

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RELIGION

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There are two kinds of religion, only one of which we are acquainted with. There is active dynamic religion, which always achieves results for God and humanity, and there is inactive, passive religion. This latter kind, with which we are familiar today, never accomplishes anything for God, the human race, and the individual members. It has the outward show of being real religion, but its record is one of complete and absolute failure, insofar as bringing God to the human race goes. For none would say that this world knows very much about God tonight. This land of America is the finest land under the sun. Yet it, as I write this, is torn asunder by internal and external strife. A few union heads, with a posse of Washington State Police grab a couple of dozen cars consigned to some auto dealer or other. Huge automobile factories tied up by "sit-down" and "slow-up" strikes. Harry Bridges of international Australian fame, has just called another strike, and still we do not hear from the "deportation board".

When my trouble was in full swing, about all one could hear was something like this--"They try to deport a man like Dr. Robinson who is bringing the truths of God to the world, and they let a man like Bridges get away with everything he gets away with". I heard similar remarks to that, not thousands, but tens of thousands of times. However, that's water over the dam. In New York, murder, gang-murder is rampant again, and lawlessness is on the increase rapidly. Thanks to the G-men, kidnappings are on the decrease. But none would say that there is internal security here in America. None would care to say that anyone at all knew anything about, or cared anything about the Power of the Spirit of God. Saloons running full blast. Immorality rampant. Liquor in every other home. No---I'm afraid the type of religion with which we are familiar has done little towards straightening this world out. It has not brought God to the multitudes. It is the passive inactive type.

Those who belong to these passive inactive religious organizations are absolutely honest. They are very much in earnest. They just simply do not know what to do about the evident refusal of the world to have very much to do with religion, as they know it. The whole trouble lies in the fact that they do not know what real religion is. They have never been told the truth about it. They have asked for an egg, and they have been given a stone. They have asked for a fish, and they have been given a scorpion. They have been fooled.

Now religion, as we have it today, operates about on this order. Those who belong to religious bodies, attend church every Sunday or so. They may be ushers in their respective churches. They pay their share to the support of the church, which is as it should be. Every Sunday morning, they attend church and listen to their pastor preach a sermon. They sing a few congregational hymns, they listen to a short prayer, and they go home, to return next Sunday. We mingle with them every day in the week, and they never tell us they are active members of some religious organization, we never would find it out. I know here in Moscow, church-members who bootleg, they drink liquor, they go out with other men's wives. They seldom go to church, yet some of them support it. They curse and swear, they play gambling devices, and, in general, as far as I can discover, there is not the slightest trace of the Spirit of the Infinite God in any of them. Of course, when the pastor comes round they put on a sanctimonious sort of ~~smile~~ smile, but that is not always necessary

as quite often you couldnt tell the difference between a pastor and anyone else. I know at this moment, an elder in a Presbyterian church who, at this very moment, is carrying on an affair with an unmarried girl, altho he has several children and a wife of his own. Next Sunday morning that good brother will be ushering in h's church, and before that he will be teaching a Sunday School class. That's religion, as I see of today. That's passive inactive religion. That's the type of religion which knows nothing whatsoever about the present existence of the Spirit of God. It has positively no belief in its own church's doctrines, and therefore it sees no need of making any sham of having real, true religion. It considers church membership a good thing for business, and possibly a relaxation for Sunday. Its a human-made, God-less thing which never, under any circumstances, can bring this world to a knowledge of God, because it does not know God itself.

Then there is another kind of religion. The world knows nothing about this kind yet. It is just learning that there really must be something going on here in Moscow, and other places. It is just beginning to discover that there really is a Movement of the Spirit of God on the Earth, and that its headquarters are here in Moscow Idaho. Some few weeks ago I was riding the Milwaukee Road's Olympian to the east. Sitting in the smoker, a couple of fellows opened up the conversation, asking of course where I was from. On learning that my home was Moscow Idaho, they at once said--"Oh--do you know that fellow Robinson out there?". I replied that I did know him and the conversation centred about this work, and I did not tell them till later that I was Dr. Robinson. It was interesting to have those two chaps asking me questions about Dr. Robinson and his work. Finally I brought them round to the place where I wanted to get them, and asked--"What is the general impression of this "PSYCHIANA" Movement round the country?".

"Oh that fellow really has something", was the reply from them both. And then I introduced myself. I was glad to know that report is out, for it is what I suspected. You cant make the columns of TIME, NEWSWEEK, THE PORTLAND OREGONIAN, CAVALCADE, THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER, THE LUTHERAN COMPANION, THE GOSPEL ADVOCATE, THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES ~~AND~~ and scores of other magazines and newspapers without what you are doing becoming pretty well known. You can fool some of the people all the time, and \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ all of the people some of the time, but you cant fool all the people all the time. If you have something real and true in the realm of religion, or in any other realm, the people will find it out. And that is just exactly what they are doing with "PSYCHIANA". They are finding out that it is a true Movement of God. And, of course, they are vitally interested both in the Movement and in me. Not that I amount to very much--I dont. But they seem to want to know all about the man who started this Movement.

Now what is this active, dynamic religion I have been speaking about--what does it do? Well in the first place, when a man or woman catches the staggering import of God, the Great Spirit, God, actually living in a human life, with all its Power, all its Love, all its Wisdom, all its Peace, I'm saying to you that that realization, energises that man or woman. It takes such an one completely out of the realm of the passive, inactive religion mentioned here.

It brings the consciousness of the nearness of this Great Life-Spirit home to one, and when that consciousness does strike home, that man is changed, and changed a-plenty. Instead of being a weak, cringing thing, afraid of hell-fire, afraid of death, afraid of illness, afraid of every priest or preacher he sees, it completely takes all fear out of the life. More than that, it replaces that fear, inherent fear it is through religious heredity, with a sense of overwhelming Power and peace. Instead of being afraid and fearsome, there comes the Spirit of God, which is the Spirit of Infinite Love. And, instead of trying to skin everyone in a business way, that man or woman manifests an intense love for all mankind. The first thing he or she wants to do, is to tell others of the great Discovery that GOD STILL LIVES HERE AND NOW, AND CAN BE FOUND BY ALL. That's the first thing that happens when God comes into a human life. Rather should I say, WHEN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD IS MADE EVIDENT IN A HUMAN LIFE. For do you not see, if you recognize the indwelling Spirit of God in you, you have at your disposal, all the Power of the God of this universe. Then how can failure or unhappiness manifest in a life like that? How can illness get you down with God in you? How can you be poor, or downhearted, with all the intelligence, all the wisdom, all the power of God anxiously 4444 waiting for you to use it? How can you fail with God in YOU? You just cant.

In the dynamic active religion of which I am speaking, there is, always, an overflowing reservoir of Power, more than sufficient for every need. Such an one overcomes. He does more than that--he radiates the Spirit of God wherever he goes, and men and women, when they observe such an one, automatically know that there is a "something" about such a person which is different from anything they have ever seen before. Of course there is. There is a confidence. There is a measure of wisdom never before known. There is Power never before known, and, best of all, there is a desire to bring to men and women, the same experience you have, when the Spirit of God is there, in you, ever ready to speak its Power both to you, and through you, to others. There's none of the namby-pamby "holier-than-thou" atmosphere about the man who has God in him. No sir. There is, however, an unstoppable urge to make God the most real thing in the world to all. That's dynamic, active religion. This it is which, sooner or later, will bring to this world eternal peace, not through the shed blood of Jesus Christ or any other "crucified god", BUT THROUGH THE LIVING POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD ITSELF. And there is quite a difference between the two I assure you.

Suppose for instance that next Sunday, in your church, instead of sneaking quietly in, as if in fear of someone with whom you do business seeing you, you smartly enter the church, shaking hands with everyone you meet as if you meant it, and then, instead of closing your eyes and praying or listening to the preacher pray, you begin to tell Bill Smith how the power of the Spirit of God manifested in you last week. Then, you introduce Bill Smith to about a dozen other people whom you have told about the indwelling Power of the Spirit of God. Dont you think that would make a difference? How long do you think it would take God to straighten this world out if He could find men and women through whom He could operate? Not very long I assure you.

The Spirit of God has actually and literally worked miracles through one man who started this Movement. And the work still goes on. Now then, if one simple little man can, through the Power of the Spirit of God, bring the manifestations of the Spirit of God to 150,000 people that he knows of, and probably five times that number that he does not know of, how much good could be done think you if half a million church members had the same spiritual experience your leader has? How long do you think it would take even 100,000 church-members to bring this entire world to God, if each one could do what I have been able to do? Not very long I assure you. And what the Spirit of God has done for other through me, it can do for others through you.

I wonder if you will let God so take care of your life that the manifestations of the Spirit of God in you are like they are in me/ Will you do that? Each one that will makes my task just that much lighter. It makes the end of war just that much nearer. For there can be no peace, no end of war or anything else good until this conception of the nearness and actual presence of God in human lives is universally recognized. Jesus Christ can't do it. Jeseus Chrishna can't do it. Mohammed cant do it, for all these dies a long time ago and have never been heard from since. But God--the Great Spirit of God--why, that great Spirit actually lives, and actually can do these things. So why waste time talking about a "son" of God doing these things? Why not deal directly with the Great Spirit--God?. You will find that whenever and wherever you talk to God, there is God, at that point, more eager to speak back to you than you are to have Him.

So then shall we make our lives, active, dynamic lives through the Spirit of God?. Shall we have a real religion, an active, dynamic one, instead of a senseless, useless, inactive thing which never can help anyone?. The answer my friend, is yours.