata to even your family. As Christians we understand these seasons are not contagious and typically temporary. The Bible promises trouble on this side of heaven. (John 16:33) and friends to walk with us through those troubles. All of them. (Proverbs 17:17).
- 2) I still haven't changed my mind about Christianese since June. It upsets me that we can't find better ways to say what we need to say without being trite. *But!* What really makes me sad is what is done to our Historic Orthodox Faith Tenets' definitions by false religions. So many pseudo Christian religions want so bad to be seen as Christian, they adopt Christian vocabulary. The caveat? The definitions are concocted and completely twisted from the original Christian word. If you were to ask someone in the Mission Society Church of God if they believe in the Trinity they would say "Of course!". Their definition, though, is long and convoluted with their founder, Ahnsahngong, being both Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Marriage is hard. We know this. *But* to make it a part of our salvation places a burden on people God never intended. God placed what marriage should look like in the Bible for a reason. It's meant to guide us to be a reflection of God's love (Ephesians 5:25, Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 13). Our salvation is personal though, dependent on God's grace and our faith alone (Eph. 2:4-10). A Mormon wife, though, depends on being sealed to her husband in the temple who in turn is the only one who can "resurrect" her during the end times thus "leading her through the veil" to the Celestial Kingdom. If her husband isn't worthy then hopefully her father or someone will stand in proxy. No husband? She can be a servant in the Celestial Kingdom.
- 4) People trapped in false religions think they have their god in the middle of everything but really it's their church and it's requirements that propel them along. Have they done enough? Have they done what they did well enough? Maybe Jehovah Witnesses have managed well but they won't know until the very end if they're one of the 144,000 or will they be relegated to Earth? Or will they mess up and be annihilated instead? And who can they ask about it all? Remember #1? Anyone with questions won't be met with support and gospel conversations but shaming and condemnation.
- 5) As long as this last season was for Joe and I, we still wanted to serve God. In gratitude for the blessings He brought us along the way. Having said that we stepped back from a little bit of life, and honestly, I don't think God got too upset. He knew we needed the rest and to regroup. Religions who think their salvation hinges on their performance have no rest. Not what Matthew 11:28-30 (and many other verses) promises at all.

Resting in His promises,
Susan and Joe Wolf

PS. August newsletter will bring updates to OddDuck Ministries.