

Opposition

Purpose: to help the listeners understand that anytime a Christian makes a true stand for God there will be opposition. But make sure that you are not in the flesh, or you will hinder the work of God.

Does it seem as if whenever you try to do good, things get worse? Have you ever faced opposition from people because of your Christian faith?

Any time that you decide to really do God's will, you will receive opposition.

***Joh 16:33** - These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

***2Ti 3:12** -Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Moses was convinced by God to speak to Pharaoh and tell him to let the children of Israel go. Let's see what happened:

Exodus 5:1-23

What did Moses do?

Moses stood for the right thing

- Let my people go – God told them – you had better make sure that you are standing on something that God told you to do, and not on your own

Moses had the right attitude

- Moses was polite, respectful and was not rude or arrogant (v. 3)
- A soft answer may turn away wrath (proverbs 15:1)

Moses knew what God had said

- Remember that God had clearly spoken to Moses (Ex. 3:4)
- Remember that God told Moses that Pharaoh would not listen to him (Ex. 3:19)
- Remember that God showed signs to Moses to encourage him to go (Ex. 4:2, 6)
- The bigger the task, the more confirmation is needed and the more God will confirm

When you decide to do God's will, especially when there is opposition, don't be surprised if things get worse before they get better

- Pharaoh did not know God, so he was not going to listen without some persuasion from God (v. 2)
- Pharaoh did not respect them (get back to your work, v. 4)
- Pharaoh made their lives worse when hearing God's demands (vs. 6-9)

- Pharaoh caused the people of God to turn against their leader (vs. 20,21)

Pharaoh was in opposition to Moses, because he was not a spiritual man:

1Co 2:14 - *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

What is the “natural man”?

- Greek – *psuchikos* (governed by breath), from the word *psuche* (breath)
- Thayer – the sensuous nature with its subjection to appetite and passion

A person who is an unbeliever will never understand spiritual things or morality, because they are spiritually discerned.

A believer that is not yielded to God is “carnal”, and will also not understand spiritual things.

1Co 3:1 - *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.*

1Co 3:2 - *I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;*

1Co 3:3 - *for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

What are the signs of a carnal Christian?

- Not able to receive solid food (from the word of God)

1Co 3:2 - *I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;*

- Envy, strife and divisions

1Co 3:3 - *for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

- Works cannot stand the test of fire

1Co 3:13 - *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*

- Wisdom is from “this age” rather than from God

1Co 3:18 - *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.*

Both an unbeliever and a carnal Christian may oppose you!

- My biggest problems with people have come from missionaries!
- My second biggest problems with people have come from church members!
- My third biggest problems with people have come from family members!
- Unbelievers have been number four, probably because I have not had as many dealings with them.

Conclusion

When Moses did what God told him to do, he was apposed and for a while things became worse. If this happens to you,

- Don't let it discourage you
- Don't become the source of opposition