



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – June 10, 2018

Heart to Heart...

It was almost as good as going to a good movie. It was rather entertaining but in a sad sense. I was channel surfing and came across a religious program with what looked like a couple thousand of people in this place. Big, fancy setting all around that looked expensive. There was the preacher decked out with a gold watch, suit, shining white teeth and not a hair out of place. He proclaimed to have the Spirit of God and there were some on stage he would lay his hands on and they would fall down twitching. He ranted and raved. People were clapping, yelling out with hands raised and suddenly, out of the crowd came a man, running down the aisle, holding up his hands, jumping up and down then falling to the floor rolling around. The preacher blurted out the words, “He’s been slain by the Spirit!” The crowd went crazy. People came forward wanting the preacher to touch them to heal or find some power coming from him. As soon as he touched a person they would fall down as if dead. All of this was done under the teaching of the influence of the Holy Spirit. Some would swoon as if they had been hit by an invisible hammer. The preacher broke out into a “gibberish” talk claiming he was speaking in tongues. More people went wild. I picked up my Bible to take a closer look at the things that come from God.

God is always faithful and trustworthy. Never, ever will you find anyone in Scripture following and doing the things many claim are the power of the Spirit. Jesus never acted strangely or had wild, uncontrollable teachings while speaking to people. His teachings in the temple weren’t loud and a bunch of “gibberish” talk to flatter or make them think He had the Spirit. People that came to Christ Jesus didn’t run around, hopping about like some child playing a game. Whenever the apostles would lay their hands-on people, it didn’t cause people to swoon and fall down at their feet. The people of God in the first century were not set up by a production crew to entertain and have outbursts. None of this is what God promotes, teaches and causes people to do.

Let’s look closely at those who have been baptized into Christ Jesus, our brethren. Some struggle with their flesh and those fleshly desires but they take them to the Lord for help to overcome. They yield themselves to the ways of the Lord and that’s when one can appreciate the power of the Spirit of God (Romans 8:12-14). When people practice love in the heat of a moment or find joy in the midst of turmoil, that’s the product of the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:22-23). You watch those in Christ change from what they were to something God makes them,

becoming more Christ-like in their attitudes and actions, that's the consistency of Christ living in them (Romans 8:29). God's children longing to be together, to worship together, to encourage each other while remembering the death of our Lord in His Supper each first day of the week, that's God in us. As you read more from Scripture, you find reverence and awe in the worship of His name (Hebrews 12:28-29). You don't find outbursts and a pep rally atmosphere. Christ in you means living daily as Jesus lived to the best of our ability. Being a godly husband, wife, mother, father working with our hands with what God provides, living as holy examples to the lost world is what the Spirit of God promotes.

People falling on the floor, clapping, yelling, twitching and uncontrolled behavior is not where the Spirit would take anyone. The Spirit brings self-control!! The ways of God aren't magical and strange. To see people bless when reviled, to forgive when wronged, that's the living God at work in them and that is truly impressive. Think about it!!!

Brent