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 Let The Spirit Come In

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away”

 2 Timothy 3:5

The bible teaches us in Matthew 15:6 Amplified that “… by your tradition [the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect].” For an example we would like to use experiences from some rural Baptist churches to explain why in the body of Christ today we are not seeing the power of the gospel; the anointing working among and in the lives of the people. Tradition has become the cornerstone of these denominations. There is a deep rooted understanding (stronghold in the mind) that things must stay the same as they have always been. What you will find in our midst today is a lack of understanding of the operation of God and His established principles to bring about the necessary and needed change in the life of His people. The Word of God is our guide. Second Timothy 3:16 tells us that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is PROFITABLE for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work”, and yet we are attempting to live this life of faith without the Word of God. It was heart breaking to hear a deacon tell me that the opposition and disharmony we were experiencing by the teaching of the Word of God was because they were accustomed to having church services without the reading and teaching of the bible. Tradition has taught them that every week they just meet and teach the same recycled Sunday School lessons over and over, followed by a cold worship service where they have learned to shout after singing a prolonged version of Amazing Grace or hear a preacher display his learned behavior of hooping and hollering from the pulpit to stir their emotions. It begins to make sense now why we see the level of immaturity in our Christian community. The Word of God is the only thing that will bring about conviction which should lead to correction so that our lives line up with the standards God demands for believer.

Here is where the problem lies: If you will begin to read in the books of Acts you will find that in Acts 2, the day when the Holy Spirit arrived as promised, the church was established. It was an awesome move of God. Just as promised His power was released in the earth and men were changed. May we remind you that in Ezekiel 36:27 God promised “and I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statues, and you shall keep My judgments, and do them.” Until the day of Pentecost (in Acts 2) the followers of Christ were, as best possible, living in obedience to what they had learned from Jesus and His teachings of the Holy writings of God. But Jesus told them in Acts 1:8 “but you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto Me…”, and because of this miraculous power it will enable the believer to keep and do His commandments. There are congregations today that are stuck in their religious mindset of continuing in the same old way of service that their ancestors conducted, and are blocking the power of God from falling in their midst and on His people. These are the buildings that when you walk into their service the atmosphere is cold; no anointing, no power, no life at all. You find people stuck in and behaving the same as they did when they first say they accepted Christ into their life. Only the anointing of God destroys yokes, lifts burdens, and breaks the chains of oppression off the lives of God’s people (Isaiah 10:27). They have a form of godliness in the way they do things, but it is void of the power of God, therefore people are oppressed and living in bondage to sin while professing to be saved. The enemy has built up this stronghold in their thinking to hold on to their tradition which causes them to fight the change God desires to bring about in their life. While touring through a rural area and attending numerous rural Baptist churches there we found that nearly all the preaching came from the 4 Gospels and the Old Testament. We begin to notice that the Holy Spirit was only mentioned vaguely, or not at all, and never with any teaching for an understanding of the operation of the Holy Spirit in the church. Then it became clear that most of the rural preachers have not been baptized in the Spirit and therefore are unable to teach what they themselves don’t understand. So they attempt to reach the people through this learned behavior of hooping, which they now call celebrating. Whatever it is to them it is without the power to bring about the necessary conviction which will lead to change. Psalm 107:20 says “He sent His Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” Then John 6:63 Amplified tells us “It is the Spirit Who gives life [He is the life giver]; the flesh conveys no benefit whatever [there is no profit in it]. The words (truths—John 17:17) that I have been speaking to you are spirit and life.” The Word of God is the Spirit of God, and it is the power to bring about the converting of the soul and making the simple wise. We have become so set today on having an appearance of godliness, but void of the power of God. We are so loud now trying to stir up an anointing only to find that it is just expended energy; still without the power of God to bring about change. People are sitting in the pews and chairs week after week without any change happening in their lives. The same old addictions and bad habits are robbing us of the life God intended for us to live because the power of God is not flowing in our services. All we see is a form of godliness; dressed up on the outside, and still rotten on the inside. At the alter you see the same people over and over, crying and weeping, falling out in service, but still no change in their life. We can’t play the church game and expect to see the power of God in operation. We must continue to teach and preach Christ, not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, nor trying to entertain the people, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and power of God to bring about change. We must do some spiritual housekeeping in our churches and Let The Spirit Come In. God showed us in the Old Testament reading that in order for the power of God to flow we must keep the camp free of sin. Corrupt leaders and their staff, people out of order, traditional practices have to be eliminated if we want to see the power of God in operation in our churches. Second Corinthians 2:17 says “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” We still continue to see the bondage of sin, sickness and disease, and lack in our midst all because we have become content with a good Sunday and Wednesday glorified talent show, and because of this we have a form of godliness but no power to heal, deliver, set free and make whole God’s people. It’s time for us to contend for the faith, and create and atmosphere to Let The Spirit Come In.