

The Hammer and the Healer

By Darrel Rundus



As many of you know, we believe biblical evangelism is always without exception, Law to the proud and Grace to the humble. Recently I've been calling it The Hammer (The Law) and The Healer (Jesus & God's love and Grace).

A hammer can be a useful tool if used properly. A well designed and waited hammer if used properly will do most of the work for you. A hammer in the hands of a skilled carpenter is a useful tool but in the hands of an amateur or someone who's reckless can do more damage than good. In fact a skilled carpenter can drive a nail into the board with one whack. They don't have to keep hammering away at the nail in order to accomplish the task. An amateur however, may not only have to continue to hammer away to drive the nail home, they may also miss the mark, bend the nail and do a lot of damage to the surface they are trying to secure with the nail.

What if I asked you to hold a nail and then I pulled back the hammer as far as I could and then with a long, wide swing of the hammer with all my might I tried to hit the nail? How long would you hold that nail for me? Or think of it like this. The other day I let my two year old hold the hammer for the first time. You could tell he liked the feel of the power of the hammer in his hand and it wasn't long until he started swinging away. Unfortunately, with no training, he started to demolish a few things as he got carried away with the power of the hammer to crush things. If not for a watchful eye and a quick and sharp instruction, he surely would have hit his own hand or worse, his brother or sister upside the head with it. Of course, he through a fit when I took it away from him due to his lack of knowledge on how to use it constructively with precision and effectiveness.

When we first get the hammer (God's Law) in our hands, it feels good and it seems as if most of us if not all of us start to swing it aimlessly at hard hearted sinners and sometimes we do more damage than good. We tend to keep hammering away at people and punch holes in their hearts and sometimes if we're not careful, we can actually crush their heart to a point that may seem demonstrative. I know the power of the hammer feels awesome in our hands as we start to use it but without practice and proper instruction, we can sometimes hit the nail too hard or rear back with all our might and swing away only to ultimately hit our thumb, their head or hand and miss their heart completely. The weight of the Law is heavy and when used properly for the purpose for which it was intended, it is an extremely effective tool. When used skillfully the Law will do the job and with less effort than most of us think. However, when used without proper care and instruction, it all too often can and does become a dangerous lethal weapon.

Remember, you don't have to keep hammering away in order to nail them to the cross. Once you can see that the law has stopped their mouth and they have stopped justifying themselves, give them the healer. Use the hammer with precision and let the weight of the hammer do the work. You don't have to swing it hard lest you hurt yourself or them. Don't forget, it's God's grace that leads a sinner to repentance and if you use the hammer with precision and skill you will be able to build your case and allow the Holy Spirit to pin their sin to the cross.