

Teaching E-mail 66

Only Your Faith Can Overcome Chaos

(February 4, 2013)

Have you ever experienced a sequence of almost simultaneous events in which you just knew our Father was revealing something to you through the timing? This has happened to us in the past several days and we felt we should share it with you. It all began when the Spirit impressed on us the word **chaos**. Over the next few days events occurred through which He opened our understanding:

1.[Mike] During my physical therapy session last Friday my therapist mentioned that she was moving east of the city far out onto the prairie with her family. Over the months of therapy with her since my knee replacement, I've developed deep respect for her. Not only has she been excellent at what she's done to help my knee recover, but we've also had many worthwhile discussions relating to U.S. history and current events about which she has done a lot of study and research. She was one of the rare people we've met who understood the significance of when this nation was a *republic* before it became a democracy. Throughout history it's evident that democracies always draw a society down to its lowest moral level. Our Founding Fathers recognized this and warned about this nation ever becoming a democracy.

Sue attends the twice weekly therapy sessions with me, and it's become a sort of "family time" with the staff as well as with the various other clients we regularly encounter. As a result of our conversations many have inquired about our

website. Over the course of these visits Sue and I have been delighted to find my physical therapist to be a woman of wisdom and deep convictions—a "kindred spirit" with us. When I asked her why she and her family were moving so far out from Colorado Springs, she told me that she senses this country will be collapsing in the not too far future and drifting into **chaos**. From her perspective, living in a city of a half million that already has a lot of gang-related violence was going to become life-threatening for her family. Knowing how politically and spiritually conservative Sue and I are, she told us, "I've come to realize that **I'm a Constitutionalist!**"

2.Then this past weekend we watched a TV interview with a well-known political historian who has a lot of influence in Washington. He proposed that this nation do away with the Constitution. His contention is that our society is *evolving* and we shouldn't let ourselves be controlled by "old men from two hundred years ago." The historian had forgotten (intentionally?) the biblical basis on which our Founding Fathers formed this nation. Through God's Word they were establishing a society built on order and mutual concern for one another as fellow citizens. We could recognize that the historian's argument proposed putting an end to God's moral law which underlay the unchanging intent of the Founders. In his quest for an *evolving* society, this man was overlooking the **chaos** that would ensue when each component of government authority sought their own way.

FYI: Every one of us is surrounded by a myriad of laws, most of which have been established for the common good. Most of us don't even concern ourselves with many of these laws, like the speed limit signs or traffic lights. But have you ever considered *why* you drive at or near the speed limit, or why you stop on red? Almost all laws, and especially the laws and commands and instructions of our God in the Bible, are established to enable us to live without **chaos**. Laws denote parameters of mutual concern for one another. Societal laws establish the boundaries for inappropriate or harmful behavior toward another person or group, forming the basis for mutual protection and concern for the collective physical and emotional well-being of the nation's people. The Constitution as it was intended to function makes all other laws possible!

3. On Monday we spotted a DVD at the library entitled *Shadow Government* and checked it out. The documentary revealed the dark side of current surveillance technology which allows the **power elite** in both the government and financial/business sectors to spy on the unsuspecting populace. The ultimate goal of those who hold the reins of power is to control and manipulate the masses so those at the top of the political and financial systems can expand their dominance over the rest. You might be thinking we're writing about some wild-eyed fringe element topic, but it's as present in your life as are your home and workplace.

If you use a computer or cell phone, there's little that isn't known about you! Many would like to think that those in government circles or the private sector

won't use this information against you—but you're naive if you believe this. Those who exercise power within the government or the realm of finance are inordinately sensitive to any perceived threat to their dominance (see 1Samuel 22:6-8; Proverbs 13:8; Ezekiel 22:29, and apply the concepts to the banking institutions and financial markets both in this country and worldwide). Look back at the institutionalization of education in this land. Universal public education was promoted by the government, not for the sake of exposing students to the necessary skills of reading, writing and math, but as a means of *public indoctrination* so that the young would grow up to be patriotic tax payers and soldiers. As someone who *isn't* at the top of the echelon, it's probably hard for you to envision the threat of loss which those who are at the top fear. Not everyone at the top is as philanthropic and humanitarian as Bill Gates or Warren Buffett seem to be.

In between interviews with concerned surveillance experts ranging from Harvard and Carnegie Mellon professors to computer program developers, *Shadow Government* presents a fictionalized story line of a pro-life follower of Jesus who regularly participates in a prayer group with others from his congregation. At his workplace he receives a call from a Homeland Security employee demanding that he meet him at a certain place that very afternoon. The Homeland Security official aggressively confronts the Christian about his pro-life stance, accusing him of promoting terrorism because an anti-abortion extremist had murdered an abortion provider a few years earlier. Citing that abortion is the law of the land, the official held the

Jesus follower *guilty by association* because he had participated in peaceful pro-life protests. Homeland Security refused to even let the man explain his beliefs and activities, and threatened him with incarceration if he continued. Don't think this scenario is farfetched. This kind of government-authorized accusation is currently taking place in countries in which our brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus are being persecuted relentlessly.

The scenario described in the film in many ways parallels the rise of Hitler in Germany. For the door to open to dictatorship, you first need **chaos**—**economic, political, and moral**. Hitler fostered the environment of chaos through his “Brown Shirt” thugs—Nazi militia he created to help him achieve power through intimidation. After rising to power, he then sought to implement his plan to rid the country of the Jews and other categories of people he considered inferior. But in order to do this, Hitler first needed to change public opinion about them. Through coordinated and contrived propaganda against the Jewish people, he succeeded in *desensitizing* the general population against them. By manipulating public opinion to consider the Jews morally deficient, he was then able to easily establish laws against them. Finally, he could arrest them for violating those laws, and exterminate them with little public outcry. We who follow Jesus wholeheartedly and trust in His Word may find ourselves not far behind that plot in this nation.

This sequence is already beginning to happen in Europe to those who would be true to Jesus and walk in His steps. The desensitizing of people toward

Christianity in general has occurred in many countries. Europe at large is considered by missiologists to be a “post-Christian continent.” As we noted in a previous e-mail, our brothers and sisters are being dragged before the courts by homosexuals and declared “intolerant”, resulting in guilty verdicts and imprisonment. With the speed in which we see the United States turning against the moral laws of God, His Word is being proved true: “*The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men*” (Psalms 12:8; see also Romans 1:20-32). We personally don't see this Presidency ending without moral and societal chaos taking place.

While our President may indeed represent a liberal agenda, he's just indicative of a God-less society that is *4% biblically literate* and given to both immoral and unprincipled pursuits. The force behind this nation's downfall will be the greed and thirst for control by the **power elite**. Throughout history those who gain the most from chaos thrive best when dictatorships exist and the masses are controlled. The economic, political, and moral chaos around us today isn't as much a problem for the powerful as it is for the common citizen. In fact, **chaos** of any sort barely inconveniences those who exercise power.

We can learn a lesson from the rise and fall of communism over the last century. First, this system *isn't* “communal” in regard to sharing the power and profits; instead it is a disguised dictatorship. Wherever communism flourished, it first needed **chaos** as its backdrop. When the elite take power, they have to eliminate both the intellectuals *who ask questions* and the followers of Jesus *who render*

account to Someone higher than the dictator. Do you remember how the first followers of Jesus were persecuted unto death when they wouldn't worship Caesar?

When communism came into power in Eastern Europe and China, most of the clergy caved in out of fear, declaring that God-less Communism was compatible with Christianity. Those who held on to the conviction of their faith, like Richard Wurmbrand, were killed or imprisoned and tortured. **When someone lacks the love-grounded obedient trust Jesus calls for in those who follow Him as their Lord, it's easier to sell their soul through submission to evil than lay down their life for Him** (Mark 13:12,13). Our Father is making sure His own are forewarned. In this nation we are being surrounded by encroaching chaos; the dictatorship will inevitably follow! Will your faith endure?

So what do the **ruling elite** and **chaos** have in common? Again, the elite thrive when dictatorships exist and the masses are held in check. To change a God-less democracy into an authoritarian dictatorship, all you need is **chaos**. During periods of societal mayhem and confusion, people will do anything to escape it or put an end to it. Soon after 9/11 Americans readily forfeited their rights and freedoms under the Patriot Act. It still hasn't dawned on them that this law alone opens the door for dictatorship to creep in under the guise of restoring stability and order. Information is now being covertly gathered about the populace that would have been forbidden as an invasion of privacy before this law was passed.

During their societal upheaval in the 1920s Germany chose Hitler to lead them. A dictator always gathers around himself the **power elite**. Once entrenched in power, he then rids society of subversive elements, maligning them as "intolerant" or as troublemakers (aka terrorists?) who would question the position of the elite. If you can't see the birth pangs of a dictatorship happening in this nation during the last 11 years, you've hidden your head in the sand of complacent oblivion. As the few who are rich become richer and the middle class disappears, unrest among the impoverished and desperately underserved increases exponentially. We're on course for a coming dictatorship that will not tolerate either God's moral commands in society or those who live by them. The rise of acceptance and approval of homosexuality at all levels of society is just a bellwether of what's about to happen!

"For God is not a God of chaos but of peace" (1Corinthians 14:33).

Several years ago Christian teacher Ray Vanderlaan, in one of the segments in his series, *That the World May Know* (now called *Faith Lessons*), made us aware of the orderliness and peace which follow when God's people obey His commands and instructions out of love for Him. Isaiah lamented to the Israelites that they had missed this important connection: *"If only you had paid attention to My commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea"* (Isaiah 48:18). In this particular lesson Ray also described the **chaos** that Satan and his demons try to inflict on societies. Demonic forces lay behind chaos, and the subsequent loss of personal freedom is

what's happening in this nation right now. The disparity between the republic our Founding Fathers envisioned and the chaos into which we are rapidly degenerating would make them all weep.

People today don't talk about **chaos** with each other, even though it's growing all around us. Most can't even sense it because it's happening in such subtle ways. Like the proverbial frog in the gradually heated pot of water, they can't perceive how technology is taking away their rights to privacy. And without the moral compass of the Bible, our society is devolving into one of suspicion and hostility. In previous materials we've written about our nation in the throes of an *atomistic society*. It's summed up in this description:

A society in the atomistic period resembles a swarm of antagonistic insects engaged in mortal combat. Individuals become obsessed with their own desires and concerns, disregarding the needs or suffering of others.

Here are two important points to recognize about the chaos around us:

Chaos involves complete disorder and confusion.

When people don't have a common set of moral laws to live by, societal unrest and confusion ensue. Without a commonly accepted set of morals, our society is rapidly sinking into atomistic chaos. Can you imagine a football game or basketball tournament if there were no rules established? How do you even play against your opponent? The result would be uncontrolled antagonism, much like our society is becoming.

The Bible describes a period of time in the past when a societal free-for-all reigned in Israel: "*In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit*" (Judges 17:6; 21:25). Only when the Israelites cried out in abject grief did our Lord deliver them. There aren't enough people crying out to Him in this nation because so few see the need for repentance and returning to His ways! Future widespread chaos was foretold in 2Timothy 3:1-5, which begins with this sobering statement: "*There will be terrible times...*"

Chaos is a pattern of thinking in which chance is supreme.

The broad societal acceptance of the *theory of evolution*, even by the majority of those professing to be Christian, has magnified a sense of distrust in God as well as desensitized many regarding the murder of unborn babies. Rather than abiding in sure confidence in a Divine Creator Who brought forth order in what He made, most now believe that everything evolved out of a chaotic, haphazard state of primordial matter. At most levels of our society, humans are viewed as no more important than animals or trees.

It's grievous that many who idolize wildlife and spend millions to preserve it demand the right to destroy human life, whether through abortion or euthanasia. But to those who deny God as Creator of all life or disregard the value He places on every human conception, the murder of 53 million plus preborn children is of no significance. As happened in ancient Greece and was indicative of its moral decay, the babies were aborted or left to die of exposure; then the elderly and

infirm were neglected; and then those who provided no contribution to society were left uncared for. **Chaos** will bring about this pattern of moral abandonment sooner than most people have the courage to face.

Again, we live within a culture which is now 4% biblically literate. The fundamentals upon which this country was founded have “evolved” into a sense of *self*-survivalism. We who follow Jesus and uphold the moral and spiritual foundations of His Word are already scorned and mocked in the media as “intolerant.” **In light of God’s moral law, tolerance doesn’t mean we hate a sinner. Rather, out of loving concern for them, His Word calls us in mercy to help those who violate our holy God to recognize the nature of their sin and its consequences. Then they might respond to His Spirit and repent, running gratefully to the Savior Who has taken the punishment we all deserve (Matthew 28:19,20). Biblical tolerance has never meant approval of sinful actions.**

Let’s look at a sin which has become especially prominent the past few years as people have become desensitized to God’s declared view of it in His Word. The homosexual agenda has vaunted this lifestyle choice as a special class of humanity. Through the influence of the power elite in the media, homosexuality has **redefined tolerance into blatant approval**. We who uphold God’s Word have been classified as “intolerant” because we can’t approve of something which violates our God’s commands any more than we can condone murder or fornication or theft (see Proverbs 13:5). Even now in Colorado Springs, which is sometimes referred to as “the Protestant

Vatican,” “tolerant” clergy are scrambling to be known as those who marry homosexuals. That which brought Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction is, in a sense, a “terrorist act” of slander against authentic followers of Jesus: His Name is trampled on, and those who uphold His righteousness are publicly maligned and disparaged as “hateful and intolerant” (see Psalms 37:12,13,32).

For now **chaos** will continue to grow, as will the denigration of those who love our Lord and are determined in His Spirit to be true to Him and His Word no matter what the cost. Don’t doubt that demonic entities are using the **power elite** and **the media** to create financial and moral chaos. The stock market will go up and down, and employment levels will fluctuate. But keep in mind that through greed and entitlement expectation in particular, there is no way this nation can repay the multiple trillions of dollars of debt we’ve collectively accrued—NO WAY! Our hitherto unimaginable indebtedness has signed the death warrant of this greedy nation as an independent entity.

From a merely human vantage point, the only “winners” will be the dictator who arises and the power elite who manipulate him as a puppet. Since this nation as a whole has tossed our God and His Word out of everything that matters in this society, He’s letting us feel the pain. And all the “God Bless America” bumper stickers aren’t going to change things as unrighteousness and unrepentance prevail. Think about the truths our Father has already revealed as *warnings to humanity* concerning these coming days: •“*When the righteous triumph, there is great elation; but when the*

wicked rise to power, men go into hiding” (Proverbs 28:12) • **“When the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding; but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive”** (Proverbs 28:28). Both of these verses remind us of Mike’s physical therapist leaving town with her family before the violence and lawlessness overtake them.

In our Lord’s mighty purpose and plan there *will* be a time of distress so that **those who belong to Him can have their faith tested** (1Peter 1:6-9). NOW is the time to examine your heart and your devotion to Lord Jesus to be known as His and to live as His so that you may stand firm in the time of testing. We join the psalmist in His heart cry to the Lord he loves and trusts: *“O righteous God, Who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure”* (Psalms 7:9).

“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own” (John 7:17).

The repeated emphasis by our Lord Jesus of *choosing to do our Father’s will* has greatly encouraged us as we’ve shared the Hebraic foundations these past 19 years. We’ve all too often encountered people whose conversations divulge much Bible knowledge, yet their words indicate they haven’t experienced *doing God’s will in their own lives*. They know they have no fruit in their service to our Lord, nor does their character display the fruit of the Spirit. Everything they do or say about spiritual matters revolves around their quest for *more knowledge*; but they miss the biblical commands to *love* God and one another by living in *wisdom*. That means putting what you do know *into*

practice by serving others so that our Father may be glorified. We’ve found far greater joy in discussions with others when they share with us how our Lord is using them, rather than in them telling us what they’ve read about Him.

You’ve probably encountered as many professing Christians as we have who claim to be waiting for God to show them His will. Yet too often they receive no guidance because they look for His answer only within the parameters they’ve established in their minds. In other words, they’ve already preconceived the answers they’re willing to take action on, or predetermined the desired outcome that His guidance must meet. But if you box Him in with how He needs to answer your prayer, you’re putting yourself in His place—so He has no reason to reveal anything to you!

Without your willing yieldedness as His trusting and obedient servant, you’re not really serving Him but rather yourself. You may know *about* Him, but without the trust of a child in His sovereignty in your life, you aren’t prepared to wholeheartedly do His will. We’ve noted this godly maxim in other writings, and you might want to weigh it regarding your own life: ***“You’re not ready to go anywhere or do anything for our Lord until you’re ready to go anywhere and do anything for our Lord.”***

We’ve also frequently written about the Hebrew word for faith as steadfast trust, *emunah* [eh-moo-NAH]. When *emunah* is used of God, it refers to His utter dependability and unwavering faithfulness. When describing human beings, *emunah* often signifies those who have steadfast faith to remain stable amid dif-

difficult circumstances in life, as in Habakkuk 2:4: “*the righteous will live by his emunah [his steadfast trust in God].*” This kind of trust in the One Who is utterly worthy of all trust is certainly a necessity for us today. Whether we find ourselves in painful troubles and trials or during times of abject societal chaos, we who love and follow Jesus as our Lord each need a *deeply rooted reliance on Him* that He can be counted on in *His* faithfulness.

Emunah is also related to the Hebrew word *Amen* we’re all so familiar with. The trust element of *amen* comes in as the person who is praying affirms and supports what’s been prayed according to God’s will. Biblical faith indicates *confidence*, an inner conviction which produces an active response rather than just cognitive assent. A follower of Jesus exercises authentic trust by *taking action based on their trust*—“***If anyone chooses to DO God’s will...***” His mental beliefs are transformed into *an action* based on *his commitment to God* (as in James 2:17). An example of what we’re talking about is Abraham, who out of committed trust ventured into the unknown fully expecting that God would meet him there. As Hebrew theologian Abraham Heschel evocatively observes, “***Faith is a leap of action rather than a leap of thought.***”

We have no doubt that **chaos** is already a prevailing cancer in our society. NOW is the time to examine your own trust in our Lord and His priority in your life and that of your family. If you’re not determined about doing our Father’s will NOW, you may find yourself denying Him when chaos really does

reign and you’re accused of being “intolerant!” All around the world in Muslim, Communist, Hindu and Buddhist countries are those who against all earthly odds are hearing about the love of God in Christ and the wonderful gift of regeneration by His Spirit for those who repent and put their trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Many are being immediately killed or persecuted for that grateful love-grounded trust even without having a lot of Bible knowledge. Obedient trust in Jesus as their divine Substitute and Lord, rather than knowledge *about* Him, is what separates those who belong to Him from everyone else.

If your relationship with our Lord is defined by wholehearted *emunah* as Scripture calls for in both Testaments, the Bible knowledge you do have (and keep on pursuing to apply) will be turned into action! (See Matthew 7:20-27.) It’s time that we who claim to belong to Christ quit learning *about* spiritual truth when we’re not fulfilling our Father’s will as His Spirit directs through responsive action. Seek His good and righteous ways in His Word—but don’t leave it at that. We encourage you: **That which you already DO know, put it into practice!**

And please take a few moments and read Psalm 37 regarding the issues we who follow our Lord Jesus are facing today. Chaos is going to reign because of the rise of the wicked, but there’s encouragement for the righteous in Christ all throughout this Psalm.

Mike & Sue