

Devotional Thoughts :: Oswald Chambers, Why we Lack Understanding

Oswald Chambers, Why we Lack Understanding - posted by Corneliu (), on: 2008/4/7 10:44

April 7, 2008

Why We Lack Understanding

He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead—Mark 9:9 As the disciples were commanded, you should also say nothing until the Son of Man has risen in you—until the life of the risen Christ so dominates you that you truly understand what He taught while here on earth. When you grow and develop the right condition inwardly, the words Jesus spoke become so clear that you are amazed you did not grasp them before. In fact, you were not able to understand them before because you had not yet developed the proper spiritual condition to deal with them.

Our Lord doesn't hide these things from us, but we are not prepared to receive them until we are in the right condition in our spiritual life. Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now" (John 16:12). We must have a oneness with His risen life before we are prepared to bear any particular truth from Him. Do we really know anything about the indwelling of the risen life of Jesus? The evidence that we do is that His Word is becoming understandable to us. God cannot reveal anything to us if we don't have His Spirit. And our own unyielding and headstrong opinions will effectively prevent God from revealing anything to us. But our insensible thinking will end immediately once His resurrection life has its way with us.

"... tell no one" But so many people do tell what they saw on the Mount of Transfiguration— their mountaintop experience. They have seen a vision and they testify to it, but there is no connection between what they say and how they live. Their lives don't add up because the Son of Man has not yet risen in them. How long will it be before His resurrection life is formed and evident in you and in me?

P.S. I would like to use this opportunity to (re)recommend this sermon

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid2783&commentViewItemComments>) To God Be Glory In The Church by Art Katz

Re: Oswald Chambers, Why we Lack Understanding, on: 2008/4/8 6:49

Hi Corneliu,

I've downloaded the sermon by Art Katz and I'll get back to you when I've heard it. The title is most inviting!

Oswald Chambers said

Quote:
-----Do we really know anything about the indwelling of the risen life of Jesus? The evidence that we do is that His Word is becoming understandable to us.

The scientific world calls this 'evidence-based practice'. ;-)

Quote:
-----God cannot reveal anything to us if we don't have His Spirit.

Seriously, does everyone believe this? (I do.)

But it is alarming to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit made into something questionable - perhaps even to be avoided - in the misapprehension one's understanding of scripture *without Him*, is adequate.

I would like the following sentence read very slowly, thinking about what Jesus is actually saying:

'But when the Comforter is come, **whom I will send unto you from the Father**, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.'

John 15:26

We don't pray to the Holy Spirit.

'And I will pray **the Father**, and he **shall give you another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;'

John 14:16

Quote:

-----And our own unyielding and headstrong opinions will effectively prevent God from revealing anything to us.

Boy, did I have a lot of those! The word of God was completely impermeable to me until I began to hear Spirit-led preaching.

Quote:

-----But our insensible thinking will end immediately once His resurrection life has its way with us.

This is encouraging... because often we don't have a lot to go on with regard to trusting that His life is having His way in us. There may be a few warm moments as we yield to Him, but they don't last for ever. Here is a control test by which to gauge we are still on the right (and only) path.

Re: - posted by Corneliu (), on: 2008/4/8 10:48

Quote:

-----And our own unyielding and headstrong opinions will effectively prevent God from revealing anything to us.

Quote:

-----Boy, did I have a lot of those! The word of God was completely impermeable to me until I began to hear Spirit-led preaching

I too can testify to this. It takes God to reveal truth to us. But this is not the end of it. We have to not only get & tell the message, but we have to be (become) the message of God for this world, and I like Oswald's note on this:

Quote:

-----". . . tell no one" But so many people do tell what they saw on the Mount of Transfiguration— their mountaintop experience. They have seen a vision and they testify to it, but there is no connection between what they say and how they live. Their lives don't add up because the Son of Man has not yet risen in them. How long will it be before His resurrection life is formed and evident in you and in me?