

The Supernatural Church

Do you like ignorance? I was playing with my granddaughter. She wanted us to get the game, "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?" Have you played that? It's humiliating. First of all, I've been out of school for decades. There's a lot I may have known at one time that I can't remember any more. Well, I didn't know many of the answers and she was glad about that because she likes to win. I like her to be happy, so I don't mind losing. You don't mind losing to your grandchildren. But I didn't like my ignorance.

In 1 Corinthians 12:1, God said through the Apostle Paul, "There are some things I don't want you to be ignorant about. I want you to know some things of the Spirit." The King James Version of the Bible says "Concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." Notice, the word gifts is in italics. Anytime a word is italicized, the translators have added it to clarify the meaning of the verse. Here, the addition of the word gifts does not help us. This verse actually reads. "Now concerning 'pneumatikos'". From this Greek word, we derive our word pneumonia. It is also the root of the word pneumatic. With this background we understand this scripture to say, now concerning "the wind and the breath of the Spirit of God." Oh, I like that! Concerning the wind of God, concerning the breath of God, don't be ignorant.



In the third chapter of John, Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. He had some right information. He had a little understanding. But he didn't have all the information or understanding he needed. He said, "We know you're a teacher come from God," and that was right. Jesus said over and over again, "My Father sent me." He declared, "No man can do these miracles you do except God be with him," and that was right. He knew the mighty miracles of Jesus were done by the hand of God. Nicodemus had some things figured out. But when Jesus said, "You must be born again," he didn't have a clue what that meant.

Today, the church-world's been hampered and hindered because, like Nicodemus, they look into the mirror and all they know about themselves is physical. There is a man on the inside, a man called spirit. This spirit man can be born again. One day, this re-born spirit man will step out of his physical body and ascend into heavenly places. The Apostle Paul unveiled this wonderful truth when he said, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."¹ I love the word confident! If we are confident, we are sure, we are certain, we know, we understand. We are not ignorant. There is a natural world, a normal world, a world that we see with our eyes, a world that we perceive and understand with our senses. There is also a supernatural world. A super-natural world! Nicodemus wanted to understand the super-natural, but he wasn't born into God's kingdom. In order to understand the realms of God, you must be born again, born twice. The spirit of man must be born of God.

Once you are born supernaturally, there's a supernatural indwelling. First Corinthians 6:19 reads, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you." What a glorious revelation! God dwells in my spirit! I look in the mirror and I see Becky Combee, but inside this physical body is a spirit being indwelt by the Spirit of God. The Apostle Paul said that I could know this to be the truth. Oh, it's not logical. It's not reasonable. But, I am sure. I am certain that I am born again and the Holy Spirit abides in my spirit. I am not ignorant. I know!

Does this supernatural birth make sense to the world? Can the life of the Holy Ghost in my spirit be explained by the senses? No, I think not! Yet, I am not insecure. "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him."² Isn't this far beyond the ordinary? Yes, it surpasses mental ability, cries out against the rhythm of pros and cons. It is supernatural. But, I am certain.

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Our Desire for 2008

I To Increase in Knowledge

Colossians 1:9 – For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding

Acts 19:20 – So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

ll To Please God, Our Father

Philippians 1:10 – That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.

Philippians 2:13 – For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

III To Be Continually Thankful

Hebrews 13:15 – By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

IV To Be Led of the Spirit

Proverbs 3:6 – In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 4:26 – Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

¹ 2 Corinthians 5:8

² 2 Timothy 1:12