



Monday Matters

February 10, 2014



I Just Want an Elephant

Many years ago our oldest son, Anthony, wanted an elephant for his birthday. We laughed about it, but he became quite serious about this request. To dissuade him we had to discuss the "logical" reasons he could not get an elephant for his birthday.

I certainly did understand Anthony's fascination with elephants. They are quite amazing creatures.

Here are some noteworthy facts about elephants:

- They are the largest land animal in the world.
- They are the only mammal that cannot jump.
- As a means of communication, they purr like cats.
- They prefer one tusk over another, just as people are right or left-handed.
- Their trunks can sense the size, shape and temperature of an object.
- They can cry, play and even laugh.
- They can feel a fly land on their skin.

There are festivals dedicated to the elephant. At these festivals elephants are adorned with beautiful clothes and jewelry. They have elephant polo matches, tug-of-war (where the strongest elephant competes against 19 people), and elephant races.

You may wonder how domesticated elephants are restrained from wandering off. Often they have a small rope tied around their ankle attached to a peg in the ground. By years of training they don't realize they could easily pull the peg out of the ground. The elephant has invisible shackles around his mind that holds him down.

We may know people like that. They have shackles around their minds and are addicted in some way to alcohol or drugs. BUT maybe a shackle isn't so visible...maybe we have shackles around our minds holding us back. They are shackles that, if we would just pull up the peg, we could be free.

Christ, first and foremost, wants us to be free from the spiritual shackles of sin by accepting Him as Lord and Savior of our life. He wants us to also be free from the shackles (fear, anxiety, feelings of inadequacy, stubbornness, laziness, lack of diligence...and the list goes on) that hold us back from growing graciously in Him and freeing us to serve Him.



When He Set Me Free - Gaithers

God has qualified you...Isaiah 62:1, the Lord sets free the prisoner...Psalm 146:7, be renewed in your mind...Ephesians 4:22-24 and be transformed...Romans 12:2. This is God's will that you are free to serve Him with your whole unshackled being.

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