

GOD'S POWER IS NOT AN OPTION

xmas camp 28/12/22

*We live in a world where opinion continually outweighs provable facts and reality like no other time in history. Not surprisingly there are numerous times in history where the facts and realities have not suited the rulers of the day and have been denied. It was quite common to jail or murder those who dared reveal unpleasant realities. That is why God offers signs and wonders... it gives the honest heart something to build confidence upon, without having to rely on the opinions of others. **MAR 16:17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; Jesus is the authority.*

Denial or intimidation doesn't change God's ability to work miracles and back his word.

Unlike many 'modern' churches, the bible makes it clear that much of God's directives and blessings are not optional choices. His power is commanded to be put into practice; not hidden nor ignored. Many try to explain away the miracles, signs and wonders... this isn't a new problem.

There have been dishonest and lying prophets/priests/pastors/churches, for thousands of years.

*The religious leaders bribed the guards... **MAT 28:12** And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, **13** Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept (fake news). **14** And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. **15** So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. It is not uncommon today for many to claim that God's miracles are from Satan, or they are optional... but this is not true. The true Gospel is backed with signs... not opinions.*

***ROM 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

*Honest hearts don't come naturally... **ROM 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (you cannot do this if you don't have the power of God working in you), that ye may prove (through God's clear support) what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Reality check...

*It was never a choice between opinions... rather, God's power settled the argument. **1COR 2:13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth (not in natural reasoning), but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. Paul rejects natural logic and reinforces the need to use the powers that come with the Holy Spirit.*

Paul explains this a little further in his letter.

*Paul forced the Corinthian church to face the same reality being discussed in this topic. **1COR 4:19** But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech (opinions) of them which are puffed up, but the power (miracle working power). **20** For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power (the powers of the Spirit). Opinions are irrelevant!! This unfolding of truth must remain a consistent target for the growth of the church.*

Learning to take the needed steps for our spiritual future.

*People are happy to pay super, funeral insurance, etc., but how many are planning for the end of their spiritual lives? **JER 5:31** The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end thereof? God has already reasoned with us to consider our future as well as the present. What are we going to do if we are rejected? There are no options at that time... God's power is for now, not later.*

Once filled with God's power... we also have the primary directions to move us forward.

***1PET 4:7** But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. **8** And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves (Godly service requires that we be always in the company of people that we are called to serve): for charity shall cover the multitude of sins (assisting each other and sharing spiritual unity minimises sin for all concerned). **9** Use hospitality one to another without grudging. **10** As every man hath received the gift (the same diligence that gets us spirit filled needs to also be exercised amongst God's people), even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. This is not an opinion... it is God's law.*

Regardless of our opinions... all things come to an end. Do what lasts.