

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. ([2 Peter 1:12 KJV](#))

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Powers of the Age to Come [Part 1]

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In our attempts to try to return to or restore first century Christianity we have emphasized many aspects of the life of the early Church, such as body life, love and care for one another, government and other aspects of the early believers. While all of these are wonderful and we need to have them restored, one of the areas that we seem to pass over is the way that the Lord manifested His power in signs, wonders, miracles, healing, and deliverance. This is what provided the vitality to their daily living. They walked with a present tense, active God that actually did things in the earth. We seem to have lost that powerful vitality of the expression of the Lord and His Kingdom. It needs to be restored. Desperately!

How did we loose this? What does it take for God to restore it? What type of changes do we have to make? These are some of the questions that we need to ask ourselves. We know that God doesn't change.

"For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed. ([Malachi 3:6 NASB](#))

Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever. ([Hebrews 13:8 NASB](#))

Since He doesn't change then the problem must be on our side. What changed between the first century and now? Well, for one thing, we have not only stopped practicing miracles but we have also stopped teaching about them and the power of God. Why? Maybe its because we have stopped laying the complete foundation of doctrine in the Church. We can't build anything until the foundation is completed. This was the essence of what the writer of Hebrews was saying about them in the last part of chapter five and the first part of chapter 6.

Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ([Hebrews 5:11 NASB](#))

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ([Hebrews 5:12 NASB](#))

He was telling them that they were in kindergarten when they should have already graduated

college. The elementary principles are the A B C's of Christ—the basic understanding upon which everything else is built. They were “dull of hearing” in the same sense that a kindergarten student who may be able to count to ten but would have no understanding of an algebraic equation. That is what has happened to us—ever since the first century the Church has been “dumbed down” in spiritual knowledge and understanding.

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, [\(Hebrews 6:1 NASB\)](#)

of instruction about washings [baptisms] and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. [\(Hebrews 6:2 NASB\)](#)

And this we will do, if God permits. [\(Hebrews 6:3 NASB\)](#)

The intention is that we leave the A B C's and move on to deeper things. Notice the list of these A B C doctrines:

1. repentance from dead works
2. faith toward God
3. instruction about baptisms
4. laying on of hands
5. resurrection of the dead
6. eternal judgment

How many of these have been fully laid as foundational doctrines in your life? How many of these have you heard actually taught from the pulpit? Is it any wonder then that the Church hasn't matured?

Notice that verse three says “if God permits”. This is in the context of moving on and leaving the elementary principles. Why would God not permit us to move on? For our protection, He doesn't allow us to move on if the foundational principles haven't been securely laid. The Church has been “dumbed down” because God has not permitted us to move on to deeper things because of our weak, incomplete, cracked, or missing foundation.

So, the first step in regaining the vitality of the early Church is to buckle down, apply ourselves and learn our spiritual A B C's.

The writer of Hebrews and goes on to describe such a person.

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, [\(Hebrews 6:4 NASB\)](#)

and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, [\(Hebrews 6:5 NASB\)](#)

and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. [\(Hebrews 6:6 NASB\)](#)

This person has several characteristics:

1. enlightened (received light)
2. tasted the heavenly gift (Jesus, our salvation, been born again)

3. partaker of the Holy Spirit (baptized in the Holy Spirit)
4. tasted the good word of God's (continued in the word, become a disciple)
5. tasted the powers of the age to come (walked in miracles, signs and wonders)

While I realize that the rest of the verse deals with falling away and the impossibility of such a person to be restored (such a person would also have little chance of falling away), the point I am making is the fact that this is the normal progression of growth of a person and that it results in the expression of the "powers of the age to come".

If we don't learn our A B C's and move on toward maturity, we will not walk in the powers of the age to come.

[The next newsletter will be part 2 of this teaching and will explain the powers of the age to come.]

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