

**Devotional Thoughts :: THEY HAD THE LIFE AND THE LIGHT - Wilkerson****THEY HAD THE LIFE AND THE LIGHT - Wilkerson - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/8/25 22:45****THEY HAD THE LIFE AND THE LIGHT**

The church of Jesus Christ lacks spiritual authority in society because it lacks spirituality.

Why are our government leaders and the media so condescending to Christians? Why has the church lost all meaning and purpose in the world's eyes? Why have young people written off Christianity as totally irrelevant to their lives?

It's because, for the most part, the church is no longer a light. Christ isn't ruling in our society because he doesn't reign in our lives. As I look around today, I see few in God's house who are truly in union with Christ. There is so little fellowship with heaven. And few ministers refuse worldly methods to trust God for their direction. We have lost our light because we have lost Christ's life. For God's authority to have any impact, it must be lived out in yielded, obedient vessels.

Consider the kingdom of Babylon during the time of Nebuchadnezzar. This was the mightiest empire on earth. Daniel prophesied that every succeeding king would be inferior, less powerful, less influential. Why? Because Nebuchadnezzar was not the real ruler in Babylon. The power behind the empire wasn't in the golden statue he erected. No, Babylon's authority rested in the hands of a small group of God-possessed men. The Lord had set up a secret, heavenly government and it was ruled by Daniel and the three Hebrew children. These men were God's governing instruments, because they operated in the heavenly realm. They refused to have anything to do with the world system. Instead, they shut themselves in with God.

As a result, these holy men knew the times. They could tell the people what God was up to at any given time. They were bright, shining lights to the whole nation, because they had the life of God within them.

In 2 Kings 6, we read of Syria making war against Israel. During this conflict, the prophet Elisha sat at home communing with the Lord. This man was God's secret government, and he ruled with authority. Elisha heard from the Lord, and sent messages to Israel's king, warning him of every move the Syrian army made.

When the Syrian king found out about Elisha's thwarting messages, he surrounded the prophet's hometown with a battalion of troops. But God blinded the Syrians, and Elisha ended up leading them captive into the Israelites' camp. Elisha had the light—and he knew Satan's every move—because he had the life.

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