

Comment on Dr. Kenyon's writings

Dr. Kenyon lived from 1867-1948. Much of his ministry was ground breaking and very powerful.

While I admit I do not have specific references, by teaching of others I have heard that:

- Dr. Kenyon was a contemporary and friend of Dr. John Lake (Curry Blake).
- Dr. Kenyon's teachings helped Kenneth Hagin in his early days (K. Hagin).

Dr. Kenyon's teaching has helped me immeasurably in my life. I experienced one of my first significant answers for healing after reading his little book, *Identification*, for approximately 15 straight hours. I first read the book, underlined all the scriptures and all the statement that were scriptural. For the scriptural statements I looked up every one and wrote down the reference. Then I went back and for every scripture reference I read two chapters before the referenced chapter, the entire referenced chapter, and the two following chapters. I was more interested in what God had to say and was Dr. Kenyon accurately reflecting the scriptures. So if he referenced Isaiah 53, I read Isaiah 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55. I did this for every scripture.

So to the best of my meager knowledge of the scriptures at that time, I found everything he said was accurate and reflected God's word per the scriptures he referenced. I now recommend to all to read books this same way. After this fifteen hour immersion I experienced my own healing from a severe accident.

Acts 17:10 "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few." This is one of secrets to building your believing. When you hear something, go back to the scriptures and see if what is said, "is so."

I used to wonder why I did not see as much of Dr. Kenyon's work referenced in more in later years.

So here are three areas where I think Dr. Kenyon needed improvement in his writings. Because editors may have modified his writings we will not know until glory what his opinion on these would be:

Covenant of Abraham

In my opinion much of Dr. Kenyon's writings are of the highest caliber and demonstrate much time spent with the Lord. While we all need improvement in our theology, Dr. Kenyon's books espouse that the Mosaic covenant removed in Jesus was also the Abrahamic covenant. This was popular Christian thinking until Israel was restored in 1948 (in the same Dr. Kenyon died) proving that the Abrahamic covenant still applies to Israel, Jews and Christians. Galatians chapter 3 makes it clear that the

Abrahamic covenant was made with Christ and thus is still very much in force. See Galatians 3:16-17 and 29. For more on this see www.JaySnell.org for detailed explanations.

For most of Dr. Kenyon's work, if you replace his wording of Abrahamic covenant with Mosaic covenant you will improve your understanding. I believe that is one of the reasons Dr. Kenyon is not as referenced as he should be for many modern men and women of God started or where significantly helped with his materials, as I have been. I have taught from Dr. Kenyon's materials for so many years I feel he is a good friend, and hopefully some of his unique writing style has improved mine.

Spirit and Heart

At a much more minor level Dr. Kenyon wrote that the heart and the spirit are the same thing. After much study I do not agree that is the most accurate description. I believe the heart corresponds to what is called the sub conscious or unconscious mind and is not the spirit. I believe the heart is part of the soul as it is trainable. The born again spirit is united with the Lord as one entity. 1 Cor 6:17 "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." So a new creation person is not like a deep sea diver with two different tanks of air on the back, one the human spirit and the other Holy Spirit. Instead the human spirit and Holy Spirit are made one as if you dropped blue ink into a jar of water. But the union is deeper in much the same way you mix epoxy paint with a resin and a hardener. Once mixed it cannot be again separated. That is what it means to be "one spirit."

This is also the case for that part of the heart that gets circumcised in the new creation. But in the rest of the soul the two tank analogy fits better. Now every thought and resultant word and activity is the result of one of two different life forces. Thus the Christian is always in internal conflict when we sin. Our soul may agree, but our spirit never can nor can Holy Spirit who dwells within the Christian.

Jesus warned that what is in the heart is what comes out of the mouth. I have yet to hear a born again Christian who always speaks only as God would speak. So the heart cannot be that perfect all the time.

Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. "

Matt 12:34 "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

The good news is that the cure for a corrupt heart is the same whether you believe it is part of the spirit or the soul, but much of the advice given on the subject is confusing. It makes it much more consistent for me to work with the heart as a part of the soul.

In my early years as a scientist I used to work in the refined areas quantum physics and I know of few who understand the detailed intricacies of how a light bulb, a match or even a light switch works, much less a television or a computer, yet we use them all the time. We do not need to understand everything to use them; else we never could have gotten to where we are today. But we are where we are today because of what we do not understand or understand incorrectly.

If you want more detail on this I suggest you get my book, *"OK God, Now What, Championship Affirmations in Christ"* where I go into this and how to improve the heart in much more detail. In one of his later books, Dr. Kenyon seemed to put the heart in the soul and not the spirit, but at this time I cannot remember which book.

Jesus as Savior

This is even a more minor topic. It seems that the editors of Dr. Kenyon's work had a certain bias on how to describe how to get born again. Even when the topic is not being discussed, they use the wording, "Take Jesus as your Savior." While this is a popular statement in many Christian circles, and while true, is not found as a scriptural statement.

Here are chief scriptures for getting born again:

Rom 10:8 "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

1 John 4:15 "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

Luke 24:47 "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his (*Jesus*) name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Eph 1:12 "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

1 Cor 15:3 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

Rom 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Usually in Dr. Kenyon's books he stays very close on topic and used scripture references to make his points. Yet, even in a discussion on Rom 10:8-13, where there is no mention of the term, Jesus as Savior, the writing says that to be "you must take Jesus as your Savior" or very similar words, yet they do not say what Rom 10 does say in verses 9 and 10. Nor do they explain what is meant by the term or how to exactly "take Jesus as your Savior." While not wrong, it does an injustice to Dr. Kenyon where everywhere else His writings are far more scriptural. I would not be surprised if these phrases were added in later editing and not as he penned them.

As a result of this I am very circumspect in my own writings to not stray past the scriptures as much as I am aware. We often get in groups that use a common set of expressions that may be scriptural or sound like scripture, but are not. I do not see the need to go past the scriptures to tell how someone can know they are born again and for that I stick close to the above scriptures. I do not want someone to have to remember my "extra scriptural" explanations without simply going to the Bible, seeing the scriptures and believing God.

For example, here are typical prayers I use:

A salvation prayer: "Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins, were buried and were raised by Father God on the third day for my justification according to the scriptures. I make you Lord of my life, come rule and reign in and through me my King. Baptize me with Your Holy Spirit and fire. Heal every part of my life. Teach me Your truth in love that I may walk to Your glory. Amen and thank You."

And a simpler one: "Jesus, God raised you from the dead, You are Lord. Fill me with Your Spirit to walk in agape-love. Thank You!"

Summary:

As my writings become more public I expect others will take similar issues, but I trust not per what the scriptures themselves say as I am sure to include as many scriptures as my editors will allow.

No one has to be perfect in the details, if you have the key basics correct and that is absolutely true of Dr. Kenyon, God will use you. Few in our time know what a covenant is, much less what it means to be in one so even the issues on the Abrahamic covenant are not major. That we have a covenant in Jesus is powerful enough, even if you do not know what covenant means. Under Dr. Kenyon's ministry God confirmed His word in Dr. Kenyon with multiplied healings, signs and wonders.

The Abrahamic covenant is important to God because He made it. I do highly recommend you go to www.JaySnell.org for a more complete discussion on this.

I recommend Dr. Kenyon's books often and will continue to do so as what he does accurately say far outweighs my issues. Every time I read Dr. Kenyon's books I get more encouragement and insight and confidence in the love and greatness of our God.

Donald C. Mann

August 31, 2010