

Howards Corner

The wind of the spirit is moving

But I question if the church of today has even opened their sails? Are your sails folded up and hidden under your banner of churchism and denominationalism. Are you even looking for the wind of the spirit to move? You know the wind is always blowing but only those that are expecting the wind to blow will have faith to open their sails and receive the mighty move of the wind.

In John 3 you will find this word about the wind blowing where it will but are you even awake to understand? The same portion of scripture tells you that this is the Holy Spirit. You must seek this wind and be prepared to receive this mighty wind of the Holy Spirit of the Lord. You cannot understand the word of God without this Holy Spirit.

I beg you to seek the Holy Spirit into your life. Ask for the Holy Spirit from the Lord. You must have acknowledged the fact that first you must surrender yourselves to Jesus alone for your forgiveness and your salvation. It is by total surrender to Him and Him alone that it is possible to receive such a fabulous gift which enables us to receive our gift of eternal life.

So now I am writing to the church but now I turn to you as an individual and ask the question are you an individual person truly committed and surrendered to Jesus alone for your salvation. Don't let churchism and denominationalism deter you from such a wonderful gift. You must decide for yourself—the church cannot decide for you—your parents cannot decide for you—your wife or husband cannot decide for you. Only you can decide for yourself. It must be a personal decision and this decision you are committed to for the rest of your life. You cannot do it today and when there is trouble fall away. Jesus' promise is forever and so should yours be.

So, John 3 tells us that you must be Born Again. This is when you receive a new heart and spirit and become a new creation. You do not just change a little bit but are a new person with the Holy Spirit directing your whole life.

So why am I telling you this as an individual when I have been talking about the church moving toward the word and the spirit of the Lord? It is because the church

is made up of individual persons that must be filled with the Holy Spirit. If the church is not filled with spirit filled people, then the church is lacking in completeness. We are still in need for a part of us is missing.

I guess it is that we are the body of Christ and if there are missing parts then it is not a complete body. What part are you—will we be missing a toe or an arm or a heart. We do not want to miss you for you are one of us if you want to be but that is your choice. What is your decision? Do you want to be part of the body of Christ, or do you choose to **do it my way?**

So, I have talked to you about being a church that follows the word of God and not man's reasonings and thoughts but follow the word and guidance of the Holy Spirit. If your leaders and teachers do not know the word and do not follow the teaching of the word and have not received the Holy Spirit into their hearts, then it is almost impossible for the congregation to walk in the spirit and grow and mature in the faith. Individuals in the congregation may accept the message of salvation and be filled with the spirit but are stifled in their attempts to mature in the faith and pursue the work of the kingdom are left with little choice but to leave or continue to be frustrated in the congregation.

So, when the church organization is controlled from afar by leadership from people they do not even know and have no way of observing and interacting with them they have very little voice in what is believed or practiced in the local congregation. Sometimes the decisions have been made by leaders several hundreds of years ago and have never been reviewed to assure they are in accord with the word as written in the bible. If leaders are not following the word and have substituted things that were decided many years ago by someone else the congregation is forced to follow the leaders or leave.

So, the structure of denominationalism has come upon us today and the leadership have decided their opinions on what the church is to be and what we are to believe and unfortunately it may not comply with the teachings of the bible. It is like a big freight train going on a track at lumbering pace with no one at the control. It may even be on the wrong track and is going somewhere we don't want to be. You may want to send an urgent message to the engineer driving the train that we are about to crash but no one can even find the engineer to stop the crash and to change the way to another track. We don't even know who is making decisions for the church.

Well fortunately we that are in Christ know the engineer of the eternally headed train and that is the Lord Jesus, and He has warned us already that the church is headed to an apostate church that has a form of godliness but has denied the power thereof.

Sounds like where we are today. The church is lumbering along on a track to the apostate church and there is no one in control. So, it is imperative that we seek with all our hearts the true engineer of the eternal kingdom of God and switch to that train at the next available station. It may mean leaving these denominational churches or changing them, but it is almost impossible to do so because there is no engineer aboard and the crash is looming not far ahead.

It is time to quit looking at churches as the same as the body of Christ. Churches don't go to heaven or to hell, but people do and are asleep and often fooled to think they are saved but have trusted these church leaders and many have failed to preach the word of salvation by grace and failed to tell you that you must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. You must not be led by the worldly ways of some churches because they in many cases have just blended in with the crowd and have no salt or light.

I do not think these worldly churches will change their direction because their belief system is too ingrained in their leadership, and they don't want to listen and change. We do have an enemy and He wants to water the word down and confuse the people.

Remember that Jesus had to battle the leaders of the "church of His day which were Jewish leaders" but they would not listen, and they crucified Him, and He told them that they were to be destroyed and it happened in 70 A.D. and all the people that followed that leadership were destroyed with the leaders. Are we being led down that same path of destruction because we did not study and read for ourselves and follow the true word? Remember the Jewish leader's reason for rejecting Jesus was that it would eliminate their leadership roles and their power and their wealth. Is this why today that church leadership don't want to give up their power and positions and their big salaries? Just look at the pomp and ceremonies and the riches of the catholic church leaders and I am wondering if the mainline denominations have the same problem. If you have a vested financial interest, it is

hard to let it go. Remember the followers of these leaders also are in danger of destruction. Be careful of who you are following.

Howard