

THE BATTLE IS FOR WHAT CHRIST IS BUILDING

Part 1
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Every where we look today there are battles of every kind. The world is full of conflicts and disputes, many of which we will never know about. It is impossible to tally the loss of human life that occurs daily.

But what is the greatest battle taking place in the earth today?

The battle for what Christ is building. What is Christ building? His Church. He said, *"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Mt.16:18).

The battle we are in today is not for values or policies, but instead for the true *"knowledge of God"* to be established in the hearts of men (Ro.11:33; 2Cor.10:5; Eph.4:13). The battle is not for what we or others know (or even respect & fear) about God. That will not make the difference. What will make the difference for defeating religion and its deception based self-righteousness? True relationship with the Lord of the Church who empowers all to live free from the need for coercion.

"If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 'Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!' (which all refer to things destined to perish with use) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence." (Col.2:20-23 NASB).

False, soulish religion strives for appearance; it works for everything it has (2Tim.3:1-9). And all it obtains comes through its own efforts (Isa.64:5-6). In spite of all that effort, however, any works it performs are insufficient. Ultimately and always, we are at the mercy of the God who loves us so much that He freely gives what we could never otherwise earn.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them" (Eph.2:8-10 NASB).

Through the Father's gift of the Son by the Spirit, we become empowered to live with Him, no longer slaves to "self" through sin. The result of this freedom is that we are also made victorious over the enemy (Gal.5:1; Ro.8:37). *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil"* (1Jn.3:8). That victory is

by faith *"this is the victory that has overcome the world- our faith"* (1Jn.5:4). And as we have seen, faith is given to us freely by His grace. It *"comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"* (Ro.10:17).

God has given all He is, all He has, and all He has done to form us as His sons and daughters (Jn.3:16). But religion, being so demonically deceptive, renders the *"ears"* of many who call Him by Name unopened to the truth of what it means to truly know God (Isa.43:7-11). Informed by principles devoid of revelation, and indoctrinated by creeds which stand apart from true foundation, their *"ears"* remain unopen to the *"knowledge of God"* (Ro.11:33; Eph.4:13). They fail to *"hear"* the call which supercedes all other priorities, agendas and responsibilities: oneness with Christ– an intimacy totally dependent on allowing the faith put within us to respond to His supernatural anointing and power:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war in the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing which exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2Cor.10:3-5).

We are no longer to be those whose thinking results from logical reasoning (Isa.55:6-11). We have been given the mind of Christ (1Cor.2:16). Christ's mind is activated through relating with the Spirit of God living within us (Ro.8:14; Jn.4:24). The Spirit is freed to work within us by our conscious, intentional choice to allow Him to change us into Christ's image and likeness through our submission to His revelation (Ro.12:1-2; Ro.8:29). This can only be done first in spirit, second in the mind, will and emotions and then in body (1Thess.5:23-24; Jn.4:23-24).

The battle we are in today is for increasing in true Spiritual riches (Lk.16:11; Jn.3:12). The truly Spiritual person perceives and readily grasps that Paul (above) is referring to Divine grace imparted to individuals, not organized efforts to influence or change temporal systems of thought, philosophy or policy. We are to supernaturally dismantle and then supernaturally restore (Jer.1:10). The result will be the deployment of authentic Spiritual weaponry to win the battle for that which Christ is building.

While those in the earliest Church did not disconnect the operation of supernatural graces from their lives, we of today certainly do. Instead of focusing on temporal means of influencing people and gaining favor for controlling society, they depended on Spiritual power to change the hearts of people. They knew that supernatural change was the difference between law and gospel, between what Jesus already fulfilled versus what He came to establish. But many today are guilty of preferring to coerce people by attempting to manipulate structures the Lord will never live in.

God lives in people.

To work supernaturally we must yield to Christ's Headship by the Spirit, which means receiving and complying with the signals He sends to the various parts of His Body. This is not a matter of remembrance, instead it is dynamic of relationship. Such true submission to Christ also enables us to come under His authority for truly understanding His word, will and way (1Cor.2:12; Ph.2:1-11).

Christ's design is that He should be experienced and seen through the Church (Eph.3:9-12). This was intended to provide a valid opportunity for people to be confronted and respond to the reality of Jesus Christ: *"I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father, but by me"* (Jn.14:12). No law, system, organization or influence can ever substitute for what Christ came to be in us. No policy, value, or influence can ever substitute for what Christ sent the Holy Spirit to do through us. There is no better way than the way God inaugurated through Christ. There is no other way for the Kingdom to be experienced before Christ returns (Lk.17:20-21; Ro.14:17-18).

Those 'interceding' who focus on purifying surroundings, changing value systems and destroying opposition to outward religious forms have abandoned the absolute essential for authenticity and effectiveness: the Spirit of God. In such cases there is only the "good-thing" of religion. And the "good thing" of religion always opposes and works against the "God-thing" of the true Kingdom, preventing anything other than a *"form of godliness but denying the power thereof"* from being experienced and established (2Tim.3:5).

By attempting to draw God into human circumstance instead of entering into His eternal victory, such 'intercession' results in becoming unduly harassed. Trading away God's power to become sons and daughters for circumstantial alleviation or societal influence to gain favor and coerce nonbelievers, attacks on health, provision, and even their most valued relationships are the result (Jn.1:12). But the reasoning is that hardship is enemy backlash because of obeying God. Then there comes efforts to rally the troops and circle the wagons in order to learn new techniques for breakthrough and for redoubling efforts and effectiveness. But instead, it gets worse. Why? No one can remain healthy, prosperous or free from strife when stepping outside the grace of God by laboring at that which Christ has not called for.

When working to establish a *"form of godliness"* instead of a flow of grace as sons and daughters for transforming hearts *"by the power thereof"* (intentionally or unsuspectingly), we cannot be covered, regardless of our affiliation or networking— even by receiving prayer and personal ministry (2Tim.3:5). Christ can only cover what He calls for. What is being called for from Heaven is the Apostolic proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel throughout the earth, Prophetically revealing the reality and purposes of Christ in order to build His Church (Mt.28:18-20; 2Tim.4:1-3).

Apostolic/Prophetic intercession which enters into the ongoing prayer of Jesus will cause us to supernaturally receive, release and restore through a revelation and impartation of His very own nature and power. Only then can Christ's Church truly perceive who He is

and what He is doing. Only then are we empowered to function and flow for that which He designs. Then, change can come. But only then can change ever come.

The dilemmas many face– the troubles of those committed to intercession today– are so very often unnecessary. The battle to enter victorious living as the Church and the endless struggles for stability– are also so often misperceived and then ill founded. How could this be? Because the war has already been won. If we take our seat with Christ in heavenly places and rightly prioritize the foundational dimension "*set*" by Christ's grace through His Apostles and Prophets, we will truly function and relate with one another by the Spirit (Eph.2:6; 1Cor.12:27-28; Eph.2:20;3:5). Then we will be equipped to move forward with the presence and power of God (Eph.4:11-13). We will be deployed with an authentic Spiritual weaponry for winning the battle for what Christ is building.

In most instances it is not our intent which is wrong; it is our heart which has remained unchanged. Because of this, self-protection, me-first motives remain undetected and impure. Fallacious understandings are held; wrong agendas then abound. The old wineskin cannot perceive the reality of who Christ is in us and how He longs to move among and through us, let alone withstand the presence of His "now" fullness (1Cor.2:12-13; Eph.3:14-20).

But we are no longer those whose thinking is to result from legal, political and societal–carnal– types of reasoning (Isa.55:6-11). We are those who have been given the mind of Christ (1Cor.2:16). That mind will be activated through relating to the Spirit living within us (Ro.8:14; Jn.4:24). By freeing the Holy Spirit to move through conscious, intentional choices to allow Him to change us into Christ's image and likeness, we will become able to establish the singular "*will of God*" that is not only "*good*," (beneficial) but "*acceptable*" (fully agreeable) and "*perfect*" (complete) (Ro.12:1-2; Ro.8:29). As this is done, we will know, reveal and establish the truth of His desire that all be reconciled to the Father (Jn.8:32; 1Thess.5:23-24).

Then change will take place.