

Introduction

As we continue our study on revelation we need to understand that responsibility for results is not ours. Our responsibility is to have a relationship with the Father as Jesus did. He always came aside to spend time with his Father.

Question

1. How many get disillusioned when you don't get the results you want?
2. Does this hinder you in praying for other people?

The secret place is where revelation and miracles are birthed, in the secret place of prayer where God speaks to us in our spirits, depositing revelation of who we are and what we have in Him.

Question

1. Do you feel totally confident and at peace of who you are in Christ?
 2. Do you believe you know enough to move in the supernatural?
 3. If so, what hinders you?
 4. Do you feel that you are teachable?
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Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:7 (New International Version, ©2010)

⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

Notice Paul says here that we do not lack any spiritual gift, we should not be looking at our lack, or our circumstances, we should be looking at the Word to understand the deposit that He has put inside us.

Every spiritual gift can flow through every believer if they are open. (The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not residential gifts, they flow through)

Scripture

2 Timothy 1:14 (New International Version, ©2010)

¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Paul said as you eagerly wait, we need to spend quiet time with God, allowing Jesus to be revealed in our spirits.

So many Christians see Jesus as a baby, as someone still on the cross, but He is alive, interceding for each and everyone of us.

For us to receive the whole revelation and for the deposit to flow out of us, we need to change our mindsets and our wineskins.

Scripture

Matthew 9:17 (New International Version, ©2010)

¹⁷ Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Without fresh revelation and living on revelation we become stagnant and religious.

We have a lot of religious teaching that hinders revelation.

Sometimes fresh revelation becomes an offense and people reject it because of their filter system. (If you have a dirty filter there is not a continuous flow, there is a blockage. That is why we change filters on a regular basis)

God is a God of the new and is a God of the living and not the dead. You cannot change an old system by changing the title or putting a new description on the door, you have to change the foundation, (wineskin), so new revelation can flow.

That is why we should search out the scriptures and work out our own salvation. We are responsible for keeping our wineskins flexible so that we can receive fresh wine (revelation).

Scripture

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (New International Version, ©2010)

³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Question

1. Do you believe everything you hear?
2. Do you take it for granted that because a minister said it, it must be right?
3. Do you find it hard to question? (Not have an opinion)

There is nothing wrong with questioning as the disciples did to Jesus, how else are you going to learn?

Most people who do not like to be questioned are insecure. Their wineskin has become inflexible.

We are not what men say we are but we are what is deposited inside of us. That is why it is so important that we change our wineskins to hold fresh revelation.

We need to understand there are two parts to this scripture

1. The wineskin which represents you
2. The wine which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit

Wineskins

Putting new wine in old wineskins will ruin the wineskins.

Jesus uses the analogy of wineskins to show that the Jewish legalism of the Old Testament was inflexible and outdated.

The old wineskin of Judaism could not contain the dynamic new faith of Christianity. That is why the Pharisees manifested at Jesus' teaching and when He performed miracles.

God is wanting to use each and everyone of us in building His kingdom.

He said He would build the church if we would preach the Kingdom with signs and wonders following. How many people are sitting in pews, waiting to be used, but just becoming stagnant and respectable?

Question

Did Jesus ask us to invite people to church or invite them to Him?

Jesus said "Come, follow me", He has not called us to a stationery position.

Let's have a look at Ps: 119:83

Scripture

Psalms 119:83 (New International Version, ©2010)

⁸³ Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke,
I do not forget your decrees.

It was generally explained that the wineskin was hung there and smoked for mellowing purposes.

How many people have been told to sit a bit longer, learn some more, mellow out, your too young, your too old, but doing this is not acceptable, for wine is never left for any length of time in the skin on account of its imparting a disagreeable flavour to its contents.

The bible says freely we receive and freely we give.

So to explain this - we can receive revelation, have the call of God on our lives, and be told to sit there and wait whilst everything inside of us becomes discouraged and ruined.

Our wine skins become hard, offended and put off so we cannot carry new wine.

The explanation of the New Testament passages is that new wine is still liable to continue to ferment and grow. That is why we cannot just sit, we need to be expandable to contain the new wine.

Question

Have you ever had an idea or an impression or revelation in your spirit to do something and been told not to?

(I am not talking about being independent or a loose cannon)

This statement will cause the new wine to be ruined.

I believe that the move of the Spirit coming into the church is a revelation of the Father. For us to understand this even more, let's have a look at the life of Paul, Saul becoming Paul. (Surely the church is nearly run out of titles)

Scripture

Acts 9:3-10 (New International Version, ©2010)

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

Let's look at Saul:

1. He was a Pharisee
2. Well educated in Judaism
3. He was a persecutor of the Church
4. He thought He was doing right
5. He was an upholder of the law
6. He was strong in his convictions

Notice here that Saul saw a light and immediately called out, "who are you Lord".

When the light of revelation is turned on in our hearts and a spiritual awakening takes place, you can't be held back.

Paul could not see for three days, he did not eat or drink anything.

His wineskin was being changed.

Scripture

Acts 9:15-19 (New International Version, ©2010)

¹⁵ "But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength." Jesus says this is my chosen instrument

Every born again Christian is an instrument in the hands of God.

All it takes is our availability and surrender.

Being obedient to the inward witness of the spirit.

For Saul to receive fresh revelation, and to do what Jesus wanted him to do, his wineskin had to be changed to hold the revelation of the new gospel, so he went from Saul to Paul, as we go from sinners to saints.

One thing to notice here, we should not get caught up with manifestations, even though they are great to see, we should get caught up with the revelation of Christ.

That's why Saul had scales in his eyes, so that Jesus could speak into his heart.

We need to take time to close our natural eyes and come into a spiritual awakening deep down in our hearts.

Scripture

Acts 26:19 (New International Version, ©2010)

¹⁹ "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven

Notice it says here that Paul says I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. Paul knew he was appointed and set apart, and he held strong to what was spoken into his heart.

Now is the time to stir up, fan into flame the gift of God that is on your life. You are responsible for what God has given you. Use it! Don't be discouraged.

Don't allow anyone to put you down, shut you down, because the greater one lives on the inside of you.

Scripture

1 John 4:4 (New International Version, ©2010)

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Conclusion

Let's endeavour over the next few weeks to change our wineskin, to hold the new wine.