

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

April 8, 2017

SPIRITUAL GIANTS

I cannot say I have never wanted to be a spiritual “giant.” I just know that I am not one, and I am sure that God agrees with me in this. I have seen those who perceive themselves to be spiritual giants, but it always comes across, at least to me, that their great spirituality is their personal delusion, or an illusion they wanted others to see. Whenever a Christian becomes great in their own sight they have become blind. Pride is a disease caused by a person’s inability to see things as they truly are.

As a very young Christian, I found there were always others who were ready to show me “how to truly walk with God.” The problem was that one would take me to the “right” and the other would take me to the “left.” Then there were those great television ministers who seemed to be so mightily anointed, who would hint that if you tried diligently enough, you could almost be like them. I heard one of them say God had called him to train ten thousand little versions of himself. Looking back, I have lost count of how many of those ministries ended up in shame.

One of the first things God spoke to me in a dream or vision was a warning not to let the religious builders build my spiritual house. The houses they built looked so magnificent, but God warned me that they had no foundation. As Peter said, *“This is the stone which was set at nought of*

you builders, which is become the head of the corner.” Acts 4:11 In the night vision I saw that if I would prayerfully seek God and measure everything by his word, my house would stand when others fell.

As I sought the Lord, he began to open my understanding to the gospel of Christ. He took me to His promise of a New Covenant. He said *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest”* Hebrews 8:10-11. This is where I came to the realization that the New Covenant IS that God himself writes his law the hearts of his people. God said through the prophet Jeremiah, *“...I will put my law in their inward parts...”* Jeremiah 31:33. This is not a law learned. It is the new nature of a child of God! It is *“written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart”* II Corinthians 3:3. This is a work that no man can do for you because God said *“they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.”* We are sent to preach the gospel, but only God can put his law and life within a person. This reveals the fallacy of so much that is done under the name of “discipleship.” When we attempt to write God’s law in a person, the best we can produce is a cheap imitation. When God does it, it is glorious life and liberty.

The power of this promise overwhelmed me. Maybe this could be true for the great, the mature, or the spiritual elite, but I was none of that. I was just a young man whom God had delivered from the depths of sin and shame. I told God, "I'm just me. I am not great or super spiritual. I am the least in your Kingdom." God did not dispute the fact that I was the least in his Kingdom. He just reminded me of his promise: *"...for all shall know me, from **the least** to the greatest."* I then understood that his promise was true, even for me ...the least in his Kingdom.

I do not proclaim a gospel for "spiritual giants." The simple fact is, those who believe themselves to be spiritual giants will always reject the simplicity of Christ. They worked so hard to get "spiritual" that it is impossible for them to believe the wonderful promises of redemption in the gospel can only be received by "*babes.*" Luke 10:21 No one is too sinful for Christ to make them free from sin, but many people are too spiritual in their own sight to receive anything from God. When a person tells me what they have done to overcome sin, I know by their own words that they are not free. But everyone whom Christ has made free, lives their life in amazement that God freely did such a thing ...even for them.