

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)

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Vision and Call

Art Nelson

Introduction

As we enter this new year I think that 2015 will be an interesting year spiritually. I think that this year we will begin to see a separation between those who are operating in the call of God and those who are operating in the call of man. In outward appearance these can look very much alike. The difference is in the calling, motivation and empowerment. Is the source man's vision and ability or God's vision and enablement? Only those who led by the Spirit are the Sons of God [Rom. 8:14] and only those who do the work prepared for them [Eph. 2:10] produce that which withstands the test of fire [1 Cor. 3:13].

1 Corinthians 3:13 NASB

(13) each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

When we first meet the Lord He puts in us a desire to serve Him. This is the natural outcome of our new birth. However, when we try to do this before the Lord has worked in our hearts we tend to serve in the power of our old nature. The desire is given but the spiritual ability to serve properly has to be developed in us. The Word has to change us. The thoughts and intents of our hearts must be judged according to the Word [Heb. 4:12].

The Natural Approach

The natural man's approach to calling and serving:

1. Human vision and challenge
 1. to fill the need
 2. to enlist others
 1. to dedication
 2. to satisfaction

3. to achieve success

Without a renewed mind our view or perspective on the work of the Lord is based on our perception of human need. We see a need and desire to fill it in the name of the Lord. To meet that need we have to enlist others since we can't do it by ourselves although we might try. We must get others to buy into our vision with their dedication. We promote to them the satisfaction that is the result of dedicated service and we measure success by the filling of the need.

God's Approach

God's approach to calling and serving:

1. Divine revelation
 1. of the real need
 2. of our inadequacy
 3. of His enablement
 4. of His sending forth
 5. of His ways of increase

God's approach always begins with His revelation. His perspective on human need is very different from ours. When Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda [John 5:2-9] there were many in pain, sick and lame around the pool. Yet Jesus only spoke to and healed one person. The natural man would have organized a ministry team and soup kitchen to help care for all of those who were there and in desperate need.

We are unable to do God's work until we can see it by His perspective, His revelation. Once we see that then we can see how inadequate we are to fulfill it. His vision always exceeds our adequacy. Until He enables us by the power of the Holy Spirit we are unable to accomplish His work.

He doesn't release us; that is, send us forth, to do His work until we have had a heart change and our minds have begun to be renewed. Our thought processes and our intents or motivations must be conformed to the image of the Lord.

We must come into an understanding of His ways of increase. The Lord's measure of success is not the world's measure of success.

2 Corinthians 2:14 NASB

- (14) But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

Triumph in Christ is not success by the world's standards. When Jesus died on the cross it appeared as a failure from the view of the world but it was a triumph in God because the purpose of the Father was being accomplished. By His death He made atonement for us. This is our triumph in Christ and it does reveal the beautiful sweet aroma of His knowledge.

Example of Divine Call

We have a detailed example of the manner in which God's call is accomplished in the calling and work of Isaiah.

Isaiah—example of divine order of call.

1. Chapter 1—Isaiah sees Israel as God sees Israel.
2. Chapter 6—crises. King Uzziah dies; new king not favorable to Isaiah. As the new king ascends the throne, Isaiah sees more than the need—he sees the Lord.
3. Chapter 6:5—As Isaiah sees the Lord he realizes the desperate need of his own life.
4. Chapter 6:6-7—Gods sends a divine purging and preparation for His servant
5. Chapter 6:8—Isaiah's heart attuned to God's heart can now hear the voice of the Lord —“Whom shall I send?”
6. Chapter 6:8—Isaiah responds to God's heart.
7. Chapter 6:9—the Divine sending forth.

This is a scriptural pattern and any calling that we receive from the Lord will follow this pattern also.

Consequences

The vision of the Lord will cause us to be restrained by the requirements of the Lord. Operating in any other form of vision such as man's desire is not a vision at all.

[Proverbs 29:18 NASB](#)

(18) Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

Why is there so much unrighteousness in many ministries? Could it be because their vision is not God's vision but man's?

During this coming year, those who are operating in natural vision and challenge will find themselves running out of resources. Burnout, discouragement, disappointment, and disillusionment are always the outcomes of fleshly energy and effort.

However, those who are operating in revelation vision and calling will triumph in Christ even if it appears like failure to the world. They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will walk in the power of the Spirit with the peace of the rest, the sabbath, of the Lord.

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com