

Do you have a passion for revelation from God or do you practice a passive approach to revelation, preferring to run your life based more on your own opinions, which will inevitably enroll yourself into the 'school of hard knocks'; the hard way verses the easy way? - Perhaps better contrasted as 'the much harder way verses the hard way as life can be hard no matter which route we take. The harder way, or may I term it, 'the Adam & Eve way' is learning primarily through one's own self-guided experience; trial and error, or trips and falls to figure out what works or fails; to prove what is good or bad, rather than accepting and learning through faith and a God-guided life.

All of us to some extent have swallowed Satan's spin on learning about life on our own terms instead of depending upon God's instruction. We feel like we have the right to self-determination, rather than letting God be our primary revelator, which sets us up as being a sort of 'god onto ourselves'.<sup>Gen. 3:5</sup> This is one of the primary ways in which humans rebel against their creator. Unfortunately, this type of rebellion is all too often still practiced by average Christians who attend church, perhaps that person sitting to your right or to your left and don't overlook that person in between them; let's be honest.

Of course, Scripture does not infer that experience would not have played a critical role in human learning in practicing faith. Rather, it means that human learning would have been a progressively positive experience if Adam and Eve would have instead relied upon God's instruction (listened to and obeyed him) on how to live their lives. Instead they asserted a claim that it was their own prerogative as to what behaviors, life styles and actions they might decide upon through their own strong headedness. Like them, we also are drawn towards a desire to be *unhindered* by the *restrictions* that accompany faith in an all-knowing, wise and perfect God. Yet, abiding by those *restrictions* would have eliminated the horrible experiences that the human race has since experienced. Surely you have experienced your share of tragedy in this life.

We have all at times practiced strong-headedness (rebellion); asserting our own judgments on what is desirable or right, rather than living a life of prayer, fasting, Bible-study and meditation; awaiting, trusting and depending on God for his guidance. We thus avoided the *risks* of receiving his revelation when such might clash with our own preferences.

We must not be passive in seeking God's will through revelation. We are instructed to be "hunters."<sup>Lk. 12:29-31; Heb. 11:6 & 12:15; 1Pe. 1:10</sup>

*We will examine this concept more in our next installment.*

Direct your questions or comments regarding *Call to Prayer* series to [john@sojourn-cny.com](mailto:john@sojourn-cny.com)