

Sunday Night – BELIEVE!! (02 May 2010)

When it comes to the Power of God being released or seen in our lives there is an absolute must of believing that it will happen.

Whilst God is still sovereign and stills moves sovereignly – this is not the regular occurrence.

Instead - **What God used to do sovereignly – He now chooses to do in Partnership.** What does that mean? **What He used to do TO you – He now chooses to do THROUGH you.**

I have spoken of being incredibly challenged by what seems to be a serious lack of the evidence of the Holy Spirit in ‘the Church’ of today.

I believe that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit therefore; there are things that should be evident in our lives and ministries. And not just evident but functioning with regularity.

The Church is the most un-natural place for unbelief! Faith is normal for Christians!

When we desire to operate with the Holy Spirit – this is intentional!

It takes a conscious decision to walk believing that what God has said is true and will actually happen today as it did in the Bible!

When we connect with the One who is perfectly faithful – our response will be one of faith and believing!

Jesus didn't do miracles by accident! It was intentional!

If we are to operate or function under the enabling of the Spirit of God then **we have a responsibility to learn to recognise the Spirit** ... and having recognised Him **NOT SHUT HIM DOWN BECAUSE WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND!!**

TWO INSTANCES OF RECOGNITION – (1 x BELIEVING & 1 x DISBELIEVING)

ACTS 2:2&6

²Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting.

⁶When they heard this sound, they came running to see what it was all about, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

This was a Holy Spirit RICH atmosphere! Nothing the disciples could have done in their own strength would have gathered that number! But they recognised that the Spirit of God had been made manifest and stepped up and into what God planned.

LUKE 4:16-28

- ∞ **They all bore witness to Him** (they recognised Jesus for who he was!) **THEY SAW!**
- ∞ They **marvelled at the gracious Words** **THEY HEARD**

Verse 23-28 describes how the people's UNBELIEF was crippling them and they wanted Jesus to 'overcome their unbelief' in order for them to believe.

HE WON'T DO THAT!

It takes an encounter with the Spirit – Yes ... but it also takes for us to believe!

If we are not prepared to believe then we are literally saying that our intellect is higher than that of God's.

MARK 16:11-14

Jesus in his risen form appeared to Mary Magdalene & to the two travellers and still yet the disciples did not believe them ... **JESUS REBUKED THEM FOR THIS!**

“...and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.”

JOHN 6 Jesus preached a message that was both offensive and virtually non-understandable!

Here-in is the responsibility for us to learn to recognise what is happening and always be open to what God wants to do in our lives.

Jesus preaches a message that results in MANY choosing to walk away because they could not understand – **“This is a hard word, who can understand it?”**

Just because we do not understand it does not mean that it is not from God!

JOHN 6:63

– Jesus' Words are life ... and they are Spirit!

6:67-69

– Jesus – **“Do you also want to go away?”**

Disciples – **“You have the Words of eternal life ... also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!”**

When our thinking is consistent with Heaven, it agrees with God and releases the Supernatural. The Lord has designed us to live under the Influence of Heaven. It is impossible for us, as Born-Again Believers, to live under a closed Heaven unless we believe the Heavens are closed! (most often that 'closed-ness' is between our ears!)

E.g. Jesus rebuking Peter for not being 'mindful of the things of Heaven' but being 'mind-full' of the things of men!

Personal example:

- ∞ My golf game going spectacularly bad!
- ∞ Text from Suzanne about her prayer being answered
- ∞ My response.

We are given a choice tonight. Either the Holy Spirit is real and what Jesus said is absolutely true, or it is the biggest most successful lie that has ever existed.