

USEABLE UNDERSTANDING

22/4/12

Many people have a great knowledge of bible stories, history, genealogy, scriptural personalities, geography, prophecy and historic culture, but all that is worthless if it doesn't build a working relationship with God. Many know all about God, but have never experienced God working with them as he did with Paul, Peter and other men and women of the New Testament. Faith is without effect if it fails to bring about God given results. That is the reason our church maintains our operational model as it leads from one step to the next... just as happened on the day of Pentecost and onwards. Unless the understanding we have gets results from God in a continual refining manner... then it is of no benefit to the believer.

How to get God to respond... Peter made it clear and simple... he had understanding that was useable.

ACT 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. *Peter identified the infilling of the Holy Spirit as salvation, he identified the sign of the infilling as being tongues and he promoted it as the words of Christ and the prophets being fulfilled... this is a clear example of useable understanding.*

Paul is able to identify what true love is... it can only be exercised by a spirit filled person...

1COR 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. *Having the ability to perform miracles is not enough.*

2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. *Knowledge is not enough if you lack understanding.*

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. *Being a giver or a doer of good deeds is not enough either.*

4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. *Knowing what the right attitude is and being able to use it is the key to correctly applying God's love. Rebuke when required, is also a mark of true love.*

Paul identified and explained the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit... (the voice gifts in particular)

1COR 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, **that the church may receive edifying.** *The whole purpose of the voice gifts is for the church to be edified... every member of the church is expected to exercise this act of true love. v1*

6 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

True worship is only identified through useable understanding... not by contrived emotional meetings.

JOH 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that **worship** him must **worship** *him* in spirit and in truth. *Worship is much more than meetings, singing, feelings and prayers. It is a demonstration of our spiritual understanding.*

Bible prophecy reveals the lord's return is near... we have a great need to warn people of this great event.

1PET 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; *This is useable knowledge.*

& 6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. *We are called to teach these truths to the unsaved.*

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. *Time is very short...*

8 And **above all things** have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. *The most important and useable encouragement is towards the love and service of those we fellowship with.*