

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I am delighted to speak to you today. I believe the Spirit of God unites our hearts as we listen to His Word. It is the Word of God speaking to us that is tremendously important. We can live a very busy life. We can feel that we fit in our time for God, but we have missed what God is saying if we don't realize that the Christian life is meant to be Christ living in and through me. Therefore, I need to be in tune with His Spirit moment by moment. Whatever is happening, I should be hearing His voice more than anybody else.

What happens when we do not hear His voice, when we go our own way? We call that, in the Church, *apostacy*. There is much falling away, you might say, from what it used to be in the traditional days of perhaps your mother or your grandmother. But apostacy is something that began at the very dawn of human history. It was there at the gate of Eden. The Bible speaks of **the way of Cain. . . . they have gone in the way of Cain. . . .** They went away. In other words, following Cain was a procedure which involved apostacy.

Apostacy begins with a way, leads to a wandering, and becomes a rebellion. How easy it is to think, "Well, I will just go my way. I will work this thing out." Before we realize it, we are wandering and we

are in a not a very clear path as we are jumping from one thing to another. The next thing is we are out of tune with the Spirit of God and before we know it, there is a spirit of rebellion within our heart. We are all but angry with God and we are determined to bring this thing to pass. People have entered often through this false way. They rush headlong in that wandering and, at the same time, they find that they perish in their rebellion.

I don't know where your heart is this morning, but perhaps there was a day when you walked closer to the Lord than you are walking right now. Perhaps you put it down to the fact that, "This is the style of living anyway and at least my life is a little more respectable than those around me. At least, I am going to church or, at least, I am doing something that isn't against God." Before we realize it, we explain away the apostacy that has enveloped us. We have gone off and we are wandering from that close place with the Lord and, before we realize it, we are caught up with those who are perishing in rebellion.

. . . **the way of Cain** spoken of in the **Book of Jude** -

11 . . . they have gone in *the way of Cain*. . . That is a type of a religious natural man, who believes in God and in religion and after his own will, yet rejects redemption by the precious Blood. As has been said, if they were compelled as teachers of religion to explain the atonement, they would end up just explaining it away.

The key fact of this rebellion comes from this atonement, the fact that Jesus Christ shed His Blood for your sin and mine. Perhaps we do not like that idea. Perhaps we find it old fashioned; we do not want to talk of these things. Without realizing it, we ***have gone in the way of Cain.***

Also, in that same verse we read, they went in the wandering of **Balaam**. Balaam, you might remember, did that which was totally against God, because he got a reward in it for himself. It is so easy to see where you fit in. “Oh, this is just what I need for my future. Or perhaps they are going to notice me over here. After all, the money is better in doing this job.” Without realizing it, when *I* is on the throne and we are racing after the reward that this world can give, we rush headlong in this wandering from God.

But also, there is, at the same time, mentioned the rebellion of Korah. Who was Korah? Korah literally led, just among one or two, a rebellion. Before you knew it, it effected all the lives around, and before you knew it, he was judged: the earth opened up and he went straight to Hell! It is one of the most horrific descriptions of the departure of a person going straight to Hell. You see, apostacy begins when we are going our way, looking for our reward, and we have this rebellious spirit toward the things of God.

I trust today that you are willing to say to God, *Restore my heart to You, Lord. I want nothing between You and me. My job, nothing,*

Lord, nothing but you and me. I want that relationship that it is all of You. I confess, Lord, all that needs to be dealt with right now, that it might be pure, that my heart be pure, and that love relationship between You and me, Lord, be unbroken for Your glory.

In Jesus' lovely Name. Amen.