

AUGUST 1978

the  
**PLAIN TRUTH**

a magazine of understanding

# Hitting Close to Home

HUMAN RIGHTS COME FROM GOD  
PROBABILITY: WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT EVOLUTION  
THE AFFLUENT DIET





## Personal from...

# Emotional Maturity

**D**o you feel deeply about things or circumstances that are moving or important? Did you ever check your emotional responses to know whether you have attained emotional maturity and stability?

Most people give little or no thought to this matter of their emotions. We humans start life as little babies. We have to grow up. But to fulfill life's real purpose and mission, we must grow up not only physically, but mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. Did you ever stop to realize how many people think primarily only of attaining physical maturity? If it were not for compulsory public school education for children in our Western world, how many would take the initiative to develop their minds? How many, in each hundred, have done so in such nations as China, for example?

But what about spiritual development? The average person the world around automatically accepts the established religion of his parents and his country. Why are most Chinese Buddhists or Confucians? Why do most people of India follow the Hindu religion? Why do most of the Japanese embrace Shintoism or Buddhism? Why do most Arab peoples follow the Moslem religion; most Jews follow Judaism; most Italians, Spaniards, and French—as well as South Americans—embrace Roman Catholicism; a majority of Britons and Americans call themselves Protestant Christians? How many give any real thought to why they believe the religious ideas they hold sacred?

How many of these hundreds of millions of people ever give serious thought to spiritual growth? Yet no person attains true maturity unless he attains spiritual maturity, as well as physical growth.

But fewer still ever give so much as a passing thought to the need for emotional development.

Just what do we mean—emotional maturity? Few know the meaning of the term. Do you? Yet it is one of the real secrets of human happiness.

But, if no one is truly grown up—really mature—until he attains not only physical, mental, and spiritual adulthood, but emotional maturity as well, where will you find it taught?

Do you know any school or college which offers a course in “Emotional Development”? It most certainly is something we need to be taught. Few will ever teach it to themselves.

No one is born with it. It must be learned—developed. We need, continually, to realize that we are born as helpless little babes, knowing nothing at birth. We do not come equipped with instinct, like the dumb animals.

Ever see a little calf born? The mother cow doesn't go to a hospital to have her young delivered by an obstetrical physician, attended by white-capped and gowned nurses. She has no delivery table. No one helps her. The little calf comes into the world by an instinctive, natural process. Almost immediately it struggles to its feet. It finds its legs a little wobbly—but in a few minutes it stands on all four. No one teaches it to walk—and it doesn't have to wait a year to learn. It starts walking at once. No one teaches it where to go—it knows! It has instinct built automatically into its brain. It goes after its dinner. No one tells it or teaches it where the dinner is located. The mother cow simply stands stupidly by, waiting for the calf to find its dinner.

No newborn human knows that much. Yet the human infant has something the dumb animals do not possess—human mind. Humans, however, have to grow up. They have to learn—to be taught.

And one of the basic things every human needs so vitally to learn is the right use of the human emotions. So you see, the human mind has something vital to do with human emotions. Yet most people never give thought to controlling emotions with the mind!

But our emotions need to be understood, taught, trained, and controlled by the mind!

Our minds were given us for a purpose!

Where is the logical and proper place to begin such training? It ought to be taught to one-, three-, and six-year-olds, and in the early primary grades in school. That means this teaching ought first to be taught by parents in the home. But how can parents teach children when they themselves are still emotionally immature? How can elementary schoolteachers

*(Continued on page 42)*



# WHY HUMANS WERE PUT ON THE EARTH

---

*Most people know next to nothing about God. To understand ourselves, why we are, where we are going, and how, we need to know more about our Creator.*

---

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Ask anyone where the real beginning is in the Bible. He would probably reply, "Genesis 1:1." But he would be absolutely wrong! The real beginning of the Bible is NOT Genesis 1:1, but in the New Testament, John 1:1-2: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

In the beginning there existed two all-knowing, all-powerful, all-perfect SUPERBEINGS. Each possessed supreme MIND and CREATIVE power. One is called "the Word," the other is called "God." But the Word, it states, was also God—though a separate Personage. Although the one called "God" was supreme in authority, yet He and the Word were in all other respects equal. In mind they were in complete harmony and agreement.

There existed at first only these two Superpersons in space—no matter, no other beings or life forms, no physical universe. Both Superbeings

had always existed. There never was a time when they did not co-exist.

Continuing in verse 3: "All things were made by him [the Word]; and without him was not any thing made that was made." God created all things *by* and *through* the Word. Since these two Beings thought precisely alike in perfect harmony, the Word created all things exactly as directed by God.

## **God Is Creator**

Do you want to know what God is? Above all, *God is Creator!*

These two supernatural SPIRIT BEINGS were both Creators. But, as human beings think, plan and design—even putting their plans on paper before starting to build or construct—so these two Superbeings thought, planned and designed. There was no hurry. They might have thought and planned for many millions (or even billions) of years, as we count time, before starting the actual MAKING or CREATING.

Whether you believe it or not,

matter was *not* the first thing to be created. God created not only the visible, but *the invisible!*

The Bible says of the Word: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and *invisible*, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or *principalities*, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Col. 1:16).

These two original Persons, being SPIRIT BEINGS themselves, composed of spirit (remember God is spirit—John 4:24), designed and produced a type of spirit being somewhat like themselves—only naturally of far lower degree. These beings, called "angels," are invisible to human eyes. These spirit-composed angels were of three or more levels of power and ability in thought—simple angels; a higher class of angels called seraphs; and the highest, cherubs, of which there were only three—all inferior in mind and power to God. These created beings (angels) were equipped with minds—with the ability to know,



think, reason, form conclusions, make decisions, set CHOICES.

### The Supreme Accomplishment

Now as Creator, what was the *most important* creation that God could make? Was it the angels? Was it the heavens and the earth—the whole universe? Or was it man himself?

It was *none* of these things!

The supreme achievement of creation is righteous, holy, perfect CHARACTER. I define it as the ability in a separate entity with mind and free moral agency to CHOOSE the right: one who, seeing the way to both good and evil, *voluntarily chooses* the good, even against strongest temptation and pressures and desires to choose evil, and who *wills*, against strongest opposing pressures, to do good. These created beings—the angels—did *not* have perfect character at creation. *Character cannot be created automatically and instantaneously by fiat.* Character (whether good or evil) must be developed in separate entities possessing thought processes and minds able to think, to know, to reason, to make independent conclusions and choices. And that risks development of evil character. Of course, this righteous, holy and perfect character must of necessity COME FROM the *original perfect Beings*, yet as a result of the *independent* thinking, reasoning, knowing, and actual choice and desire of the recipients.

### Who Is God?

It is vital, at this point, to know something more of God. So now consider. God is Creator, Designer, Educator, RULER. God has SUPREME MIND! He IS perfect, holy and righteous character.

The Eternal God is not only Creator of all that is, but is also RULER over all He creates. He is also Educator. He reveals knowledge basic and vital to know—knowledge otherwise inaccessible to man and some of it even to the angels (see I Peter 1:12). What God creates He *maintains*. What He creates, He creates for a purpose. He intends it to be put to a use—a *right* use that *preserves* and *improves*. This use, maintenance and improvement is controlled by the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

Just what is God? He is Creator! But He maintains and preserves what He creates. How? By His government—the government of God!

Now the tremendous supremacy of these two great God-beings was exhibited at this point. They had in mind a tremendous objective for the angels—a purpose supreme. This required the creation of a new substance, MATTER, which comprises the whole vast universe.

So now we finally come to Genesis 1:1. The first four words of the Bible are: “In the beginning God . . .” Since in the Bible God reveals Himself as Creator of ALL—the entire universe with its galaxies, its suns, planets and moons—this places God (as we have previously seen from John 1:1-3) in existence *before* all else. The next word tells us what God did: He “created.” God is, first of all, Creator! And what did He create at this time—*after* the creation of the angels? “. . . the heaven[s] and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).

The King James Version renders the word “heaven” in the singular, but the original Hebrew is in the plural—“heavens”—as it should be translated. It is so rendered in the Revised Standard Version, Moffatt, and other modern translations. Genesis 1:1 is speaking of the *original* creation of matter—the entire universe, including our earth. The original Hebrew words imply a perfect creation. God reveals Himself as Creator of perfection, light and beauty. Every reference in the Bible describes the condition of each phase of God’s creation as “very good”—perfect. It is a perfect creation, beautiful to the eye. God is a perfectionist!

### Creation Not Finished!

Even though God is perfect—and He is a perfectionist, having created everything perfect—He often does *not* complete His creation all at once. This was true of the angels. The second stage of the angelic creation was the development of character—whether good or evil.

This earth, as only few know, originally was populated by angels. God had a great purpose in mind for them. Great accomplishment was planned for them. God pur-

posed that the angels utilize the raw materials and the many properties built into the matter of the earth to complete its creation—for God is the Author of beauty, harmony, peace, joy, perfection and glory.

This, of course, demanded law and order—harmony—and that all the angels pull together for their grand accomplishment. So the Creator set over them a GOVERNMENT—His government, with His constitution and laws. God’s LAWS were—and are—a way of life; the way of love—outgoing concern for the welfare of others; the way of peace, harmony, helping, serving, sharing.

The government of God is a way of life. It is the way that develops righteous, holy, perfect character. It is the way that produces peace, harmony, happiness, joy, abundance. It is the way of love. It is love to God in implicit *obedience*, adulation, worship, reliance, and faith—knowing that *God Himself is love!*

So God established on earth a throne to administer His government. On it, He placed a super-archangel named Lucifer. This great Lucifer was *originally* a bringer of light and truth. He was perfect as created. Next to God, this super-angel was the most powerful and most mighty being that it was possible for God to create. He was *perfect* in all his ways *until iniquity* (lawlessness) was found in him of his own free choice (Ezek. 28:15).

### The First Rebels

This Lucifer led his angels (one-third of all the angels—and it is possible that it was the same third that populated the earth under Lucifer) into sin—transgression of the laws of God’s government. God had wisely chosen to make angels, and later humans, *free moral agents*—with free choice. Otherwise neither angels nor humans could attain God’s holy, perfect, righteous character. God gave the angels minds of their own. And He made them immortal—they never die. They were each individually created. They do not reproduce themselves.

God bestowed upon angels minds possessing *great knowledge*—super-  
(Continued on page 41)



---

# ON EARTH

---

(Continued from page 3)

rior to that possessed by man. One might suppose that, endowed with such great knowledge and being created holy, they would never choose wrongly, or commit sin.

But some of them did! Their superior knowledge did not prevent rebellion, sin, and worldwide chaos and destruction.

Originally, the angels under Lucifer were holy—and Lucifer himself, sealing up the sum of wisdom, perfection and beauty, was created perfect. Yet he led the first rebellion, and evidently induced his angels to follow him in this supersin. Thus the angels sinned (II Peter 2:4). They rebelled against God's way. They deliberately formed within themselves *evil* character. They turned from God's government to vanity, lust and greed; jealousy and envy; competition leading to strife, violence, war. They resented any rule over them. They wanted to choose *their own way*, not God's way.

Thus the government of God was rejected, removed from the earth.

The creation of this group of angels was *now* complete! They had formed evil character. They became *demons*. And the great Lucifer became Satan the devil.

So possession of vast knowledge and endowment with free choice does not constitute perfect righteous character. Neither does it absolutely prove that the remaining two-thirds of the holy, righteous angels will not turn to sin.

There are three alternatives. One is that all of the angels were put on earth and a third of them went the wrong way, while the remaining two-thirds developed righteous character. The second possibility is that God placed a third of the angels on earth and they all sinned by following Satan in his rebellion. The final possibility leaves the angelic attainment of perfect, righteous, holy character uncompleted as of now. Perhaps this latter possibility is the most likely.

## What God Is

But now look at God Himself, and consider what He must have consid-

ered. God possesses perfect, righteous character. God will not sin. God will not go contrary to the perfect, holy, spiritual *law* which He created and set in living, active, inexorable motion, to cause and produce *all good*. God has *so set* Himself that He cannot sin.

So here we have the state of things, as God saw them, after the sinning devil and demons were cast down to the earth they had ruined. When the earth first was created, the angels shouted for joy (Job 38:7). There was happiness, joy, ecstasy, perfect peace on the earth as long as the government of God was administered on earth. But the universal sin of the angels on earth had apparently brought universal destruction! The earth was in a state of ruin.

Can we see, therefore, that God had these facts to consider? That immortal beings possessing great knowledge and freedom of choice, but *without* proven righteous character, could not guarantee the preservation and improvement of His creation. You see, *God is Creator and Preserver* of His creation. It is Satan and his angels who turned to destruction—and became destroyers.

## The Second Phase of God's Great Purpose

God knew that if the angels chose evil character, it left Him as the only Being in existence who could possibly be relied upon never to deviate from His government, its laws, and its way of life.

We have now reached the point where the government of God—the means of building and instilling righteous, holy, perfect character—was abolished from the earth. It must be restored. That is *uppermost in God's mind!*

God must have said: "There's just not enough of me." He needed millions or billions of perfect and righteous beings, governed by His government, to complete in beauty, majesty and glory not only the other planets of our solar system, but of our Milky Way, and the countless other galaxies of the limitless, vast universe. So now comes the next phase of God's overwhelmingly grand purpose: to REPRODUCE HIMSELF into billions of God-beings. □

(To Be Continued)

---

# DIET

---

(Continued from page 26)

harmful effects on our health. These dietary changes represent as great a threat to public health as smoking. Too much fat, too much sugar or salt, can be and are linked directly to heart disease, cancer, obesity, and stroke, among other killer diseases. In all, six of the ten leading causes of death in the U.S. have been linked to our diet."

"I cannot think of any reason why following the McGovern recommendations would be inadvisable," concludes Carpenter. "One is simply going back to the kind of diet that has been found over long periods to support good health. One would be going back to a tested diet rather than being on the modern diet which in terms of generations is an untested diet."

## The Prudent Diet

There's an old saying: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Most people today probably think that expression has little relevance to good diet and health. But one thing is certain: Americans—and increasingly other affluent nations of the world—are *not* keeping the doctor away. The cost in dollars is high enough, but the cost in human suffering and death is incalculable. Over 70 percent of all deaths in the United States are caused by diseases linked to the composition of our diet.

"We would never feed the average American diet to farm animals in this country," asserts Briggs. "No farmer would go out and give his pigs or his poultry a good diet and then dilute it down with sugar and fat at the kind of levels that we're doing in the American diet."

"Americans eat too much food," states Dr. Mark Hegsted of Harvard University. "They eat too much meat, too much fat—especially saturated fat—too much cholesterol, too much salt, too much sugar. They should cut their consumption of these and increase their consumption of fruit, vegetables, and cereal products, especially whole grains."

Instead of the affluent diet, we need a prudent diet. Our health and lives depend on it. □



## Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

disseminate what they have never learned themselves?

Just what is emotional maturity? One author defines it this way: development from a state of taking to a state of giving and sharing. There's also a spiritual principle involved—development from natural impulses and responses of human nature to the principle of loving one's neighbor as himself. Few realize it's a recipe for happiness. It is something that must be learned—by the mind—and developed by self-discipline. As I said, it's something you were not born with. Human nature is totally contrary to it.

God's law is based on the giving principle. Its basis is love. Love is outgoing concern. Human nature is a magnet—a pull—in the direction of self. But the way of God's law, which is the way to peace, happiness, and everything good—ah, that is a way humans must be taught. Giving, sharing, serving, helping have to be learned.

But humans are equipped with emotions. And, from babyhood, all humans are actuated more or less by their emotions. Emotions are feelings—disturbances—departures from a calm state of rational right thinking and acting. Emotion is an impulse toward action or expression of feeling, unapproved—unless taught and controlled otherwise—by the mind. Among the emotions are such feelings or expressions as fear, anger, resentment, jealousy, hatred, grief, sorrow, surprise, desire, elation, joy.

Emotions have a first cousin—our moods. The emotionally immature usually are moody, and have not learned to control their moods.

More and more I am impressed with a most important truth we humans are prone to overlook. While animals are guided by instinct into the course intended for them by the Creator, man is given powers and potentialities infinitely higher. The spirit in man imparts to the brain the powers of the human mind—an intellectual and even spiritual quality. Dumb brutes cannot appreciate a Gainsborough, a Rem-

brandt, or a Goya painting; a Beethoven sonata or a Schumann concerto; or the literature of great authors. They cannot acquire scientific knowledge, weigh facts, make decisions, render judgments, exercise self-discipline, develop character. They cannot attain access to and union with Almighty God, become begotten of Him as His very child, enjoy actual communion with the Eternal Creator, have their minds opened and enlightened by His Spirit, come to comprehend spiritual truths and, finally, become born as a son of God in His very divine family!

Man was put on earth to develop and attain to something infinitely higher than animal destiny. Man was intended to develop spiritual character—to become like the Supreme God. This all comes through the marvelous human mind. One comes to knowledge of God through the mind. One realizes sin and repents of it in the mind! God's Spirit entering is the Spirit of a sound mind!

Not only spiritual development, but also emotional maturity, is developed through the mind. It comes by right knowledge, creative thinking, right decisions, the use of will, self-discipline. To rightly direct his actions is man's purpose in life.

Yet most people seem to assume humans to be merely the highest of the dumb brutes! They fail utterly to comprehend the magnitude of human potentiality! They allow themselves to act thoughtlessly on impulse, with feelings, moods, emotions being swayed and buffeted into troubles, tragedies, and sufferings through irrational actions.

I once knew a tragic example. It was a man highly educated, a teacher who readily assumed the responsibility of teaching youths when he himself had never learned this central truth of life.

His mind was stored with knowledge about things—geology, astronomy, mathematics, literature—but he had acquired little knowledge about himself: his moods, feelings, drives, impulses, desires. As a child he had been pampered, petted and spoiled, permitted to have his own way. He had not been taught self-restraint, self-control, or how intelligently to divert his moods and desires, and guide them according to wisdom.

He was married to a beautiful and intelligent wife, had a fine family, an honored position. But when he allowed feelings, impulses, and moods to lead his actions instead of sound judgment and wisdom of mind, his home was broken by divorce; and in the grip of his moods and tendency to run from his problems instead of facing and solving them, he fled in blind fear from his high position and brilliant future. He wrecked not only his own happiness, but his marriage and his home, and he forced great sorrow, suffering and unhappiness on many others.

He had allowed his emotions and moods, instead of his mind, to lead his actions. He had come to see circumstances through the eyes of his feelings, and his understanding had become warped and distorted. He had grown up physically. He had developed mentally. But emotionally he was still a very young child—and, as a sad accompaniment, his spiritual age was no older.

One is not really mature until emotionally and spiritually grown up, as well as physically and mentally. Parents should realize it is their responsibility to study their own children—teach them right direction and control over tempers, impulses, feelings, angers, moods. Teach restraint of selfishness and vanity. Teach love and outgoing concern for others. Teach giving instead of taking.

But emotional maturity does not mean emotionless maturity. The truly emotionally mature control the emotions. They do not anesthetize them! They do express, at the right time, and in proper degree, enthusiasm, happiness, joy. They do feel deep gratitude for blessings, and also they deeply feel reverence, adoration, in the worship of God. They sincerely feel compassion toward others—a feeling of true outgoing concern. They express sympathy and have mercy.

Emotional maturity does not crucify emotions—it controls and guides them with right knowledge and true wisdom. Emotional maturity develops hand in hand with physical, mental and spiritual growth—the four blending, finally, into the perfect spiritual character which is the



true human destiny and the very purpose of life. It can bring very great and rewarding and lasting happiness.

Now, finally, let me describe the three categories into which people generally, and thoughtlessly, fall. And then let us see a few examples of the correct use of the emotions.

First, many, especially those of lesser education, let themselves go to an emotional extreme. They are mere babes emotionally. It never occurs to them to put any check or control on their emotions. They become highly emotional over inconsequential things. If these people drove their automobiles as they guide—or fail to guide—their emotions, their cars would run wild and create disaster.

Their feelings are worn on their shirt cuffs. They are upset over trifles. Their tempers fly, uncontrolled. They flatter, they gush, they exaggerate their compliments and their praise of others. They gossip, they slander, they speak evil of others behind their backs. They continually feel jealousy, resentment, or excessive jubilation.

Some religious sects deliberately attract the overly emotional. In religious meetings their preachers work on the emotions of their congregations, encouraging uncontrolled outbursts of emotional response. They “work it up”—they generate increasingly energetic and noisy displays of out-of-control emotion. But Jesus Christ set no such example. Nor did any of Christ’s own original apostles.

Then there are those who go to the opposite extreme. Often these are the intellectuals and the highly educated—though usually *mis*-educated. They have controlled emotions with their minds to the extent that their emotions have been stifled and put to death. They no longer feel deeply about anything. They are utterly devoid of real sincerity, any depth of gratitude, any feeling of compassion or real sympathy. Their emotions never grew up to maturity—their emotions died in infancy.

Then there is the middle ground, equally unprofitable and tragic. These are those who neither choke off their emotions with mental con-

trol nor exert energy generating them. They are just listless—indifferent. They feel no purpose in life. They have no ambition. They have no spark. They do not radiate—they are like dead fish. In an introduction to another, they extend a cold, clammy hand with no grip whatever. They merely let you grip their hand—and it’s like taking hold of a damp, dead fish. They have no personality. They are nonentities. There isn’t enough life in them to generate any noticeable emotional response.

Which of these three are you? If you are any one of them, you are wrong.

Now look at some right examples!

Where will you go to find the right teaching on emotional response? You’ll find it where you find the true ways of life—in God’s Word to man!

The Bible teaches us that our relationship with God must completely dominate our lives—until it simply is our life! It teaches us to feel deeply, though always intelligently, about it.

Look at God’s instruction through Joel. A tremendous worldwide time of trouble is now generating—such as the world has never experienced before. Joel prophesied the coming famine and disease epidemic. He foretold the plagues of the “day of the Lord.” He foretold the next, and nuclear, all-out world war—the most frightful trouble ever to be experienced by man.

Then God inspired Joel to instruct us how to escape and find protection. Does He say we should go through some routine motions, repeat by rote some prayer already written for us, which we recite without feeling or emotion? No, never! Here is what He says: “Therefore also now, saith the Eternal, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Eternal your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. . . . Let the priests, the ministers of the Eternal, weep . . . and let them say, Spare thy people, O Eternal, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over

them. . . . Yea, the Eternal will answer . . .” (Joel 2:12-19).

God says we should turn to Him in dead earnest—fasting, rending our hearts—in deepest real feeling. This is no thoughtless giving way to uncontrolled emotion. This is full mental realization of purpose—of need—and, with deepest intense feeling, seeking God with all our strength and might.

In correcting Israel for their manner of indifferent prayers, God says of Israel: “They never put their heart into their prayers” (Hosea 7:14, Moffatt translation).

Look at some of the sample prayers quoted for us as examples in the Bible. Notice David’s prayer of repentance, when he “came to himself” after his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. It is in the 51st Psalm. Notice how David, in dead earnest, put his whole heart into this prayer—with deep feeling of remorse and repentance.

David cried out: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight. . . . Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation. . . . O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. . . . The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Notice Daniel’s prayers. He was



in intense, dead earnest. His was no light, casual, routine prayer. He put his whole heart into it. Of it Daniel says: "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the Eternal my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God . . . We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments. . . . O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day. . . ." In this deeply earnest prayer Daniel continued on, beseeching God with his whole heart (Dan. 9:3-19).

Can you imagine these men of God praying in this manner dry eyed? I can't. Surely tears were streaming down their faces. These were intense prayers—prayers of surrendered, yielded men to the great God!

God has graciously granted, by astonishing miracles, many answers to my prayers. But never have I received an answer from God except when I prayed earnestly from the heart. I have never known of a real answer coming from God of a casual routine prayer. Yet do not most people pray casually, perhaps as a matter of duty, and without feeling or emotion? Perhaps this makes plain the reason most people have never received an answer to their prayers.

Jesus gave us an example of two men praying. The one a respected Pharisee, the other a hated publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed, without emotion or feeling, in his own self-esteem and vanity: "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." The other, pounding his breast in earnest, heartrending, deep-feeling remorse and repentance, choked with emotion, could only say, amid his tears, "God be merciful to me a sinner"! Of this latter, Jesus said, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other"—the self-exalting Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14).

Jesus Christ is our example. Can you comprehend what extreme deep feeling Jesus experienced when He looked out over the city of Jerusalem, whose deceived, erring, wrongdoing people He loved, and cried out: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them, which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 23:37.) Here was emotion expressed. But it was intelligent expression of feeling—not unthinking, unguided sensual impulse. It was filled with deep meaning!

Of course Jesus had the divine power; He could have gathered the people of Jerusalem to Him by force! But, had He brought them to Him by force, His whole purpose of character building by free choice and free moral agency would have been defeated—so He willed that they, themselves, should make their own decisions. And He was grieved through His whole being that they rejected truth and happiness and salvation and eternal life, and chose curses and suffering and death.

Should we ever feel deeply about things? We certainly should. Jesus did! Just before the Judas-led murdering mob came to lead Him to trial and death, Jesus went apart from His disciples and prayed. "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

If we do learn to live by "every word of God"—by God's instruction book—we will learn to guide emotions intelligently—but we shall not suppress them, neither let them run rampant and uncontrolled where they ought not.

Jesus Christ, at age 33½, was the most perfectly developed man, physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally, who ever lived. He was fully mature, these four blending harmoniously into the one perfect whole man.

Let us study His life, follow His example, live as He lived. And let us begin, now, to train our children as early as possible in the art of growing up emotionally! □

## RIGHTS

(Continued from page 30)

you have, including your life, liberty or property, and still be morally justified.

Only God can put teeth into human rights. If a dictator violates the liberties of a people wholesale, what is to stop him? Only superior force. But as Nietzsche said, if God is dead, then *all* is permitted. Only God always has force superior to that of all dictators in every situation. Only God has the power to judge dictators after they are dead.

Human rights come from God. And if we are to know what those rights are, we must look to God's revelation. There is no other firm source of human rights than what God has stated in the Bible.

There are many rights delineated in the Bible, and to list them would take another article. But certain basic rights are enumerated in the Decalogue:

1) *The right to worship God*, implicit in the commandment that only the true God shall be worshiped.

2) *The right to life*, protected in the commandment against killing.

3) *The right to private property*, protected in the commandment against stealing.

4) *The right to a fair trial*, implicit in the commandment against false witness.

This list is by no means a comprehensive description of the human liberties guaranteed by God, but it is a start. The main point is, if there are any *absolute* human rights, they come from God. If we want to know the real source of our absolute human rights, the clear lesson is we ought to be diligent in studying God's revelation, the Bible. □

### RECOMMENDED READING

Request the free booklet entitled *Read the Book*. This booklet gives helpful guidelines for studying God's revelation to man, the Bible. It explains how to remember scriptures and how to apply the principles of God's Word to real-life situations. To receive your free copy of this booklet, simply write to the address of our office nearest you.