

LET HIM BECOME A FOOL

April 2, 2008

I'm sitting here thinking about a past client who's going through some really troubling times and a grieving conversation we had on last evening. She's in that same spot that so many of us have (still do on occasions) gone through – the spirit being willing but the flesh oh, oh so weak.

After doing an assessment on a new client – she asked me the question “how come you're so smart and wise?” I didn't answer her – just smiled but never stopped thinking on it. Today the scripture in I Corinthians 3:18 and 19 came to me. ***“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”***

There was a time indeed when I really believed myself to have some wisdom; but it was *vain wisdom* the wisdom of this world that's foolishness before God. It was a time when you were encouraged to *think for yourself – you've got five senses; trust your own truth (if that's such a thing)*. That wisdom led me to only one place – the pit of hell. I daresay people talk about hell but many will agree that there's a pit you can fall into right here, right now when you trust in your own way. Let me clarify something now – there will come a time in your life when you can trust your notions but only after you've fallen into the hands of the living God who's able to resurrect, deliver and restore you.

This is what we mean when we say “*let him become a fool...*”

If you really desire to overcome this world you will truly become a fool (what the world calls a fool). Webster has many definitions for a fool:

- a) Windbag, a person with little or no judgment, common sense, wisdom, etc. silly or stupid person; simpleton
- b) An idiot or imbecile
- c) A man formerly kept in the household of a nobleman or king to entertain by joking and clowning
- d) A victim of a joke or trick; dupe
- e) To fritter away foolishly

Then there is the word I like – foolhardy which means bold or daring in a foolish or rash and reckless way.

I don't know about some of you but in my days of rebellion and daring I was quite the fool although it didn't seem that way to me then. The mind of man will take you “right down through it” as my sister Terri would say; but getting back to becoming a fool. I believe it is quite a process and maybe the only process by which true wisdom and knowledge can come forth in us. If we never got sick we would never know Our Father as a healer – by the very same token we have to make complete fools of ourselves before we can truly understand the wisdom of God and allow Him to reveal Himself to us.

Ok, you say “but I don't think that I've ever made a complete fool of myself;” well have you ever come to a place of absolute embarrassment when you thought you were just so

right? Or have you lived with knowledge of something that you believed to be truth only to find out one day how completely wrong you really were? It can go on and on and on but the bottom line is – the truth and wisdom of God comes only when we acknowledge that of our own selves we know absolutely nothing, can do absolutely nothing but what The Father will reveal of the things of this life and the one to come. Man likes to boast of the things he has created and all of his accomplishments; his great buildings, cars, spaceships, etc. forgetting that if the foundations of this world had never been set in place he would be nowhere; this man is wise in his own eyes.

If we are honest and admit it the reason the world is in the shape it's in now (governments, etc.) and the reason our lives were screwed up for so long is because of our efforts to be wise in the eyes of man making us most foolish in the eyes of God. The bible tells us that pride goeth before destruction and a haughty look before a fall. Now that's some kind of vain wisdom; that's the path to becoming a complete fool. In order to be exalted you've got to be abased. In order to go up you must come down. In order to become truly wise, you must become a fool.

I daresay our lives were on a collision course destined to become fools from the day we were born throughout the shaping of our lives (in iniquity) only to come to a screeching halt when we looked up and said "I surrender all." The bible says we were born in sin and shapen in iniquity. For those that He has chosen we really had no choice (even though we made so many bad choices) in the matter. All of our vanity, pride, self-exaltation, rebellion, disobedience and deceit led us headlong into a life of foolishness and the way of a fool; that for the most part has been the view from a natural standpoint.

Spiritually we must become fools also; we have been so geared up to relying on the knowledge and wisdom of the "preacher" to lead us on into glory and the promised land that we've forgotten that our salvation, this great salvation is a personal and individual responsibility that is manifested through a deep and thorough relationship with God Our Father. For hundreds of years (perhaps thousands), man has given to man the job of grooming him for eternal life. It's time to reckon ourselves as fools and submit our lives and souls to the Lord. Jesus said, "*If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.*" In the eyes of the great high priests, governors, and rulers of Jesus' day, he was a complete fool. He called Himself a king and yet He walked as a common man; He mingled and co-mingled with the dung of humanity and made of Himself no good reputation. When He went to Calvary dragging that old rugged cross He was laughed at, despised and even shunned by the very ones He called disciples.

What does this say for us? Well, are you willing to be a fool in the eyes of this world that you may become wise in the eyes of God? Have you fallen deep enough into the pit of this life until there is only one way to look and that's up? The bible says "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" I believe when we begin (began) to truly fear Him we were well on our way to becoming fools.

In His Light,
Gwen Riley

