



Mentor's Tips - June 2009

WHAT DO WE NEED TO OVERCOME OUR CURRENT CRISIS?

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Over the past few months, the Holy Spirit has been dealing with me about many things. I believe He is trying to get across to all of us the real "state of the union" and the "state of the world." Our current crisis is not really about money. Both in the medical and psychological communities, they understand that the "presenting" problem is usually not the real one. In other words, the symptom that brought the patient in for a checkup or counseling session is usually not the underlining problem. Rather it is a surface problem that is masking the real problem or problems with an individual. I believe such is the case with our current situation. Let me explain.

MY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS SITUATION

1. MONEY WILL NOT FIX IT.

Just throwing money at the problem is not going to fix it in the long run. Our government has poured over two trillion dollars into the economy. Other nations have poured several trillion more. This might give us some temporary relief, but it is masking the real problem.

2. THE HEARTS OF MEN GOT US HERE

When you dig deep into this situation, darkness, hidden agendas, and greed in the hearts of men from government leaders, to business men, to the average Joe on the street created the problem. If honesty and truthfulness ruled in the hearts of men, this situation would have never occurred! Even if we could somehow smooth out the difficulties and stabilize the markets, financial systems and businesses, what lingers in the hearts of men will bring us right back to face an even greater disaster in the future.

3. MUCH OF THE CHURCH HAS STOPPED BEING SALT IN THE EARTH

Jesus told us:

Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

Barne's Notes gives us insight into this salt:

"Ye are the salt of the earth. Salt renders food pleasant and palatable, and preserves from putrefaction. So Christians, by their lives and instructions, are to keep the world from entire moral corruption. By bringing down, by their prayers, the blessing of God, and by their influence and example, they save the world from universal vice and crime."¹

I would also add to this that we are supposed to make the world thirsty for the things of God. I believe the Church has grown too comfortable with the world. We have drank too many times from their waters; desiring recognition from the world over the approval of Heaven. We are more consumed with marketing than holiness: Hollywood hype over the Holy Spirit and psychobabel over the anointing in the preaching the God's Word.

We need to realize that we have been going down the wrong road at dangerously high speeds. The only way we can turn things around is to STOP and turn ourselves around. God is calling us to return, restore, and advance in the right direction.

STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Over the past few weeks, God led me to start teaching on "Partnership with the Holy Spirit." In the process of seeking His face and preparing these messages, I saw new things about the Holy Spirit that I had never seen before. I believe these new insights will prove invaluable in the days ahead.

THE HOLY SPIRIT – MORE THAN A FORCE TO USE

In Charismatic and Pentecostal circles, we always speak of the power of the Holy Spirit. Over the years, I have seen the power of God do some amazing things! I have seen divine provision, divine protection and divine healings. As we have moved further from the last wave of God that produced the Charismatic movement, I see some disturbing trends:

- Christians baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues are but remaining relatively powerless in their lives. They produce lots of shouting and dancing, but little more.
- Christians (and ministers) are treating the Holy Spirit more like He is the "force" off of Star Wars than the manifestation of Almighty God in the earth.

WE NEED TO RENEW OUR REVERENCE FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

¹ Albert Barnes, *Notes on the New Testament Explanatory and Practical*, ed. Robert Frew WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Matthew 5".

In John 16, Jesus knows the time is drawing near to lay His life down on the Cross. There is so much more He wants to share with His disciples to prepare them for the future. Let's take a closer look at this conversation:

John 16:5-15 (NKJV)

⁵ "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'" ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

First, to really understand what is happening here, we must put it back into its historical perspective. These men had answered the call to "come follow Me." Jesus had been their teacher and their mentor for almost three and a half years. He opened up the Word of God to them like no one ever had. He trained them, corrected them, embraced them and empowered them. Now He is telling them that He is leaving. He immediately sensed that sorrow was overwhelming them. He goes on to tell them that the Holy Spirit is going to pick up where He left off. **In other words, the Holy Spirit was going to become their teacher and their mentor!**

A true mentor is someone that you respect. A mentor's words will hold great significance to you. A mentor will not only speak fresh insights into your life, but will also help you face the things that hold you back. You always consider a mentor's time precious and his insights invaluable. You will quickly receive any correction from a mentor, because you know he has your best interest at heart. You would never think of not recognizing him when he comes to you or to quickly dismiss his instruction. His wisdom and experience stand in great contrast to your own! If you offend him, he will simply involve himself with those that value his time and wisdom.

Paul warns us:

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

We constantly seek the Holy Spirit to empower us. We need to understand that without His mentorship, we open the door to the leading of other spirits to empower our flesh! It is time for us to give the Holy Spirit His due, repent of grieving Him because we would not allow Him to

mentor us and to give Him the respect of a cherished teacher and mentor. God is calling us into a covenant relationship of being mentored by His Spirit.

Because we have not allowed this mentorship process to occur with purpose and power, we have become too worldly. The spirit of the world seems to hold greater sway with the Church than the Spirit of the Living God. If the nations of this world are going to be won for the LORD, the Church needs to throw off its “worldliness” and once again embrace the Kingdom of God with a passion that cannot be denied. We need mentorship. We need correcting. We need adjusting. We need empowering. In short, we need the Holy Spirit to mentor us like never before!

I want to end where I started in Matthew 5:13. If the salt has lost its ability to preserve, men will trample it under foot. I believe this is what is happening with all the anti-Christian agenda that fills the media and secular education today. Is it persecuting the godly or fulfilling the warning Jesus gave us about salt that is no longer salty?

The only way we can become “salty” again is through the mentoring ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is time to answer His call!

Partnership with the Holy Spirit Series: We are posting each new message in this series at our congregation website the week after it is recorded. These posting are in MP3 and are available for free download.

<http://www.biblicallifeassembly.org/library/series.htm>

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