

Faith or Circumstance

“For pass over to the isles of Kittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently; and see if there hath been such a thing. Hath a nation changed its gods, which yet are no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith Jehovah. For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water” (Jer. 2:10-13).

“Hath a nation changed its gods, which are no gods?”

Is a man’s spiritual pursuit something he selects, or something that selects him?

According to Pew Report, “Americans change religious affiliation early and often. In total, about half of American adults have changed religious affiliation at least once during their lives.” Of “those who switch from one Protestant denominational family to another (e.g., were raised Baptist and are now Methodist) tend to be more likely to do so in response to changed circumstances in their lives. Nearly four-in-ten people who have changed religious affiliation within Protestantism say they left their childhood faith, in part, because they relocated to a new community, and nearly as many say they left their former faith because they married someone from a different religious background” (Pew Report, Faith and Flux, Feb. 2011).

Two factors play a role in the changing of religious affiliation: The “majorities of those who have changed affiliations within Protestantism say they left their childhood faith in part because they found another religion that is preferable (58%) or because they were spiritually unfulfilled in their former faith (51%) (Ibid.).”

Which circumstance describes your religious affiliation?

1. You relocated to a new community.
2. You married someone from a different religious background.
3. You found another religion that is preferable.
4. You were spiritually unfulfilled.

Thus saith Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of Jehovah, the temple of Jehovah, the temple of Jehovah, are these. For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute justice between a man and his neighbor; if ye oppress not the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your own hurt: then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, from of old even for evermore. (Jer. 7:3-7).

According to the words of Jehovah, through Jeremiah, if the people of Judah had been asked if they served Jehovah, they would have answered in the affirmative.

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