

Change our hearts first

Ezekiel 3:10-11 Then he added, "Son of man, let all My words sink deep into your own heart first. Listen to them carefully for yourself. 11 Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not."

This morning (14/1/2008) the Lord spoke to me about these two verses and I feel led to speak to you about them. So many times the children of God know scripture and can quote it and even use it to try to evangelize and counsel others but they haven't taken them into their own hearts first. It begins with us, change begins in our hearts, revival begins in our hearts first then it flows into our churches then it flows out into the streets.. It is good to reach out to others and touch the lives of others because it is what the Lord requires of us and we do not want to see anyone go to hell one day but it must begin with us.

The apostle Paul said that he just pray's that he won't help others to finish the race just to fall short of the mark himself one day, why did he say that? Because he understood that it all must begin within us, we must change first before God can really use us as agents of change in other people's lives. The scripture says that rivers of living water will flow from our innermost being... Why our innermost being? Because that is where the Spirit of God and the Word of God connect to open up the spiritual realm to us. Word without Spirit is dead but Spirit without Word is directionless. We have to take the Words deep into our innermost beings (hearts) first and God to change us first before we can really be used as effective agents for change in the world out there. How many times have we seen men and women of God excel in ministry just to fall into sin or delusion and false teachings later on because they didn't allow the Word of God to change them first while they were growing spiritually and in the ministry?

We must all strive to be used by God and ask Him to use us daily, we must seek spiritual gifts and to be used mightily by God but our first responsibility always is to become Christ like ourselves. That only really happens if we allow His Words and Spirit to go deep into our innermost beings and change us.

In verse 11 it says THEN go to the people and tell them what God says whether they will listen or not. Some will not listen we know this, but if we are changed first by His Word this will not affect us for we will speak the truth in love and the ones that accept it will be set free and the ones that reject it wont. So many teachers of the word compromise on speaking the truth in their ministries because their fear of loosing funds and members have opened them up to a people pleasing spirit, this also leads to delusion and false teaching. We only have to look at churches accepting homosexuality for example to see the sad and dangerous truth in this. Why do teachers and leaders open themselves up to this?

Because they haven't allowed the Word to change them first! If we allow the Word to change us first we will do exactly what God instructs in verse 11, we will teach and preach ONLY what God says whether people like it or not for we will be too much changed by and inline with the Word of God to be willing to compromise the truth. Those who are of faith will change; those who serve God for their own selfish reasons will probably fall away or be shaken enough by the truth to change.

Unfortunately some will reject the truth and try to slander or manipulate you and ultimately walk away because they are not willing to let go of their compromise and / or religiosity and change but you just stay true to the Word... But we will only be strong enough to preach and teach only the truth and stand against the storms the enemy brings if we have taken His Word into our own heart first and changed ourselves first.

We all sin and fall short of His Glory but we must strive daily to become more and more like Him by taking His Word into our innermost being (hearts) and allowing the Holy Spirit to give life to those words and change us into His image.

When God called Paul He took Paul into the desert for 3 years where His angels ministered the Word to him. This was Paul's big time of change and the time that he really took the Word of God into him and came inline with it. For many of us God takes us into "desert" experiences for exactly the same reason, so that we can take His Word into our hearts and allow His Spirit to change us. Although we all dread desert experiences it is a necessary part of change and we should when we are in them seek God's face and search His Word for the change He wants to accomplish in us. Never forgetting that He makes all things work together for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Will you pray this prayer with me ?

"Father, please change me into Your image more and more each day, help me that when I read Your Word that it will go deep into my heart and be life to me and change me forever. Holy Spirit please open the eyes of my heart so that everything I read will become heart knowledge to me and not just head knowledge and that it will stay in my heart, that my heart will be good ground and it will produce a harvest of change and fruit in me, thirty, sixty even hundred fold. I pray this in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. "

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His face to you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

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