

REVELATION KNOWLEDGE/by Rev Dennis Madden

There is an instinct in the natural man and woman to acquire knowledge so that we may affect our circumstances positively. All of our senses in the natural world are geared toward our self-improvement and survival. However strongly our five senses dominate our lives, sooner or later each of us will have an encounter with the spiritual realm. Many are deceived with new age types of extremely old mysticisms mistaking these, for the spiritual and acquire soulish beliefs that encumber them in ways they are not aware of. Still others encounter a form of Christianity but do not find Christ and consequently never know (experience) the truth. I am the truth the way and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me, Jesus declares. Wow! What a startling statement, there is certainly no gray area here is there!?

It is primarily to misguided and/or unfulfilled seekers that the Lord wishes me to address this writing. So many of our ministry schools provide tremendous education in the words of the Holy Scriptures. However, it is very possible to acquire tremendous and impressive head knowledge about the scriptures without receiving revelation knowledge from God. This is so, because no institution can teach such knowledge. Revelation is a Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals the things of God directly to ones spirit. I thank God for those who pursue these bible studies and pray their education gives way to the revelation knowledge which is of the Spirit and not of the mind. That wonderful mind that was involved in pursuing such a commendable educational path is precisely the wrong tool with which to acquire revelation knowledge. We can train our young men and women in scriptural knowledge but how are we going to train them in revelation knowledge which is of the Spirit? We can't. No man can, but there is a teacher given that is not a man, that is the Holy Spirit. When He has come to you, He will teach you in all things of God and reveal the truths of heaven to you and dwell in you as the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge.

Jesus confronted His greatest detractors, the fathers of learning/religion (Pharisees, Sanhedrin) about this very issue. Jesus asked them this question, "How is it you search the Scriptures for me and still you do not find me? " He asked this question to the holiest men of His time, experts in the Scriptures, Pharisees of great education. There He was, the one of whom all scripture foretold and testified of, performing miracles before their very eyes and they missed who He was completely. Are we so different, with all our media, church programs and personal reading about Him? Are we finding Him experiencing the fullness of His grace? Or do we just kind of know in our minds stories about Him? His greatest skeptics were men of impeccable credentials and learning. We can make a great error in thinking that we are different or more enlightened than they. Jesus Himself wondered aloud that upon His triumphal return to earth will I even find faith (among my people)? In other words we can assiduously study the bible yet miss the revelation of Him. The revelation from God of WHO HE IS and WHAT HIS SACRIFICE MEANS to our lives. In dissecting the scriptures and parsing words with one another to establish unbendable opinions and doctrines we only argue amongst ourselves. This has led to divisions within the body of Christ culminating in a myriad of denominations or fractures in the one body of Christ.

Even from the very beginning the Apostles were reporting to Jesus tales of counterfeit gospels being preached accompanied by strange rules and rituals.

Such is the way of men; " but there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 4:28). Yet these fractures have persisted through the centuries and are the pure folly of men. I believe that the Lord desires all men to be of the same precious faith (like precious faith) 2 Pe.1:1, as was Jesus, Peter, all the apostles and first century saints in whom the fullness of God dwelled. I believe what has been will indeed be again, upon this earth.

Pursuit of biblical knowledge only, is a divisive thing and no life springs from it. It is only mans pursuit. It is extremely possible to be a biblical scholar and really not know/experience Jesus. While conveying this type of factual "head knowledge" to thoughtful congregations is likely to appeal to their reasonable minds and would have a form of Godliness but be lacking power of the Spirit. Many disaffected seekers who have sought the spiritual have wound up in some kind of mystic mumbo-jumbo or encountered a watered down Christianity lacking the spirit of power. Regardless of whatever obstacles are encountered by the seeker know this: all who seek God find Him but not with the mind of your soul. You will find Him with your spirit for He is spirit and will reveal Himself to you. The mind must give way to the Spirit or you'll get nowhere in your seeking..

The scriptures are a springboard and a foundation to encounter the Spirit of the living God. The scriptures of themselves are not God. To stop at mere scriptural knowledge thinking that you have found God and settle into a religious system of rules and traditions is far below our Fathers intentions for us. There is so much more to experience Gods goodness and grace towards us to stop here. Let the mind that was in Christ Jesus be also in you so that you will walk in His Spirit and not follow soulish misleading.

There is a way that leads to life and abundantly so. God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. The desire to know God is within us all. It is this desire that is in fact holy and of God. It is His Spirit that motivates the seeking. The tool (mind) we most often used to begin our seeking is precisely the wrong implement for our undertaking. The carnal mind itself is at enmity/rebels against God who is Spirit. At first, scriptural things seem unreasonable (or foolish as the bible puts it) to our minds. It is only after the Spirit has renewed our minds that the mind becomes useful under the Spirits direction. You are spirit and your maker is spirit. How is it you expect to encounter Him with your mind? Or feel Him with your emotions?

Since most of our experience is not with our spirit but with our minds and our feelings, it is these that we rely on upon most when searching for God. In our society we have come to believe that our thoughts and our feelings are of primary importance. Things have to feel right for us to pursue them. In fact if we don't feel it, then we conclude that something is not real. We have to feel it to believe it. Dear reader, the elevation of our minds and feelings to such a lofty place of power is the problem, but wholly our choice. Our entire society encourages these errors. No wonder our spiritual senses are so underdeveloped. But it is precisely this seemingly weak muscle that must be exercised to know God who is beyond mind and feelings and who is spirit. When we experience God with our spirit the soul and body are nourished. The mind is enlightened; the emotions are healed as is the body. Joy and peace, vitally become our experience on this earth. This is no fairy tale! This is the promise of Jesus the Christ of Nazareth who even now (for death could not hold him) sits at the right hand of the father in a real place called heaven. This is the same place where your spirit sits and rules your life in the earth also if you will accept it (Ep 1:20, 2:6). Jesus is the way, the light and the truth. He knows how to care for what is His. Rest in His victory that He has given you!

