



Bird's Eye View

by Greg Simnor

Chapter 3: Understanding Our True State Without Christ And The Kingdom We Are Born Into.

Theme: Understanding our true state without Christ and the kingdom we are born into. Pages 41-46.

Key Truth: The dangers of operating from this old fleshly nature.

Key Scripture: *Luke 9:51-56*

The key words out of these verses are, “you do not know”. You do not know what? You do not know what kind of spirit you are of. What kind of spirit you are of? There are different kinds of spirits? Yes there absolutely are and we too must ask what kind of spirit we operate from.

Jesus is saying the spirit which you are operating of IS NOT OF ME. So if the spirit which they were operating from was not of Him, then who was it from? It was of the spirit of self. The same spirit that operates from the kingdom of darkness. The other alarming thing is that James and John are not even aware of this reality. This is so natural to them, that they don't even think it's an issue. This is how deceived we can also be to the reality that operates from us.

Their behaviour is the evidence of what spirit they are of. Their behaviour is in direct opposition to Christ's behaviour, and we are not talking about anyone here. We are talking about James and John who are part of Jesus' inner leadership team. My goodness me. How bad does it actually get? Aren't we so grateful and in awe of the love of Christ for them and us, as we may also operate like them, until Christ deals with this inner nature.

There are 3 options when it comes to what spirit they are operating from here. What do we believe it is? Firstly we have the Spirit of Christ. Secondly we have the spirit of flesh, or thirdly it could be that they are possessed by a devil. We can rule out the first option, which means we are left with option two or three. Which one is it?

Peter also found himself demonstrating the exact same behaviour in Matthew 16:21-23 and finding himself also being rebuked by Christ, just like James and John are. Not their greatest spiritual moment by Jesus' inner leadership team. All getting rebuked for the same spirit that they don't even know lives in them.

How would you have responded if Jesus rebuked you like this and told you that you don't know what kind of spirit you are of? This is very serious and the Scriptures address this spirit of flesh operating and how it is put to death, which it must be, otherwise it will continue to live in us and we will continue to demonstrate the opposite wisdom to the one we are to be demonstrating.

Romans 8:12-13 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Paul isn't mixing his words here and neither should we. We are to take this very seriously, otherwise there is no way we will live the lives we are called and chosen for. The flesh must die through the Spirit.

Questions:

1. How alarming is it to you that James and John have no reference for the spirit that was coming out of them?
2. Why is it so vital we have a reference for what kind of spirit is coming out of us?
3. Why is our behaviour and what we demonstrate the evidence of the kind of spirit that is within us?
4. What does it mean when Paul says the Spirit must put to death the deeds of the body, so we can live?

Action point: What are you being made aware of through this resource and is there one thing you need to put in place after going through this resource?