



Sunday April 18, 2010
The Seven Mountains Assignment : Part 3

Today,
Influencing the mountains of Education, and Arts & Entertainment

THE MOUNTAIN OF EDUCATION

When we talk about "Education" we are talking about the system of imparting knowledge, learning and training.

1, God's Promises relevant to the mountain of education

God, the Source of all wisdom and understanding

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Ability to learn

Daniel 1:17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

John 1:4,5

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light (*enlightening*) of men.

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Ability to teach

Exodus 35:30-35

30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

31 and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship,

32 to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze,

33 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

34 "And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

35 He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver—those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

Teaching is a gift that God gives to people (Romans 12:6,7)

2, Challenges on the mountain of education

Atheism

Atheism denies God totally.

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

Humanism

Humanism elevates the human intellect and rationalism and rejects matters of faith, the supernatural and what is of God.



1 Corinthians 1:21.... the world through wisdom did not know God,....

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Pride

1 Corinthians 8:1....Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

3, Demonic powers on the mountain of education

Lucifer – before the Fall

- Beauty : Ezekiel 28:12
- **Wisdom : Ezekiel 28:12 ←**
- Wealth : Ezekiel 28:13
- Music : Ezekiel 28:13
- Anointed : Ezekiel 28:14
- Business : Ezekiel 28:16
- Ruler over nations : Isaiah 14:12

Deception

Demonic powers are busy on the mountain of education deceiving and causing deception.

Deception can come in many forms – believing a lie as though it were the truth, or staying away from the truth as though it were a lie, or thinking that you know when you do not know, etc.

Romans 1

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie,

Deception blinds. It causes people to suppress the truth. It causes people to become foolish in their thinking and thinking themselves to be wise, end up in foolishness. Deception cause people to exchange the truth for a lie. Deception in many cases leads to confusion - knowing a lot and not knowing which one is right.

Deception was satan's first tactic against mankind (Adam & Eve), and he succeeded.

Intellectualism

In intellectualism, education becomes an end in itself, like a demi-god, education is worshipped. Knowledge becomes god and hence displaces God.

4, Testimonies of Christians on the mountain of education

(Thanks to Carl Bob Willis APC Central, for doing research and getting me some of the information presented in this section)

The Early Missionaries



There has always been a strong relationship between Christianity and education. People need to be literate to read the Bible. *'Some degree of education must be added to enable believers to read the Word of God for themselves in their native tongue'.*

The motivation of the early pioneering missionaries who came to India was "Church and school are to go together. Christians must be able to read the Word of God, and therefore all Christian children must be educated."

Though for many missionaries education was subservient to the preaching of the gospel. Typical is the view of C. B. Leupolt, a CMS missionary who arrived in Banares in 1832: *"Another means which we think of the greatest importance, next to preaching of the Gospel, are Schools, or the training up of the young in the fear and admonition of the Lord."*

William Carey

Carey arrived in India in 1793 and by 1794 he had set up his first school. By 1795 he had outlined ambitious plans for a College. For William Carey schools were 'one of the most effectual means of spreading the light of the gospel through the world'.

Alexander Duff (1806-78)

The Scottish Presbyterian Alexander Duff (1806-78) landed in India on 27 May 1830 after twice enduring shipwrecks. His initial visits to other missionaries in the area, led him to the conclusion that contemporary missionary strategies were failing. He saw that direct attacks on Hinduism through street preaching were largely ineffective. A decade later he recalled his original strategy: "we shall, with the blessing of God, devote our time and strength to the preparing of a mine, and the setting of a train which shall one day explode and tear up the whole from its lowest depths."

He used Christian education through the medium of English, rather than native languages, targeted at the high-caste Brahmins. His justification: "... in the very act of acquiring English, the mind, in grasping the import of new terms, is perpetually brought in contact with the new ideas, the new truths, ... so that, by the time the language has been mastered, the student must be tenfold less the child of Pantheism, idolatry and superstition than before."

Duff's 'trickle down' policy aimed at educating the high class Brahmins, in the hope that the minority would eventually effect the majority.

Duff viewed Christian education through the medium of English as a 'large and effectual door opened for immediate exertion'.

World Missionary Conference of 1910

The World Missionary Conference of 1910 noted these four aims present in missionary education:

- (a) Education may be conducted primarily with an evangelistic purpose, being viewed either as an attractive force to bring the youth under the influence of Christianity or as itself an evangelistic agency.
- (b) Education may be primarily edificatory, in so far as the school has for its object the development of the Christian community through the enlightenment and training of its members.
- (c) Education may be leavening, in so far as through it the life of the nation is gradually permeated with the principle of truth. ...
- (d) The motive for missionary education may include the philanthropic desire to promote the general welfare of the people.



Education challenges in India in the Early Years

LMS missionary E. P. Rice identified many of the obstacles confronting the missionary in the nineteenth century:

- 'the institution of caste';
- 'the absence of all religious and social liberty';
- 'the utterly perverted standard of conduct';
- the 'oppressive supremacy of the Brahman class';
- 'polytheistic idolatry';
- 'the fear of malignant demons';
- 'the belief in religious merit';
- 'pantheistic teaching';
- 'the degradation of woman';
- 'the degradation of low caste'; and
- 'a whole jungle of superstitious beliefs and corrupt practices'.

Today, the challenges are rather different in urban centers, but the above list may still be very prevalent in rural India.

CMC, Vellore

Global Institutions

Some of the world's premier institutions of learning like Harvard, Yale and Princeton were originally established along Bible based principles to equip people to serve God. For instance, Yale University began as a school in 1701 "wherein Youth may be instructed in the Arts and Sciences [and] through the blessing of Almighty God may be fitted for Publick employment both in Church and Civil State."

5, Biblical Principles relevant to the mountain of education

Fear of the Lord

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

Regardless of how much knowledge and learning you accumulate, you choose to walk in the fear of the Lord.

Truth

John 17:17 Your Word is truth

Psalm 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

You make all learning and knowledge subservient to the truth of the Word of God.

You choose to speak the truth in love at all times.

Humility

1 Corinthians 3:18-20



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.
19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "HE CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR OWN CRAFTINESS";
20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE, THAT THEY ARE FUTILE."

Jeremiah 9:23,24

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;
24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

James 3:13-17

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.
14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.
15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.
16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.
17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

The person who walks with true humility sends tremors and earthquakes on the mountain of education.

6, Spiritual Gifts and Anointings relevant to the mountain of education

The Holy Spirit – the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, revelation and counsel
The anointing of a Teacher

7, Strategies for influencing the mountain of education

At different levels (a)at the top (b)at the mid level (c)at the grass roots

Affecting Curriculum

"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil." – C.S.Lewis

Integrate value and Scriptural understanding into your school or college curriculum.

Methods of learning

Come up with new methods of learning

Delivery systems for educational content for rural and urban centers

Come up with new and innovative delivery systems.

Teacher par excellence

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

As a teacher you have the opportunity of making a lasting impact on a child's life.

Proverbs 16:21sweetness of the lips increases learning.

The kindness in your teaching will cause children to learn.



Influencing your students. Personal testimony.

Student with a difference

As a student in your school or college, you can influence your peers and even your teachers.

8, Prayer and Intercession for the mountain of education

- Pray for a release of the fear of the Lord on our schools and colleges.
- Pray that demonic works of deception leading to atheism, humanism and intellectualism will be broken off our educational system.
- Pray that our educational system will become a channel of the fear of the Lord, of truth, and true humility.
- Pray for more people from amongst us to go up the mountain of education and make a difference.

THE MOUNTAIN OF ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

All forms of celebration within a culture – sports, dance, drama, performing arts, fashion, music, movie, etc. These are expressions and celebration of beauty, creativity, the power of imagination and extreme skill. Arts and entertainment have a powerful influence on people.

1, God's Promises relevant to the mountain of arts & entertainment

Beauty, skill, artistic expressions and creativity flow from God

God enjoys beauty. Look at His creation.

Psalm 19:1,2

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

Creation is God's masterpiece in art and entertainment.

God wanted His priests to be clothed with beauty.

Exodus 28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

God shines out of beauty. His presence is full of beauty

Psalm 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.

Beauty pours out of the holiness of God. Beauty is actually a manifested expression of God's holiness and purity.

Psalm 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The Spirit of wisdom

Exodus 31:2-5

2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,



**4 to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze,
5 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.**

God imparts artistic skill, creativity and ability to man by His Spirit.

Presence

Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

The place of all true joy, pleasure and celebration is the presence of God. As believers we are carriers of God's presence – the place of true pleasure.

2, Challenges on the mountain of arts & entertainment

Perversion

Perversion is a distortion of what is right or a misuse of something for a purpose other than its original intent. Perversion leads to loose morals (immorality), indecency, immodesty, seduction

Idolatry

Idolatry is the elevation of anything in to the place that should only be occupied by God. It is so easy to elevate a successful person (called a 'celebrity') and make an idol out of him or her. Others begin to make their entire lives revolve around a celebrity.

The Church, for the most part, has shy-ed away from this mountain in particular. The challenges are great and it is indeed easy to fall on this mountain. However, the Church must begin to move in boldly under the power of the Holy Spirit.

3, Demonic powers on the mountain of arts & entertainment

Ezekiel 28:1-19 and Isaiah 14:12-19

Lucifer – before the Fall

- **Beauty : Ezekiel 28:12 ←**
- Wisdom : Ezekiel 28:12
- Wealth : Ezekiel 28:13
- **Music : Ezekiel 28:13 ←**
- Anointed : Ezekiel 28:14
- Business : Ezekiel 28:16
- Ruler over nations : Isaiah 14:12

Ezekiel 28:12-17

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.



Demonic spirits that promote perversion and idolatry.
Satan has a counterfeit of everything that is genuine from God.

4, Testimonies of Christians on the mountain of arts & entertainment

Thank God for Christians who are beginning to take their place in the world of arts and entertainment

Movies

Mel Gibsons "The Passion of the Christ"

Movies like "Fire Proof", Hadassah – One Night with the king, "The Chronicles of Narnia" etc.

Sports

Music

5, Biblical Principles relevant to the mountain of arts & entertainment

Righteousness, Peace, Joy in the Holy Ghost

Romans 14:17

There are three gaping voids in the hearts of many on the mountain of arts and entertainment – righteousness, peace and joy.

They are powerfully talented, but surprisingly weak in morality.

They can cause others to forget their pains, and yet are searching for lasting peace.

They are able to excite great crowds, but are empty of genuine joy.

As believers moving on this mountain, if we can demonstrate excellence in arts and entertainment and still maintain righteousness, peace and joy that comes from the Holy Spirit, we will demonstrate to the world – the beauty of the Lord!

Show people how to walk in the Spirit and also walk in beauty, creativity, and artistic expression.

6, Spiritual Gifts and Anointings relevant to the mountain of arts & entertainment

The Prophetic

The prophetic and art are strongly inter-related.

We must tap in to the prophetic inspiration to release new and fresh works of art, fashion, movies, music, etc. – that will actually reflect its Creator!

Your Skill – a weapon of warfare

Zechariah 1:18-21

Psalm 149:6-9

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute on them the written judgment— This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!



7, Strategies for influencing the mountain of arts & entertainment

At different levels (a)at the top (b)at the mid level (c)at the grass roots

Prepare yourself

A, Get Trained in the natural

Nothing less than excellence is acceptable.

Whatever area you are engaging in : sport, fashion, dance, drama, movies, music, etc...get trained. Work hard to excel.

B, Get Tuned in the Spirit

Be full of the Word and the Spirit

Pray in the Spirit

Learn to flow in the prophetic

Step in – Position Yourself

Be prepared to face misunderstanding from folks who will not understand your calling and mission.

Demonstrate the beauty of the inner man

1 Peter 3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

8, Prayer and Intercession for the mountain of arts & entertainment

Let's pray for God anointed artists to arise and take their place on this mountain

Let's confront demonic powers of perversion and idolatry

Let's pray for God's anointing to release new works of art, creativity, skill to be released

CLOSING CHALLENGE

The spirit of Caleb

Joshua 14:12

Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

Salvation Call