

When it's all over, did you make a difference?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—It is truly amazing! The divine Father uses physical people to further His will.

Let's look at a couple of biblical examples to see how a few individuals can make a difference.

Negotiating with God

When God was ready to destroy Sodom (Genesis 18:23-33), Abraham had a discussion with God that revealed a great deal about the Creator. Abraham asked, "Will you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"

Abraham could not understand God destroying the whole city. Certainly, he thought, there had to be 50 righteous people in the city.

As God continued to assure Abraham that He would not forsake the righteous, Abraham kept lowering the standard. Apparently he felt that there would be at least 10 righteous people. God responded that He would not destroy the city if there were 10 righteous people.

As we can see, God knew how many righteous people were there. God even knew *who* the righteous people were. Of course, God's presence with the people is what classified them as righteous.

God loves righteousness! God is looking for people who will reflect the righteousness of Himself within them.

Searching for a person

God inspired the prophet Jeremiah to describe a search of "the broad places" to find a person with certain qualities (Jeremiah 5:1). "Seek . . . if there be any that executes judgment and that seeks the truth." Signs of God's righteousness can be difficult to find.

God inspired the prophet Ezekiel to describe searching for a person who would make a difference (Ezekiel 22:30). "I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land." At that time, none was found.

Jesus Christ described Christians as the "salt" of the earth (Matthew 5:13). Christians can be a savoring, as well as a preserving, agent. Unfortunately, Christians can lose their savor.

Jesus Christ condemned the actions of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23). Their religion included much religious form without much spiritual substance.

Their religion was based in large part upon religious titles, pecking orders and outward appearance. Christ didn't look at things the way many people did. Christ could see straight through their religious hypocrisy.

Examples of service

Can you think of some names of people in the Bible who made a difference? Who are some people who followed the wonderful example of our Savior?

Wasn't God's righteousness in the deacon Stephen a great example?

Didn't God use Priscilla and Aquila as a good model of a serving couple?

How much serving did God inspire through Phoebe?

How much serving did God inspire through the house of Stephanas?

Have you ever heard of Onesiphorus? You might be interested in discovering how God used him.

If you have God's Spirit, you are a part of the Church of God. God will use that Spirit to resurrect you when Christ returns (Romans 8:11).

If you have God's Spirit, God has a purpose for you. God is displaying His righteousness through you. Thank God for the opportunity to glorify His name! Thank God for the opportunity to make a difference!