

DOCTRINE: STEPPING STONE OR STONE WALL?

*“To admit that I cannot hear the voice of the Lord will not only shut my mind to the knowledge of God, but will affect my outer ears.”
(Esoteric Philosophy. Pg 61:2)*

“Behold, I tell you a mystery, we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” (1 Cor. 5:17)

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In the 2016 movie “Morgan” the psychologist character played by Paul Giamatti, when faced with a daunting challenge, unknown circumstance and a brand new set of rules, utters the line “Comfort is a thorn in the side of revelation.” When it comes to doctrine, comfort, familiarity, routine and even fear of the unknown can truly as a thorn in the side of our own quest for greater realization and revelation in Christ.

Living by doctrine that increasingly, one after the other, expands our awareness of Truth can often test our spiritual mettle, our courage and willingness to move, as a fluid and elegant activity, to a place where doctrine is no more and only Immortal Mind remains.

One of the stumbling blocks on our journey Home is the illusion that whatever doctrine we are living by at a given point must be the highest truth that we can possibly attain; the be-all and end-all of consciousness. The questions that our mind may ask but only our heart can answer can be “Am I hanging on or am I moving on?” “Do I believe that change is death, or new life?” “Am I living in fear or in faith?”

The following table is meant to assist in answering these queries

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above and characterize what it is like when we are either “hanging on” or “moving on”

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| <b>HANGING ON</b>    | <b>MOVING ON</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Rationalizing        | Realizing        |
| For its own sake     | For God’s Sake   |
| Tiredness            | Energy           |
| Thinking             | Feeling          |
| Looking Back         | Looking Forward  |
| Bondage (Attachment) | Freedom          |
| History              | Mystery          |
| Comfort              | Counsel          |
| Routine              | Expectation      |
| Going nowhere        | Going Home       |
| Guilt                | Gratitude        |
| Pride                | Surrender        |
| Need to              | Ought to         |
| Required             | Inspired         |
| In control           | Led              |
| Static               | Seeking          |
| Crucifixion          | Resurrection     |
| Consternation        | Revelation       |
| Inclination          | Intuition        |

As it is with all affairs in life, staying anywhere too long tends to “wear out our welcome.” Our spiritual life is no different as we are likely to atrophy, in the spiritual sense, if we hang onto and insist on our doctrines when we ought to be moving on. Being observant and mindful, not sometimes but all of the time, assists us in answering the vital questions “Am I living in facts or in faith?” “Am I experiencing mere happiness or True Joy?”