

January 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Once again, we want to be a blessing in your lives by writing and encouraging you to keep your heads up and keep pressing on towards the Mark of the high calling that has been given to each of us. I pray you have been on the path to effectiveness and diligence, unswayed by every wind that blows your way but having the mind and heart of Christ the Savior. I believe this is the year for supernatural power and revival to find its way into our lives and surroundings!

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9). The natural senses alone cannot perceive the revealed wisdom or knowledge of God. However, these mysteries have already been revealed to the Holy Spirit. "But God has revealed them to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God." (1 Corinthians 2:10, 11).

If any generation knows in his heart that the real life cannot be sustained by material things alone, it is this one. We no longer accept, as some of our grandparents did, that all of reality can be - or one day will be - understood and measured by science. We know there is more to real life that meets the natural eye. We thirst for translucent meaning, for truth beyond the reach of technology. This is because God designed us to learn above all, by Revelation! Education is important. But in all my studies, bachelor of science degrees in psychology/theology and a masters in counseling, I've come to realize the highest form of learning given to us by our Creator is not education but Revelation.

This is simply because the goal of revelation is higher - it is the knowledge of God and His ways. As far as God is concerned, if we are going to boast of knowing anything, we should boast of knowing and understanding Him. Jeremiah 9:24 says, "But let him who glorifies (boasts), glory in this, that he understand and knows Me, that I AM the Lord, exercising loving kindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord." We were created to know God - personally and existentially - through His interaction with our everyday life and experience. The only one who can reveal God is the Spirit of God, the administrator of God's grace here on earth. I've seen all kinds of people, inmates included turning to philosophy, psychology and psychiatry to resolve their problems. Most often these disciplines genuinely try to help people, but fail to utilize the power of God to change and transform mankind.

Divine revelation is just that, *Divine*. Scientists and students therefore will only use mental processes and the systematic collection of data acquired through their natural senses. Within these limitations, they have no choice but to deny God because they're workable knowledge does not allow them to accept Him. They don't know where their knowledge comes from and believe. The world exists because matter somehow created itself. A friend of mine has a mentor named David Hogan, missionary to the mountain Indians of Mexico who said it best. "God's not out of His mind, He's out of yours!" Formal education has not contributed to the faith of millions of young people - or old for that matter. We have, unfortunately, been raised and trained to recognize and accept only that which we can see, feel, decipher and explain with our physical senses and intellect.

Many theologians and philosophers have speculated about the nature of God. They seek to understand Him through logic, but fail in their attempts. Plato tried, Aristotle tried. All of these failed because they didn't understand that God can be known and understood only by faith and revelation! God is the one who chooses to reveal Himself to us and the One who has provided the way. So we have to depend solely on Him. And He certainly won't reveal Himself to those who lack the desire to know Him. It was for this reason Jesus said in Matthew 7:6, "Don't cast your pearls before swine...". It's why He spoke in parables. To keep hidden certain mysteries from glory seekers looking for debate ammunition or those with no intention of knowing God.

I found many pastors, chaplains, believers, and godly men who have no idea what God is saying in their personal lives, in the church body, or in the world because they lack revelation. God said that, in the last days knowledge shall increase (Daniel 12:3-4). Because it is His will to fill the earth with his glory (Numbers 14:21) I believe we are living in these last days, days in which manifestation of his glory will be evident - EVERYWHERE! Are you ready!!!

There are 2 realms that exist. The natural and the supernatural. The natural realm is the dimension that is subject to the laws of time, space and matter that can be accessed only through physical senses. The supernatural realm is the dimension that operates above natural laws. It is the "spiritual" realm - permanent, invisible and eternal - located outside of time and exercises dominion over the natural realm. The spiritual realm can only be accessed by FAITH! 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

On Thursday night, I was coming back from a great worship service and message at the Eastham Unit. I convinced a young man with whom I've developed a spiritual connection to go as well. Well when I was getting back to the line. They put me in the day room. I didn't even think about the tables being pushed out of the way. We all know what that means. So I sauntered over to use the phone to call my mom to tell her how the service went. I looked and saw my friend strapped up about to get it on. Well, I reached my mom, told her quickly. I had to go because I was in the way but to pray that my friend will not fight and we agreed together to pray. I hung up. There was some mulling around, some departmental heads were conferring and the next thing I know they were pushing the tables back where they belong. Strange to say the least. The green light had been given. When I was able to talk to my friend, I told him I had told my mom to pray that nothing would happen. It was then that he looked at me wide-eyed and said he had heard a voice right before was going to be going down say in his ear, "forgive them for they know not what they do." So he did and the "leaders" squashed everything.

What did we do that day? We activated the supernatural power of God. Throughout Scripture we learn of a God who operates in a supernatural way, who dwells outside of time, He is able to interrupt time, space and matter if He so desires. This is called a miracle! The supernatural intervention of God that interrupts the normal course of the natural life. Every day we need God to interrupt our daily existence. So we can see His divine manifestations and miracles. He is the God of miracles!

Revelation is conceived in mystery, but birthed in history. It does not speak first to the rational mind, but to the intuition part of us and then to the will and from there to our behavior. God illuminates some truth, He opens the windows of our heart to some aspect of His will, then He requires that we align ourselves up with it - even if we don't fully understand it at the time.

I could have just sat back and let my good friend fight, or even tried to jump in and get myself banged up or perhaps do some banging, but I know the truth. God loves us. His sons are peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). Prayer changes things! If two of us agree on earth as touching anything they shall ask, it shall be done!" (Matthew 18:19) And so I acted on my revelation to see a transformation take place. It's difficult to understand God with your mind until you recognize that He can really only be understood through revelation by the Holy Spirit. We must totally surrender our minds to the Lord so that He can fill it with His thoughts. It's why we're urged to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in Romans 12:2.

Receiving revelation is not about becoming a mystic living in a surreal world of abstract spirituality. Real revelation will always seek some practical outlet in our everyday lives to meet a need and accomplish God's will. Only when we are open to this kind of ongoing revelation can we find real sustenance for life! I pray that this coming year your eyes, ears and spiritual senses will be open to receive a supernatural experience with the living, real, supernatural God! Open up the sky, Father, pour down like rain. We don't want just blessings, we want You!

Moving forward

Chief

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Christ's Heart In Every Felon