

TITLE: TO NOT WAVER, FIX YOUR EYES ON CHRIST. GOD CHANGE ME!

SUMMARY:

ALMOST EVERYWHERE WE LOOK, IT SEEMS THAT PROBLEMS ABOUND; FROM BIG PROBLEMS TO SMALL PROBLEMS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. YET, HOW MANY OF US EVER THINK WE MIGHT BE PART OF THE PROBLEM? BUT, THE GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTIANS IS THE SOLUTION IS JUST AS CLOSE.

1JOHN 4:4 ...BECAUSE THE SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN YOU IS GREATER THAN THE SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN THE WORLD.

LET ME GIVE AN EXAMPLE, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION I WAS HAVING WITH A GROUP OF MEN, WE EACH SHARED SOME THOUGHTS ON A PARTICULAR SUBJECT AND THEN EVERYONE RECEIVED FEEDBACK. AND WHEN I HAD FINISHED SHARING MY THOUGHTS, A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE WITHIN THE GROUP HELPED ME SEE WHAT I HAD NEVER BEFORE CONSIDERED ABOUT MYSELF. HE SIMPLY POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF MY COMMENTS ON THE GIVEN SUBJECT WERE NEGATIVE AND LESS THAN ENCOURAGING. AND HE WAS RIGHT. NOW, IT WAS UP TO ME TO FIX IT; AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY OLD SELF THOUGHT. SO, I LOOKED BOTH INWARD AND OUTWARD AT MY PAST LIFE FOR ANSWERS AND THEN, I SOON TURNED UPWARD IN PRAYER, ASKING GOD FOR HELP. THAT'S WHEN HE REMINDED ME OF GRACE AND THE GIFT OF LIFE WHICH IS FOUND IN JESUS. IN OTHER WORDS, IF I BELIEVE THAT HE IS THE REASON FOR HOPE AND WITHOUT HIM NONE OF LIFE WOULD BE POSSIBLE, THEN MY THOUGHTS AND SPEECH SHOULD REFLECT THIS SAME HOPE.

SCRIPTURES

SIN IS THE PROBLEM: ROM. 7:14; 18-20

PAUL SAYS, "THE TROUBLE IS WITH ME, FOR I AM ALL TOO HUMAN, A SLAVE TO SIN."
'I WANT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T. I WANT TO DO WHAT IS GOOD, BUT I DON'T. I DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT IS WRONG, BUT I DO IT ANYWAY. BUT IF I DO WHAT I DON'T WANT TO DO...; IT IS SIN LIVING IN ME THAT DOES IT.'

THE SOLUTION: EPH.4:11-32

TO NO LONGER BE TOSSED BY EVERY NEW TEACHING...LET THE SPIRIT RENEW YOUR THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES. PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD – TRULY RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY (V.23, 24). LET EVERYTHING YOU SAY BE GOOD AND HELPFUL, SO THAT YOUR WORDS WILL BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHO HEAR THEM (V.29).

PRAYER: LET MY THOUGHTS BE YOUR THOUGHTS AND MY WAYS BE YOUR WAYS

TEXT:

GOD'S DESIRE:

EPH.4:14

THEN WE WILL NO LONGER BE IMMATURE LIKE CHILDREN. **WE WON'T BE TOSSED** AND BLOWN ABOUT BY EVERY WIND OF NEW TEACHING. WE WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED WHEN PEOPLE TRY TO TRICK US WITH LIES SO CLEVER THEY SOUND LIKE THE TRUTH. INSTEAD, **WE WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE**, GROWING IN EVERY WAY MORE AND MORE LIKE CHRIST, WHO IS THE HEAD OF HIS BODY, THE CHURCH.

ROM. 12:1-2

SO HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO, GOD HELPING YOU: TAKE YOUR EVERYDAY, ORDINARY LIFE – YOUR SLEEPING, EATING, GOING TO WORK, AND WALKING-AROUND LIFE – AND PLACE IT BEFORE GOD AS AN OFFERING. EMBRACING WHAT GOD DOES FOR YOU IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR HIM. DON'T BECOME SO WELL-ADJUSTED TO YOUR CULTURE THAT YOU FIT INTO IT WITHOUT EVEN THINKING. INSTEAD, **FIX YOUR ATTENTION ON GOD**. YOU'LL BE CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT. READILY RECOGNIZE WHAT HE WANTS FROM YOU, AND QUICKLY RESPOND TO IT. UNLIKE THE CULTURE AROUND YOU, ALWAYS DRAGGING YOU DOWN TO ITS LEVEL OF IMMATUREITY, GOD BRINGS THE BEST OUT OF YOU, DEVELOPS WELL-FORMED MATURITY IN YOU. – MESSAGE BIBLE

GOD'S CONCERN FOR US – TO HELP US: JOHN 16:5-10; 20-24

GOOD NEWS: GOD MIGHT SEEM ABSENT FOR A TIME BUT HE LEFT IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE MORE OF HIM (I.E., TRUTH, LOVE, PEACE, JOY, ETC.).

MINISTERING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE PRIMARY MISSION OF PENTECOST WAS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL. JESUS PROMISED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HIS DISCIPLES SO THEY COULD EFFECTIVELY BEAR WITNESS TO HIM (ACTS 1:8).

TO TARRY IN JERUSALEM UNTIL THEY WERE EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS NECESSARY BEFORE THE CHURCH COULD GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL (LUKE 24:47-49)

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AND PENTECOST ARE INSEPARABLY LINKED. PENTECOST WAS THE NECESSARY PREPARATION FOR MISSIONS, AND MISSIONS WAS THE LOGICAL AND INEVITABLE RESULT OF PENTECOST. JESUS ACCOMPLISHED HIS EARTHLY MISSION IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT; THE CHURCH WOULD CARRY OUT ITS MISSION IN THAT SAME POWER. THIS IS THE STRATEGY GOD PLANNED.

LET US BE HIS PEOPLE – THE CHURCH – FIXATED ON THE PRESENCE OF GOD
THE CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS TRANSFORMED BY THE LIVING
PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALLOWED TO OPERATE FREELY,
THE CHURCH WILL BE RENEWED IN ALL DIMENSIONS OF ITS LIFE SO THAT IT CAN
TRULY BE A CHURCH THAT WITNESSES AND MINISTERS IN POWER. IT WAS THIS
WAY IN THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH; IT IS STILL THAT WAY TODAY. IT IS PART OF
OUR PENTECOSTAL HERITAGE.

A WORSHIPING CHURCH – “TRUE WORSHIP ALLOWS GOD TO CHANGE US.”

ROM.12:1

A LEARNING CHURCH – FROM A NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE, LEARNING AND
EDUCATION CAN NEVER BE DIVORCED FROM TRUE SPIRITUALITY.

A UNIFIED CHURCH

THE UNITY OF THE EARLY CHURCH WAS MORE THAN MERE FRIENDSHIP AND
CAMARADERIE; IT WAS KOINONIA. IT WAS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
– THE KIND OF FELLOWSHIP THAT PRODUCES A TRUE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS.
KOINONIA GIVES OUR “TOGETHERNESS” A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION THAT CAN
NEVER BE DUPLICATED IN SECULAR GATHERINGS.

THE EFFECTS OF KOINONIA IN THE CHURCH OF GOD

RAY HUGHES – ‘THIS ALL PERVASIVE SPIRIT OF FRATERNAL AFFECTION IS ONE OF THE FRUITS
OF THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY GHOST. THE LOVE OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS BY
THE HOLY GHOST. THE CORDIAL AND WARM FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH OF GOD HAS MADE
A DISTINCT AND EXTRAORDINARY IMPRESSION UPON BELIEVERS. IN FACT, THIS EXHIBITION OF
LOVE AND CONCERN FOR ONE ANOTHER HAS CONVINCED SINNERS OF THE LOVE OF GOD.
THEY SEE A RADIATION AND REFLECTION OF THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF
BELIEVERS.’

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ISOLATION IN PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP. **PENTECOSTAL
WORSHIP PROVIDES FOR FELLOWSHIP, COMFORTING, EXHORTING, AND
PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

PRAYER: LET US BE A LOVING, CARING, SERVING, WORSHIPING CHURCH FIXATED ON CHRIST