

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

Volume 10, Issue 12

December 2012

## Administration of the Kingdom

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### Introduction

I am bothered by some of the events, conventions, and ministry gatherings being conducted and promoted by a number of television ministry personalities and churches as the public presentation of who believers are and how they act. Some of these are no more than carnival acts and circus shows presenting such a parody of Christian belief and actions as to be unbelievable in their depiction of the Gospel. Others are seeking to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to their own notions and desires for the furtherance of their ministry. They seek to implement their own thoughts about the administration of the Kingdom of God and how its resources should be utilized. Is it any wonder that the world laughs at the church and holds it in derision as a solution to any real problems in our society? Have we forgotten who the real Administrator of the things of God is? Have we forgotten how He operates? It would seem that we have when we look at contemporary western Christianity.

### A Suitable Administration

Before the foundation of the world God had purposed in Himself to fulfill a particular intention of His heart. This intention involved man and God's purpose for us. The Bible is a history of His purpose as it unfolds in time from its inception to its fulfillment.

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ([Ephesians 1:9-10 NASB](#))

God's intention involves an administration that He has put in place that is suitable to the fullness of times. That is, His administration is appropriate and is capable of bringing His intention to completion. With an administration comes an administrator, one who manages and directs the resources of the Kingdom of God.

God has installed His King over His Kingdom.

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36 NASB)

then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. (1 Corinthians 15:24-25 NASB)

Jesus has received from the Father the Kingdom and must rule it until all rule, authority and power that is contrary to the will of the Father has been removed and then He will turn the cleansed Kingdom back to the Father. For Him to accomplish this, the Father has given Him all things.

"All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you. (John 16:15 NASB)

Jesus tells us that He will send us another Helper:

"But 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 go, I will send Him to you. (John 16:7 NASB)

This Helper, the Spirit of Truth, is sent to us by our Lord for specific purposes including this:

"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. (John 16:14 NASB)

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus and He does this by revealing to us the things that belong to Jesus. Jesus said that "all things that the Father has" are His. The Holy Spirit now administrates the things of God through Christ Jesus to us. Just as we cannot bypass Jesus to reach the Father, we cannot bypass the Holy Spirit to receive the things of Jesus and the Father.

## **Glorifying Jesus**

We need to remember that the primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus and Jesus glorifies the Father. We are to pray to the Father through the Name of Jesus. Where did contemporary "charismatic" Christians get the idea that we pray to, speak to, or otherwise direct the Holy Spirit in any of His functions? How many meetings have you been in where the minister calls on the Holy Spirit to come? Or to fill us? Or to show His power? Or to make us "drunk"? Or something similar? When did our meetings become about the "anointing" and manifestations of the spirit? When did people begin accepting any spirit that was manifesting signs? Does anyone actually believe that the Holy Spirit barks like a dog? Or slithers on the floor like a snake? Or drops "gold dust" and "jewels" around ministers? Do any of these things glorify Jesus? If Jesus is not glorified then the spirit "manifesting" is NOT the Holy Spirit that is presented in the Scriptures.

We need to remember that the first name of the Spirit is Holy. He is a Spirit of holiness. All manifestations of the Holy Spirit have that same characteristic of holiness. We need to also remember that the first definition of the Helper, the Comforter, that Jesus gave was "Spirit of Truth" (John 14:16-17). We receive Him first as the Spirit of Truth, righteousness, and holiness and then, after being received on that basis, He becomes to us the Spirit of power.

# Spectacular Manifestations

Lying wonders can be very spectacular but in actuality produce little that is of any real use. During the temptations of Jesus, the Enemy wanted Jesus to jump off of the pinnacle to prove He was the Son of God. This was a useless miracle that would have been spectacular but not produce any real benefit.

There are many spectacular manifestations of spiritual “gifts” that are actually useless in the final analysis. A few years ago I saw Benny Hinn on television as he was “ministering” in one of his crusades. On one occasion, he was waving his suit coat at the crowd and entire sections of people would fall down “slain in the spirit”. On another occasion, he would look at a section of people and blow into the microphone and that section of people would all fall down. While spectacular, this was all useless demonstrations of power that produced nothing for the Lord. It was Benny that received glory and honor and not Jesus, which would seem to indicate that these manifestations were not from the Holy Spirit. This certainly fits the description of false, lying wonders given to us in the Scriptures.

The manifestations associated with the so called “Toronto Blessing” that included “drunkenness in the spirit”--incoherent, non-functioning “drunken” people for long periods of time, uncontrolled laughter, and people locked or frozen in position—stasis or trance for extended periods of time, are all in the category of useless miracles and lying wonders. Many similar things were associated with the Pensacola “revival”. Many were deceived and many are still being deceived by these types of manifestations. Sure they are exciting but are they of God?

Many have received “impartations” of these spirits by the laying on of hands by these ministers and have carried the deceptions to other places. People who have a desire to minister that comes from the flesh, from un-renewed minds, have a tendency to receive an “impartation” so that they can do the same things. They want to see the miraculous and want to be involved in it so they are not discriminating about the source or means if it produces works of power.

Lying wonders are preparing the way for the Man of Lawlessness to appear and show forth powerful miracles. We must be discerning. We need to operate in a “gift of discernment of spirits” so that we can determine which spirit is being manifested. I want all of the real that the Lord desires for me but I want none of the false that my natural mind and old nature craves.

Receiving a love of the truth is our primary defense. Jesus is Truth and He sent us the Spirit of Truth so that we might know the things freely given to us by God. As we abide in Him, we will receive the real power of the Holy Spirit and not bogus miracles of deception.

## Basic Facts

There are several basic facts that are clear from the Scriptures. These facts should be our basis of understanding concerning the administration of the Kingdom of God.

1. The Father has installed Jesus as His King over His Kingdom.
2. The King is unchangeable and the Kingdom is unshakeable.
3. Jesus has received all things from the Father.

4. The Holy Spirit has been sent forth that we might know the things freely given us by God.
5. The Holy Spirit receives of Jesus and shows it to us.
6. Therefore, the Holy Spirit administrates the things and resources of the Kingdom on behalf of God, the Father and Christ Jesus the Son.

Based on these simple, straight forward facts, we have nothing to do with the administration of the Kingdom. It is entirely in God's hands. Anyone who tries to manipulate the Holy Spirit and the resources of the Kingdom of God is someone who is operating under his own self desires and ambitions and operating in his own kingdom rather than the Kingdom of God. These are those of whom Jesus spoke:

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' (Matthew 7:21-22 NASB)

Jesus says that He will say to them:

"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' (Matthew 7:23 NASB)

Our security rests in the Unchanging King and His Unshakeable Kingdom.

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