

## DON'T BELIEVE ME

As Christians, we often talk about living a life that is pleasing and honoring to our Heavenly Father. We've been taught to engage in many Christian activities which are all good things. Such as church attendance, Bible study, tithing, and prayer in our effort to glorify God.

We also often gauge our effectiveness in our Christian walk by how well we do these things and feel guilty for not doing them consistently.

Let's look at a few scriptures where Jesus clarifies what really glorifies the Father.

He told His disciples,  
If you live in Me [abide, vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you [that is, if you are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. MY FATHER IS GLORIFIED AND HONORED BY THIS, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples.

John 15.7 amp

In verse 16 He says,  
you have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed *and* placed *and* purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit *and* keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain *and* be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.

Jesus also declared that,  
you will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? So, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Matthew 7.16

From these scriptures, it seems that Jesus wasn't so concerned about the amount of our activity, but more concerned about the source and the fruit that it produced.

He said that, it's the Spirit who gives life, your flesh profits absolutely nothing. That's in John 6.63.

In our modern Christianity in the US you can find a church on just about every corner with all kinds of preaching. You can go just about anywhere and find a steady stream of academic teaching with 3 and 6 part series on everything from prayer and tithing, to the ten comandments and the beatitudes.

These are augmented with a steady stream of seminars and conferences on everything from worship and church growth, to kingdom finances and leadership training.

1 Corinthians 12.4 states that,  
there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

It's this manifestation of the Holy Spirit that qualifies as ministry.

Jesus told His disciples that, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."  
Acts 1.8

It seems pretty clear that the witness that Jesus wants in the Earth is not an academic presentation of His teachings.

He wants a demonstration and manifestation of His Life by the power of His Holy Spirit.

When the religious Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy for saying that God was His Father, Jesus responded, if I don't do the works of My Father, don't believe Me; but if I do *them*, even though you don't believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." John 10.37

John the Baptist sent his followers to ask Jesus if He truly was the Messiah. Here is the account of His response.

Now *while* in prison, John heard about the works of Christ, and he sent *word* by his disciples, and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for someone else?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: those who are BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and those who are lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed and those who are deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

Matthew 11.2

Please note, that Jesus did not give a lengthy dissertation about the hundreds of prophecies that He fulfilled. Apologetics were absent in His response. He let His results be the proof of His calling.

The apostle Paul adopted this same approach when it came to ministry.

Our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. 1 Thessalonians 1.5

And in 1 Corinthians 2.1 he said, when I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come as someone superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God.

In verses 4+5 he states that, my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of man, but on the power of God.

This type of supernatural manifestation of God's kingdom was not limited to Jesus only. Jesus expected His disciples to function in the same way that He did.

Let's look at Jesus's directives and commissioning of His disciples while He was on the Earth.

Matthew 10.1

*Jesus* summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every sickness.

In verse 7, He instructed them, as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with leprosy, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

Luke 9.6

they began going throughout the villages, preaching the Gospel and healing everywhere.

So, His original 12 disciples and the 70 that followed all were sent out to proclaim that the Kingdom of God was here and to heal every kind of disease, cast out demons and overrule Satan's oppressions with Christ's authority.

Many have said that this directive was only for His first disciples to establish the church and because we now have the Bible, these manifestations are no longer necessary.

Jesus' final directive to His disciples before He was caught up to Heaven, seem to say otherwise.

This is the record of His final instructions to His disciples.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. The one who has believed and has been baptized will be saved; but the one who has not believed will be condemned."

"These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Here is the result of His directive to continue proclaiming and manifesting His Kingdom to all men.

And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with *them*, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. Mark 16.20

Over my lifetime, I've heard from Christians, many ideas, opinions, world views, and statements of what people believe about the ongoing ministry of the church in these days.

Let me share just a couple thoughts.

There is no place in the scriptures that Jesus ever rescinded His command to continue proclaiming and manifesting His Kingdom to all nations. Not one scripture.

In 1 John 5.11 God testifies that He has given us His eternal life. That life is in His Son and whoever has the Son has that eternal life. His life is not an academic teaching.

God made us completely new creations in Christ and gave us His ministry of reconciliation as His Ambassadors here on earth. 2 Corinthians 5.17

Jesus committed His Holy Spirit to empower us to fulfill His Great Commission. He said that, He will honor *and* glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Holy Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you. John 16.14

A final thought.

I may not currently see as much of God's supernatural Spirit manifesting in my life as He has committed to me.

But I'm continually submitting to God and asking Him to expand my capacity to lay hold of everything that He has given me as my inheritance and to expand my capacity to allow His Holy Spirit to do exceedingly over and above anything that I could ever ask or think by His power that works in me.

We need to continually, by faith, lay hold of that for which we were created by God to be. Living testimonies of His greatness.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

