

# When is enough, "enough"?

The other day, I had the opportunity to meet an elderly man who was bitter. He believes that God is not a God of mercy as many profess, and as it is written in the bible. He told me He is a God of favoritism. The son of the elderly man passed away due to liver damage caused by alcoholism. The elderly man also drinks himself to cope with that pain of the past. I talked to him about the sovereignty of God. I took time to explain to him that God is in charge and is doing what He promised for all. He knows what He is doing. "Mind you, this man is drinking while we are talking". The man says, "It seems that He doesn't care most of the time. My son did not have to die like that! He didn't have mercy on my son." I noticed the emotion of anger in his heart. I told the elderly man that God has much mercy for His people. When I said this, the man looked at me and said, "How did you come to that conclusion?" As hard as it was to say, I told him that his son brought those circumstances on himself by the choices he made. Surprisingly, the man listened carefully to what I was saying. The key word is choice and God sits back and allows us to make them. That alone is mercy! He blesses us with a bible that guides our very being or way of life. In the bible is the correct answer to everything. Our choices are purposely altered from the word by ourselves. Who can we blame? You must ask yourself this question, When is Enough, "Enough"? I informed the man that it is all about His glory. He gives us mercy in ways we could never imagine and He tolerates our ungodly behavior! \_Chance after chance we get, but we do things the way we believe. Then at times God has to withdraw. We can't say we are never warned. I am convinced that we go beyond God's patience and He is a God of great patience! I shared with the man some bible passages that demonstrate the patience of God and His divine mercy taking place before He said "Enough is Enough"!

Look at **Genesis 6:9-22** NLT – (9) This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. (10) Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (11) Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. (12) God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. (13) So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth! (14) "Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. (15) Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. (16) Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper. (17) "Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. (18) But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. (19) Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. (20) Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. (21) And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals." (22) So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

Noah preached for over 200 years telling the people to repent! This was taking place while the ark was being built. This is an example of God's mercy. For those who refuse to repent, God said "Enough is Enough". In the **book of Jonah**, it tells us about the prophet named Jonah who didn't want to warn the people of Nineveh to repent of their sins as God instructed him, so he was swallowed up by a fish (mercy). Once Jonah repented, God released him to do what he was initially instructed to do. Jonah preached to the people and they repented, but in the **book of Nahum**, the bible tells us that the people returned back to their wicked ways and God destroyed the city of Nineveh! This did not happen over night, but in a span of about fifty years. Why did God destroy the city? "Enough is Enough". The bible tells us in **1 Kings 11** that three times God tells King Solomon to leave those ungodly women alone for they will lead your heart astray. Solomon refused to listen and God stripped him from being the king. Why? "Enough is Enough". Moses instructed Pharaoh to comply with God's instructions and Pharaoh refused! The same for Korah who was also under Moses. God had mercy on their lives because He is all-knowing and He knew these two men would not cooperate or obey from the beginning. They could have been destroyed immediately, but God spared their lives until "Enough was Enough!" It is the same today. Christ has so much mercy with His people and **2 Peter 3:9** NASB – God tells us why He chooses to have mercy on us – (9) The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. God's mercy is beyond our human understanding. We as a people live by choice. We know what we are doing and we have no excuse at all! There are many stories in the bible of God showing mercy on His people. So ask yourself this question, "When is Enough, Enough"?

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 JOHN 1:9-11

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A good pill to swallow is pride.

