

THE LIFE CHANGING GOSPEL

THE LIFE CHANGING GOSPEL - PART 4

In Part 1 we looked at what Gospel we have and are receiving? In Part 2 we looked at how we have and are receiving the Gospel. In Part 3 we looked at where we are receiving the Gospel and in Part 4, I want us to look at ‘Who it is we receive when we receive the Gospel?’

KEY QUESTION: Who is it we receive when we receive the Gospel of Transformation?

KEY POINT: We receive Christ Himself.

Galatians 1:15-16 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me.

Receiving the Messenger in you through the revelation (God’s power) of the Gospel, is completely and utterly a different reality and experience to verbally and intellectually agreeing with the message of the Gospel through human wisdom.

Paul teaches us that our faith is not to rest on man’s wisdom but on the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:5) and yet for many, I carry a holy fear that this isn’t where our faith rests. I believe many of us have our faith resting on man’s wisdom, hence the faith we have isn’t faith at all, but a counterfeit version called ‘blind faith’, otherwise known as ‘wishful thinking’.

Let’s look at the words of spirit and life above and see who Paul received, when he received the Gospel. Paul received the Messenger Himself. Paul received the Person. Paul received the One who is the Power and Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). Paul testifies to the fact that the Gospel He received and that He preached was not according to man. It didn’t have its origins in man, or anything of man. It was not of earth, but of the eternal, as He received the Eternal One.

He goes on and says he neither received the Gospel by man, nor was taught it by man, but he received the Gospel, through receiving the revelation of Jesus Christ within him. Paul received the revelation of Jesus Himself. This is exactly the same way we are to receive the Gospel as well, and if we haven’t, then we haven’t yet received the Gospel of transformation. All we have received is the Gospel of information through the wisdom of man, and this Gospel is powerless to change and transform us.

Jesus said in John 11:25 that He was the Resurrection and the Life, so the question I want to pose to us is, “When Paul received Jesus what did he receive?”

Discuss this question as a group!

When Paul received Jesus Christ, the Resurrected One who is Life, he instantly was crucified with Christ in His death and in the next breath resurrected with Christ, into a brand new life in Christ.

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Romans 6:5-6 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.

This is why we instantly see Paul in Galatians 1:16 preach Him, Jesus, because this is the One he had just received. He now instantly began to testify of Jesus, the Messenger, not the message about Jesus. He preached the Word of God, the same Word that build creation. The Word that comes from the unseen realm, called God's kingdom.

Saul preached Judaism, the Law, while Paul preached Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, because this is who he received through revelation.

It's Jesus in us that gives us the Light that is within us, because it's Jesus who is the Life.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

Only those who have received Jesus Himself, the Messenger through the revelation of the Gospel of transformation have fellowship with John's testimony in John 1:4. We just can't profess and proclaim this reality if we are living from the Gospel of man's wisdom, the Gospel of information.

This is nothing short of hypocrisy and we are in much need of urgent spiritual repentance from this deceived position.

I want to leave us with the paragraph I started with and have this become the centre of the dialogue around this resource.

"Receiving the Messenger in you through the revelation (God's power) of the Gospel, is completely and utterly a different reality and experience to verbally and intellectually agreeing with the message of the Gospel through human wisdom."

QUESTIONS

1. Which operating system do you recognise about yourself in relation to this above statement and why?
2. What are the major differences between receiving the Messenger through revelation and receiving the message through man's wisdom?
3. Paul said he was "called through His grace". What is it to be called through His grace and not be of verbal and intellectual agreement?
4. What are we being made aware of from this resource and how do we sense we are to respond?