



ELDERS DISCIPLESHIP NOTES VISION

Elders Discipleship Group 13

Purpose of the Elders Discipleship Group: To Train and Equip Discipleship Group leaders to lead more effectively.

Key Theme: Vision

Key Truth: Our Faith rests on the power of God, not the wisdom of man.

Read: Last week we looked at “By Faith Noah built an ark”. Faith being the ability to see the unseen reality and living in accordance to it through obedience. Vision as we have mentioned is the ability to see what God sees and act in accordance and alignment to this sight. This is what it means to live by faith. To live with the absolute assurance and conviction of heart of what you know is true, because you can see it.

With this in mind I want to pose a question to us all for our deliberation. Does our faith or our absolute knowledge of God, rest on the wisdom of man or on the power of God to reveal and formulate this knowledge?

Many say on the power of God and yet in reality I am not convinced this is the case for most.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Our faith, our vision which defines our knowledge of God that transforms us on the inside and builds His eternal life within us, doesn't rest on man's wisdom, man's well articulated words and thoughts, or concepts, but on the POWER of God. It's the power of God alone that brings us into true faith, true vision, true knowledge that completely changes us. There is no other way to this eternal life than through God's power. Man is completely unable to help himself here.

2 Peter 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

How can we ever know the things that eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not yet entered man's heart, all of the things that God has already prepared for those who love Him, if God's power is not bringing to light and life this inheritance? We will be completely left in the dark to a Life that we are to know and be living from. Man's wisdom is absolutely futile and foolishness and can not bring us into life. It can puff us up and make us extremely full of pride and full of ourselves, thinking we have something, but it can never bring us into eternal life.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

If we live from the flesh (the wisdom of man) and rest our faith on this, we are deceived and in absolute need of this spirit of pride to be broken into pieces. Failure to address this serious issue will have us always believing we are in Christ, but never able to live a Christ like life, starting with love. We will profess one thing and live another. This is called “Hypocrisy” and Jesus spoke very powerfully to this position.

Matthew 23:28 So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

It is God's power and God's power alone that our faith, our absolute knowledge of God, is to rest on. Anything less than this and we are fooling ourselves. Only then, when this is the case will we be able to live the lives we are commanded and instructed to by God, proving to be His disciples.

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2 Corinthians 13:4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

Do you think that if Jesus lived because of the power of God, we also need that same power to live?

Questions:

1. Why would man continue to rest their faith on the wisdom of man and not God?
2. How damaging is this to the one who is doing this and also to anyone they may be leading?
3. Why do people deny God's power that transforms us?
4. What would someone's life looked like who had their faith resting on the power of God?
5. Where would you say you are in relation to where your faith rests and why?