

What Separates Us from God?

I was recently reading some of William Bradford's writings. I came across an interesting exert in which Bradford was trying to convey an idea which I believe to be often overlooked. Bradford was talking about how nature is our "language." Every word is tied to something physical. Even when we use "spiritual" words such as love, we still have a physical image in our heads. Scholars often think Bradford is simply trying to tie everything to nature, but this wouldn't make sense. William Bradford was a strict Puritan writer. All his other works are focused around God. So why would this work be about nature.

We often read about God's divine knowledge in the Bible. Humans aren't capable of understanding this knowledge. What could divide us from such knowledge? I believe it is the ability to think above a physical world. This would make all of our "stuff" our weakness. I think Bradford knew this and resented it. In order to obtain this knowledge, one would have to separate themselves from the world, take off to some mountain, and try to empty their mind of anything physical. Sound familiar? Modern day monks. They separate themselves from the world in order to come closer to God. To be close to God, you have to try to understand him.

God's ideas of strength and weakness are very different to ours. I mean why did an all powerful God have to send his only son to save the world? Why couldn't he do it himself? Just ask any parent which would require more strength, dying or watching your

kid die. Any parent I know would die for their child rather than see them die. This was the greatest act of love/strength God could have ever done.

Today, we look down on poor people. We see people with nice things to have some sort of power I think we have it backwards again. I was watching a show on TV about some of the richest people in the world. There is a man with a billion dollar yacht that has a smaller yacht inside of it, a submarine, and six small ski boats. He needed six ski boats in order to unload all of his stuff at port and was tired of making more than one trip. That is the most sickening thing I have ever heard. I immediately thought of one of my old high school teachers, Dawayne Key. Mr. Key used to talk about “stuff” and how unimportant it was. I don’t remember a lot of lessons I learned in high school, but I will never forget him pleading with us, “IT’S JUST STUFF!!!!” The word “stuff” would roll off his tongue as if it were as bitter as vinegar. He would double over and make a face as if he were about to vomit. Maybe old man Key’s hatred of “stuff” wasn’t so missed place after all. We should see strength in the man that works in the field in order to provide for his family. Who spends enough to get by and uses the rest to help people in need. Living without unnecessary “stuff” takes strength in our world today, it is not for the weak. A weak man comforts himself with “stuff.” He usually drives the newest car, or has the newest phone.

“Stuff” is the greatest downfall of humanity.