

GENESIS STUDY QUESTIONS

August 2, 2009

"A Divided Allegiance"

Leaders: This week's study is attempting to answer the question "I've given God my heart, what more does he want?" Note that there is a lot of scripture in this week's study. It would be a good idea to familiarize yourself with it ahead of time.

Getting Started

The most useless thing in my house is _____, but it's still there because _____.

I believe in God, but _____.

Digging Deeper

Read the brief account of two different kings: King Amaziah (2 Kings 14:1-4) and King Azariah (2 Kings 15:1-4). In regard to their behavior, what two things did these kings have in common?

They did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. They failed to remove the high places and the people continued to offer sacrifices there.

Although they chose to follow God, both kings failed to follow God's law (Leviticus 26:1). These kings of Judah had a divided allegiance. While they worshipped God in the temple, they allowed the worship of pagan gods in their homes, in the high places, and throughout the land.

Why do you think they were "divided"?

When have you experienced this same struggle? If you feel comfortable, share your answer.

God understands this struggle between our human nature and our spirit. That is why He asks us to give our full allegiance to Him. If we don't fully commit to Him, we *will* commit to something or someone else.

Read Romans 8:5-8. What keeps us from fully obeying God's law?

Living according to the sinful nature keeps us from obeying God's law. When controlled by the sinful mind, it is not possible to please God.

How can we submit to God's law? Read Colossians 3:1-8.

Some people may answer this question with "going to church, reading the bible," etc. However, this scripture says that we must put to death once and for all our earthly nature and rid ourselves daily of how we used to live.

Application

Submitting to God's law is not just about creating a "to-do" list. We have a divided allegiance because we do not put to death or get rid of those things that hinder our ability to follow Christ (just as the kings of Judah did not destroy the high places).

Which do you struggle with the most:

- 1) Putting to death the big things OR
- 2) Getting rid of the smaller things

CHALLENGE!

Because I struggle with _____, this week I will do _____.

Pray and ask God to give you the courage and strength to remove anything that hinders your relationship with Him. Share this with someone you trust, and ask them to keep you accountable.