

The following letter was written by Charlie Williams, Ministry to Men Director. After many requests for him to write a book about *Ministry to Men* and after several attempts to do just that, someone suggested he simply write letters sharing some of the truths God has been teaching him during the years.

We will be posting his letters on the Ministry to Men Web site. **This letter was posted on October 18, 2011.**

## **Letter 57**

### **What Are My Idols?**

**Exodus 20: 3-5** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment)

*'You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them, for I the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and fourth generations of those who hate me.'*

Idolatry may seem like a sin that modern people need not fear. But idolatry is not just bowing down to idols. It is trusting in what one has made, and therefore we see ourselves as having the power to create and sustain.

If I say I worship God, but put my trust in my bank account, my home, my business, my organization, the people I know; then I am an idolater. Do I trust God more than what my hands have made?

Do I trust God? Do I love Him with all my heart, all my mind, all my soul, and all my strength? Or is He just a safety net when I get myself in trouble. Is it all about Him?

What does faith in God look like in my life? What about trust in God, is that different than faith?

Would I be willing like the little grey haired man on George Street, Mr. Genoa to have faith and trust in God to do what I believe He wants to do in my life, even if I never see any results from my perspective?

These are hard questions, easy to say yes to, but very difficult to follow. God must do it, and He tells me His ways are different from my ways. Am I really willing to trust Him to do and to accomplish all He wants from my life or will I base it on what I do and what I accomplish – what I see?

When God tells me in James that, if I lack wisdom (faith-trust) all I need to do is let go of my agenda and ask Him for it, and He will give it to me. But now I must walk by faith-trust, even if nothing seems to change; even if I don't see what I expected to see. It is no longer me, but Christ in me.

Would I see Ministry to Men being God's call on my life if I couldn't see life change in men's lives? Would I be content in my marriage if it doesn't meet my standards? How about my job, or my family, or anything that I believe are my possessions? Am I at the place in my life that I see that it's not mine – it all belongs to God and He has graciously allowed me to trust Him with the results. Proverbs 3:5-6 comes alive. The problems I have are not really with God and His ways, but with my limited understanding of Him.

Proverbs 3: 5-6, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.'