



"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 12, 2011

Heart to Heart...

To have the kind of success this man had, he must have a way with words and know "how to." A man like this could help us reach those unreachable! Dates for him to come and speak start filling up. Brethren are demanding of this man to their congregation. Brotherhood papers contact him, wanting him to write for them. People want him to write books, make videos and hold seminars. Workshops want him. No one dare speak against him!

What did he do to cause such a stir? He converted Saul/Paul! Doesn't the above sound like something you would hear today? Ananias must have had some personality or schooling technique that helped him, didn't he? At least he must have had a degree in communications 101 or counseling, didn't he? Many would like to think that. The shocking truth is this Ananias was fearful to approach Saul (Acts 9:13-14). This whole conversion was God directed! Ananias was just the messenger and not an "expert" with degrees. From this point we never hear another word about him.

It seems more and more are going after those with high degrees to help us in our outreach. Let me be first to say, I admire those who have worked hard to get their degrees as they have accomplished something in this life. What concerns me is education seems to be getting in the way of God! Some have taken on the mind-set that only those "schooled" can help others find God or straighten out all these life battles. It makes us feel more secure in our outreach knowing we are working with "professionals". ***"All Scripture is inspired of God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*** (II Timothy 3:16-17) Did we get that? ADEQUATE AND EQUIPPED! Where does this adequacy and equipping come from? The Lord God!!

Jesus took a bunch of uneducated fishermen and others with varied backgrounds to take a life changing message into all the world. There was no "special" approach in keeping marriages together and solve the pressures of life individually. Even in Paul's case, who was highly educated said this about his personal attainments: ***"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ."*** (Philippians 3:7) How could he say that? Because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus the Lord (Philippians 3:8). It was knowing Christ and His Lordship that meant everything. ***"We put NO confidence in the flesh."*** (Philippians 3:3)

Christ is the power of God! Christ is the wisdom of God! (I Corinthians 1:24) It is always God that causes all growth, not the planter or the one who waters (I Corinthians 3:7) It is the glorying in man that weakens and will eventually destroy the things of God (I Corinthians 1:17). Why are so many lives powerless, empty and void of results? Maybe we are turning to the "experts" while the Savior and Creator of life sit in sadness and wonder knowing what man is forfeiting. Think about it!!!

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