



CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

THE PASTOR'S PEN

October 13, 2024

Breaking the Chains of Psychological Slavery

Na'im Akbar, Ph.D.

It is important to keep in mind that the image of God, which a people or a person possesses will determine the potential limits of their minds. If people have a narrow image of God, then their minds are narrow. If people believe that the biggest reality is a tree, then that is the extent to which their minds can aspire. If one believes that God can be only as large as a river or a lake, then that is as large as that mind will be able to reach. Such an image prohibits you from conceiving of the ocean which feeds the lake, and if you cannot conceive of the clouds which feed the ocean, your potential for understanding "Truth" and the competence which comes from Truth is limited. People with a limited or narrowed concept of God, then, have an automatically limited and narrowed psychology.

If you have come from a small rural town and you have only played against 140-pound football players, and you won your varsity letter every year, then you really believe that you have great powers within that limited context. If you happen to find yourself at a major university where the lightest man on the team is 200 pounds, suddenly you are forced into another reality. Because your point of comparison was with 140-pounders, your capabilities are only understood within that limited context. If you were capable of doing more, you would not know it until you got into a broader sphere.

There is a young man I know who was a triple jumper on the university track team. For the entire year he had been trying to jump farther than his record he had set in that region, which was 52 feet. In each meet his competition would jump 47, 49 or 50 feet. He could not get beyond 52 feet because 52 was the best he could do under the pressures that were available, and his own record was the best image that he could find to influence him. He eventually went to the national meets, and the fifth place jumper jumped 53 feet! You can imagine what the first, second, third and fourth place jumpers had done. Suddenly, this young man, who had desperately reached for greater distance all year long, jumped 54 feet 6 inches-surpassing everything he had been able to jump all year, and he did it repeatedly throughout the entire

What had happened for my friend was that his imagination had been expanded by his experience with bigger images-, and his capacities had consequently been expanded. The implication of this is that the mind's possibilities are limited by its concept of its potential. Human potential is broadened or limited by its concept of God. Thus, if God is anything finite (that is, limited), then you have already limited your mind. However, if God is infinite-without limits, without boundaries, without deficits or definition, always "greater than"-you have already expanded your mind to reach for the limits of all things. Such a consciousness of God puts us into the proper field to grow to our greatest height.

This idea constitutes the basic reason why any finite image of God is in fact limiting to our psychology. The problem only multiplies as we begin to attribute other limited characteristics to the deity. But to have a concept of God that can be put into a limited frame, a limited image, or a limited idea, automatically limits what your mind can do and where your mind can go. (pp. 52-53)

WORK FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE

¹² Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? ¹³ Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? ¹⁵ ...He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand...²⁵ "To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One. ²⁶ Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing.

Isaiah 40:12-26

OCTOBER MEDITATION QUOTES

"It is important to keep in mind that the image of God, which a people or a person possesses will determine the potential limits of their minds. If people have a narrow image of God, then their minds are narrow. If people believe that the biggest reality is a tree, then that is the extent to which their minds can aspire. If one believes that God can be only as large as a river or a lake, then that is as large as that mind will be able to reach. Such an image prohibits you from conceiving of the ocean which feeds the lake, and if you cannot conceive of the clouds which feed the ocean, your potential for understanding "Truth" and the competence which comes from Truth is limited. People with a limited or narrowed concept of God, then, have an automatically limited and narrowed psychology.

Na'im Akbar, Ph.D.

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Do I only believe what Jesus said or do I believe in who Jesus is? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

You have believed in a lot of things in your life... Do you believe in Jesus?

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis

Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future

Through faith God has given us the space to be an oasis in the middle of the city.

An oasis is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the Oasis today!
Let's continue to make progress!



Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.

Beginning



Current

Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light