

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Spiritual Language

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Introduction

One of the things that has always amazed me is how easily it seems that truth and revelation from God can be twisted and misapplied. It seems that the moment we begin to understand some truth of the Lord we begin to take it to an extreme. Watchman Nee once said, "any truth taken to an extreme becomes a heresy." So, we receive truth and then apply it in an erroneous manner.

I am not talking about the perversion of the Word that comes from the unbelievers such as Elymas, the magician, that Paul dealt with in Acts when he said to him:

... "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? (Acts 13:10 NASB)

That is what unbelievers do. They make the straight ways of the Lord crooked. They pervert the Word. However, that is not our real problem. We can usually recognize when the way of the Lord is made crooked or perverted.

Our real problem is when believers, our brothers and sisters in the Lord, apply the Word in a manner that is inconsistent with the Lord's intentions. Why does this happen so easily?

Revelation and Application

It is the Lord's intention that we know and understand His Word and His ways. He has given us the Spirit of Truth so that this will be accomplished.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (John 16:13 NASB)

The Holy Spirit is to guide us into ALL truth, not just some. He is the administrator of all that belongs to Jesus, which is all things, and He will disclose it to us.

"All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will

disclose *it to you*. (John 16:15 NASB)

So, we have an active Helper in our lives given to us by Jesus to reveal to us the things of Jesus. However, this is not an automatic process or Paul would not have prayed for it for the Ephesians. Paul prayed, “*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.*” (Ephesians 1:17 NASB)

Therefore, it is clear from the Scriptures that wisdom and revelation knowledge come to us through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we forget this and begin to think that we intellectually comprehend the things of God and this is where our troubles begin.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. (1 Corinthians 2:12-13 NASB)

We have received the Holy Spirit **SO THAT WE MAY KNOW** the things given to us by God. The Holy Spirit is our only source of this type of knowledge.

There are two aspects of this process of receiving from the Holy Spirit: 1) knowing the things of God, and 2) communicating or teaching the things of God to others. Just as the Holy Spirit is the only source for knowing, He is also the only source for proper communication of what He has revealed. We communicate spiritual truth with spiritual words, both of which are taught to us by the Holy Spirit.

Now, what happens if we try to communicate spiritual truth without using spiritual words, that is, spiritual language, taught to us by the Holy Spirit? We begin to *apply* spiritual revelation by *natural* or *soulish* means and this is the source of our problem.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB)

The Greek word for “natural” in this verse is “*psuchikos*” which is the adjective version of the word that is used for “soul”. So, the meaning is of a man that operates or functions from the soul rather than the spirit. In previous Present Truth issues we have discussed how, at the fall, Man had something activated in his soul that was previously inactive and something in his spirit was deactivated and man's “eyes were opened”. Man began to process reality through his soul rather than his spirit, which changed the way that man perceived reality. This has been the case ever since. So the natural, soulish man operates from the mind (a part of the soul) rather than the spirit. [For further study of this: “[With Open Eyes](#)”, Sept. Issue 9 Present Truth Volume 4.]

So, we see from this verse that the things revealed by the Spirit of God are not accepted by the natural, soulish person because he **cannot** understand them. Not that they are hard to understand but he cannot; he is unable, incapable of understanding them spiritually. Therefore, any understanding is determined by reason and logic rather than revelation. Therefore, any application of this understanding is by reason and logic, strengthened by the flesh and the operation of the tree of knowledge of good and evil rather than spiritual application taught by the Holy Spirit.

This is why believers twist and misapply the Scriptures. They are operating from a carnal mind. A carnal mind is a mind that has not been renewed by still thinks from a natural, soulish

perspective. Paul defines a carnal mind for us.

I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? (1 Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV)

As long as we act, behave, like mere men rather than as children of God, who have been conformed to the image of Christ, we are carnal. We are not just immature; we are still babies.

We have neglected the importance of being “transformed by the renewing of your mind” [Romans 12:2] This is a process that takes time and not an instant event. Only a renewed mind can communicate with spiritual language taught by the Holy Spirit. The carnal mind can only speak “baby talk”, and, like a baby is selfish and self centered.

This is why the Shepherding Movement could hear a true word from the Lord about the need for true shepherds among God's people and yet apply this word by the arm of the flesh creating a man made hierarchy that dissipated the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is why the Apostolic Movement could hear a true word from the Lord about the need of the functions of the five fold ministry and the bringing forth of apostles and prophets today and yet apply this word by carnal understanding creating extra biblical networks and hierarchal structures that are man made substitutes for Kingdom ministry functions.

If we don't yield ourselves to the Lord for the teaching of the Holy Spirit we will repeat the same fleshly process that has continued to occur throughout church history. Our minds **must be** renewed. We **must be** taught spiritual words, spiritual language to communicate and explain spiritual revelation truth or we will repeat the soulish process and dissipate the move of the Spirit.

We are divided by denominational lines, doctrinal lines, worship styles, meeting places, and other carnal applications—for this is what Paul said in the verses listed above. I believe that the next major move of the Holy Spirit will deal with unity. I am expecting revelation knowledge from the Holy Spirit to come forth about true unity. This is desperately needed among God's people. Let's not settle for the *carnal counterfeit of uniformity*. Let's learn to speak of unity with spiritual words taught to us by the Holy Spirit.

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