

Our Competitive Spirit and its Source

Also read "*The Goose & the Golden Egg*" BIAP Article

However, there need be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you. Deuteronomy 15:4

None of us want to be poor, but a "competitive" spirit, what should we think??? Is it our Lord's plan to be competitive??? Think of this; every day a gazelle in Africa wakes up knowing it must run faster than the fastest lion in the territory or it will be eaten alive. Every day a lion in Africa wakes up knowing it must run faster than the slowest gazelle in the territory or it will starve to death. So goes the competitive nature of life on planet earth.

It is obvious to intellectual reasoning that running fast to compete is an intended survival plan for much of the animal kingdom. The question then arises; what about more sophisticated life; us, you and me? Is competition a bad word to be avoided, lest we might be judged as selfish barbaric savages? Is a competitive spirit a biblically justified concept?

Many biblical illustrations address winning and losing. It's obvious too; we're not all created with the same talents and abilities. Without our differences though, society would not and could not survive and function the way our Lord and Creator intended. It's our differences that allow us to function as a society. However, after the bad choice described in chapter 3 in Genesis, we tend to see our differences as an inequality problem!!!

The real problem is: After humanity's satanically inspired destructive choice, explained metaphorically as eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, we may, even after receiving our Lord's Holy Spirit, ignore a very important "competition" resource.

Humanity's bad choice voided the relationship that allowed our Lord's Holy Spirit to fully harmonize with our specific talents and abilities and accomplish the particular purposes placed within each of us to blend with society's essential needs and pleasures.

Note this: When a female egg merges with a male sperm, in addition to establishing our DNA, specific natural talents and abilities are intended to determine and direct who we are. Assigned purposes are placed within each of us. After the bad choice, "FEAR" replaced agape type "LOVE" (*a purpose driven VERB - not just an emotional feeling*). All SIN originates from FEAR! Read 1 John 4:18 carefully again. Satan's plan to avenge God by destroying humanity was an easy assignment – Exchanging agape love with fear; that's all.

Before humanity's choice to be what they thought was being their own god, their garden world experienced no "FEAR." After the wrong choice, there was no "LOVE." We are now, from birth, motivated to compete by selfish (*survival at any cost*) fear more than by God's purpose driven agenda activated by faith driven competitiveness. When counseling, it is helpful to try to reveal prenatal circumstances and early childhood parenting.

Temptation to pursue competitive efforts the world's way may, at first, seem like an easier path to survival or success, than trying to follow anointed purposes. However, avoiding spiritual providence to compete using only a selfish intellect and obvious resources in the rat race with a secular society misses the abundant life our Savior came to bring.

Competition that's limited to talents, fear driven images and obvious resources, and not relying on faith to release incredible wisdom and counsel make us behave like the gazelle and the lion. Fear driven pride and self-worth challenges control our selfishly driven competitive motives because, subliminally, we see grace as a product of performance more than our spiritual position. Read Malachi 3:10 and Luke 6:38 again!!!

Obedience and Discipline will take us much further than talent and ability!!!