

**"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)**

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NOVEMBER 13, 2007

“POWER Vs. FORM”

“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring.

Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising.” (Acts 17:24-29) Emphasis Added

“The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? Says the Lord, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these Things?” (Acts 7:48-50)

And Jesus said:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.”

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.
(John 3:5-8) Emphasis Added

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

Dear saints, I am writing today to share a spiritual truth that is as ancient as God, Himself. This Law of the Spirit applies to each son or daughter of God, and there are no exceptions. None! For those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ, our response to this Spiritual Law will determine our spiritual growth and maturity or our lack there of.

The Spiritual Law of which I speak, is that which can best be described as: Spiritual Freedom Vs. Spiritual Bondage – The Spirit Vs. Flesh—Truth Vs. The Lie —Power Vs. Form – Obedience Vs. Disobedience – God’s Word Vs. Man’s Opinion. Simply put – God says: “If you will, I will! If you don’t, I won’t!”

The Word of God focuses on this Law from Genesis to Revelation. Sometimes we see it on the surface; frequently it is hidden just under the surface. The former is given to allow us the opportunity to make a choice, as a little child, to accept and believe Father’s word; the latter word hidden, can only be revealed as Father, by His Spirit, gives revelation of that Word. That which is hidden is only given to those who have chosen to believe that which lies on the surface. This truth confirms our Lord’s use of parables to hide certain mysteries of the Kingdom of God.

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.” (Luke 8:9&10)

In Luke chapter 8, Jesus was speaking of the “Seed and Sower” as it relates to God’s Kingdom and His word. This Spiritual law, which has never changed, was hidden in our Lord’s parable. Today, there continue to be an untold number of mysteries pertaining to the Kingdom of God that are hidden just below the surface of Father’s word. These mysteries are available to you and to me ---- “IF” ---- we are spiritually re-born (John 3: 5–8 & Hebrews 8:10), and ---- “IF” ---- we have a love for the “Truth” (1 Corinthians 16:22 & 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12) and ---- “IF” ---- we are free to follow Him, alone (Mark 8: 34 & John 12:26), and ---- “IF” ---- We hunger and thirst for righteousness, holiness and “oneness” with Jesus Christ as our “Lord” (Matthew 5:6 & John 14:20&21 and Hebrews 12:14). If these traits are ours and we set our minds on “things above” (Colossians 3:1&2), Father will reveal more and more of His mysteries to us. If these traits are not ours, we can practice our religion an entire lifetime and go to our grave with nothing more than head knowledge. This truth alone, should humble us, and cause us to tremble before our God’s word.

“Thus says the Lord:

Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,” says the Lord.

But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.” (Isaiah 66:1&2) Emphasis Added

What about you, dear reader? When you measure your heart by God's word – rather than by your “form” of religion ---- where are you? Are you God's friend, or are you man's friend? You cannot be both! Are you as spiritually free as the wind (John 3:8) to follow Jesus, alone? --- or --- Are you bound up by a “Form” of religion that has you chained and shackled to a man, a building, a doctrine, a denomination, a personal gifting, a habit, or just your own heart? Know this, dear reader --- God knows your heart! And He is a Jealous God (Exodus 20:5 & Exodus 34:14 & Deuteronomy 4:24) who demands our loyalty and love for Him above that for Family, Friends and Fellow Believers, as well as a pastor, priest, Pope, Prophet, Teacher or any other human being, dead or alive. God knows where our supreme love and loyalty lies. We may fool others; we may even convince our own flesh that He alone is supreme in our heart, but we cannot fool our heavenly Father. I am amazed at how easily Christians can proclaim that they Love their Heavenly Father with all of their heart, and at the same time turn right around and reject His word in favor of a man's opinion, or a “form” of religion that contradicts God's word. Jesus said of such behavior:

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:8&9)

I fear, that for the “many” (Matthew 7:22 & 23) professing Christians today, that their worship is in vain. In fact, I know this to be true, because God's word says so! Realizing the certainty of this Truth, causes me to humble myself before our God; and to embrace His word as a little child; and to flee from the voice of any man that attempts to lure me back into that which God condemns. Yes, dear reader, your writer is learning what it means to Love God and at the same time to Fear Him. I fear God, because I have chosen to believe Him. I pray that we are of one mind and one heart in this matter. To be otherwise, would set us on a course that in the end will only bring forth the fruit of suffering, pain, great spiritual loss and eventually death.

Man's “form” of religion will only carry him so far, and no further. It will carry him quite nicely from Sunday morning service to Sunday morning service ---- It will carry him from Bible Study to Bible Study ---- From Prayer meeting to Prayer Meeting ---- From conference to conference ----From one religious project to another religious project. In fact, man's “form” of religion can be quite intoxicating. It creates an atmosphere that looks good, sounds good, smells good and satisfies our desire to be accepted among “like minded” people. To our flesh, the “form of religion” that we have created and become a part of, just feels good ---- Until ---- God's Storm makes landfall on our shores. And make no mistake about it; savage storms have arrived. If your shores are calm and peaceful at the moment, thank God for the calm, and use your time wisely to prepare for what looms ahead. Otherwise, you too will become a casualty rather than a survivor.

“Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:” (2 Timothy 3:1)

The Greek definition of the word “Perilous” (chalepos) is as follows. “Harsh, savage, difficult, dangerous, painful, fierce, grievous, hard to deal with.”

Today, those of us who believe and count ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ and members of the Church are facing “Perilous” times. Sadly, for the vast majority, we are facing these perils cloaked in “religious form” without the Power of God. Our current condition only confirms the Prophecy given through Paul's pen when he declared that in the “latter days” ----

We would have a “form” of godliness but without power. And he told those who had ears to hear to “turn away” from such people. (see 2 Timothy 3:5) Instead of heeding our Father’s word, we embrace those that He told us to “turn away” from. “Form” is now our norm; and “Power” is the rare exception. Religious “Form” is the fruit of man’s attempt to be in control of man. While Spiritual Power is nothing more than God, Himself, confirming His word through man. This spiritual truth is confirmed in Mark 16:20 where it is written:

“They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” (Emphasis Added)

In Mark 16:20, it is worth noting that Jesus had already ascended back into heaven, where He continued to “work with” His disciples that He had left behind on Earth. As He worked with them, He confirmed His own word and the signs that followed the ministry of His word proved its Truth. That, my friends is the Power of God revealed, ---- That is Jesus Christ manifesting Himself to us (John 14:21). It is the Power of God confirming His word in His corporate body on the earth that causes the Body to function as He designed it to function. It is the Power of God confirming His word that allows us to live life individually as our Father desires us to live it. Apart from His power we are helpless --- hopeless and totally undone. We can clean up --- dress up --- show up --- sing --- dance --- wave our flags --- cry --- shout --- pray --- preach and give money until the coffers are full. We can build our crystal cathedrals and state of the art electronically equipped auditoriums --- We can organize our mission trips and establish our outreach programs from the prisons to the hospitals --- We can do all of these things and more --- And when all is said and done, find out that it was all nothing more than the well intentioned practice of a “form” of religion that was absolutely powerless and amounted to nothing, except to make “us” feel good ----, unless, and only, if Jesus confirms His word will it be otherwise. As hard as this truth is for the flesh of man to accept, it is never-the-less true, as it is written:

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5&7) Emphasis Added

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. IF you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14) Emphasis Added

“All the promises of God in Him (Jesus) are Yes, and in Him (Jesus) Amen, to the Glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

In 2 Peter, chapter one, verse three, we are told; that “by our Lord’s divine power He has given to us all things that pertain to Life and godliness”. In Ephesians chapter one, verse three, we are told; that our Father has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” Then in Ephesians chapter three, verse three, we are told; “He who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the “Power” that works in us”. In Luke chapter twenty-four, verse forty-nine, our lord commanded His disciples to; “Wait until you are endued with power from on high.” In 1 Thessalonians 1:5 Paul declared that God’s word should not come to us in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance. Finally, in Hebrews 4:12 it is written:

“The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

No intellectually honest believer, who is a student of Father’s word, could come to the conclusion that it was the will of Jesus Christ to leave behind a Body of believers on the earth, that were full of “form” but void of His power. In fact, God’s word is clear on this matter. Our Lord’s intention has always been that we, who believe, would carry on just as He had done while He was here physically. The fact, that for the most part, we have become a people of “form” rather than “power” is certainly not His fault nor His desire. It is, as it always has been, our own fault, as we refuse to believe God and choose to follow the dictates of our own hearts, rather than obey His word. Man has always preferred his “form of religion” with its comforts and social pleasures, which sooth his conscience and gives him a temporal peace, rather than the Power of God which only comes through the brutality and violence of the Cross of Christ as his “self” nature is destroyed. The flesh, with all of its affections must go, if God’s power is to flow through us unhindered.

Dear reader, if you sincerely desire to be called by the Angels of God, “Beloved of God” as Daniel was (Daniel 9:23), then you will be required to crucify in your heart your “form of religion” that carries upon it the smell of man’s flesh. If you sincerely desire to be called a “Friend of God” as was Abraham (2 Chronicles 20:7), you will be required to prove that you fear God, by believing His word (Genesis 22:1-19, and offer up to Him as a sacrifice of your heart, all of your religious affections that embrace Form rather than Freedom. There is no easy way to crucify our flesh -----

This message will continue -----

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God Bless,

Brother Tom

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)