

Life In The Spirit, pt.2, 4.18.07

Seeking His Heart of Seeking His Hand?

Introduction:

1. Testimonies
2. Luke 4.18 is today
3. Owen Brown's healin
4. Last weeks teaching
 - a. I don't want to project something I'm not...I am not walking in NT power.
 - b. We cannot let sin or our past define us; we are defined by God according to the work accomplished by His Son in his death, burial & resurrection!
 - c. We live on the otherside of the cross. Too many Christians, still weeping & groveling over sins, failures & weaknesses. These must be admitted, but praise God I know live in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. I am not only forgiven, but victorious!
 - d. Quit saying, "I'm so unworthy...God couldn't use me...that's vomit in the eyes of God. In essence, by believing that lie, you're saying, "Even though Jesus forgave my sin, destroyed my sinful nature, intercedes every moment for me, has filled me with His Spirit & given me spiritual gifts, my sin, past or present circumstances is much greater than what He's provided me. God gave his Son so that you are now & forever will be worthy. I blow it every day, but praise God I am made worthy every day b/c of Jesus.
 - e.
5. ss

The Things I Pray For:

- The Character of Christ
 - The fruit of the Spirit - Gal.5.22-23
 - These are grown over time + obedience + yielding to the Spirit

- The Passions of Christ
 - An absolute love & commitment to the Father – Luke 2.49
 - An unconditional love & compassion for others – John 15.12–13
- The Power of Christ
 - The fullness of the Holy Spirit – Acts 1.8
 - Doing the works of Jesus – John 14.12

Seek His Heart or Seek His Hand? Luke 10.38–42

- Are you a Mary or Martha? You must be both!
- David is the model. He was the worshipping warrior.
- We need to quit drawing distinctions and pursue both. I have done it. I used to say if we just spend time with God that we'll get so full of him that it will be a natural outflow. This is somewhat true, but if we pursue God & don't ask for power.
- Don't believe there is some threshold you have to cross to be used in power. In both Great Commissions (Matt. & Mk.) Jesus said nothing about having a perfect character. Soldiers who are beat up need time to recover, but they don't stay permanently beat up.

What does the world need?

- They need an encounter with Jesus. Everyday you need to be so full of God both in character and power that it spills on everyone around you! You need to be the “go to” person when it comes to prayer & encouragement.
- People need to experience normal Christianity.
- The desire of God is to fill you so full of the Spirit that there is little difference between what you are on earth & what you'll be in Heaven. All of the Spirit that I'll have in heaven is available now. God's not withholding the Spirit. My full understanding of it all will be perfect in Heaven but the full impartation is just as all the forgiveness I'll have in heaven is available now.
- Big concern that we're losing the battle to keep people in church, so we modify programs so it's more accommodating, etc., but what people need is a deep encounter with God.

Directives for the Spirit empowered life:

- We must not substitute “niceness” for power. We need to be nice & have impeccable character, but we also need “demonstrations of the Spirit’s power” in our lives.
 - We must keep our eyes open for opportunities to help people encounter God. Look for ways to shove them towards God.
 - Assignment: When a personal or work dilemma is presented this week take the initiative right then & there to pray for that person or situation? (Ask permission)
- We must not accept powerlessness as normative!
 - We build belief systems to justify our powerlessness – it’s not needed; this all ceased; it’s seeking after signs; look at all the counterfeits.
 - We get offended by the abuse of power, but aren’t offended by the lack of power. We’re just as much a phony.
 - Jesus healed everyone who came to him. That is the model I will follow. We cannot lower the Bible to our experience. People have walked in that power & thus it’s possible for me!
 - “We must be willing to fail to succeed.” It takes risk to walk in power. You never walk on water if you stay in the boat.
 - It’s always messy. You can either have a baby or a funeral. You can have nice, orderly powerless Christianity; or you can have ever changing, dramatic, flowing Christianity
- We must pursue the heart of God as we pursue the hand of God!
 - I want to know Phil.3.7–10
- Ss

What if nothing happens?

- I keep praying, believing & taking risks until it does! We give in too quick & easily.
- Luke 18.1–8 is our model for this.

- I'm not bringing down the standard to my experience. There is no curve on this test...He's not lowering the real standard so we'll all be happy
- I'm not just going to assume when someone dies that it was just their time to go. I realize that life choices land people in certain places physically, but sometimes that has no influence. I'm not going to assume that every sickness can be used by God for our good...sickness isn't from God. The only time God allows sickness is when I am in rebellion. Otherwise it's source is either directly or indirectly from the pit of Hell.
- We tolerate too much garbage! Sierra Moore will not have diabetes in Heaven, so why hasn't it happened here? I don't know, but I'm not going to assume that's God's best for her.

What will this require of me?

- Loss of dignity & relationships, but you will gain Christ. Mt.10.1-42.
 - The dream the Lord gave me about loosing relationships
 - Bill Johnson's encounter & having no control over his body
 - People can take moderation, but not zealots. Zealots change things.
- The baptism of the HS - Acts 1.8 (booklet)
 - I'm not talking about speaking in tongues. I'm talking about taking the land. Like Jews crossing the Jordan & entering the PL; it wasn't theirs until they started warring. All speaking in tongues does is gets you in position.
- Refusing to be embarrassed by God - let God be God.
- Wholehearted devotion to God & His Kingdom - Romans 12.1-2