

Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Mount of Transfiguration...A Shifting of Redemptive History

The Mount of Transfiguration...A Shifting of Redemptive History, on: 2016/5/30 20:45

Luke 9:27-36

"But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God." Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with him, and they were Moses and Elijah, who appearing in glory were speaking about His departure which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. And as these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--- not realizing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him! And when the voice had spoken; Jesus was found alone.

Parallel accounts found in Matthew and Mark

Brothers and sisters we can read over the above account and skip over what God is saying because all of us are familiar with what is known as the Mount of Transfiguration. But I believe what is taking place here is a shifting of redemptive history. In Luke's account we see Jesus appearing with Moses and the Elijah. Moses represented the law. Elijah represented the prophet. Moses and Elijah were from the old covenant. Also they were discussing His departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. I think it would be safe to extrapolate that they were talking about the upcoming death of Jesus on the cross. The death of Jesus would establish the new covenant. The center of the new covenant would be the cross of Jesus Christ. He would be the Lamb that would be slain for the sins of the world that would usher in the new covenant. The death of Jesus would be slain for us that we would be partakers of the new covenant.

The account continues with Moses and Elijah departing. Peter wanted to build three tabernacles for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses. Not realizing what he was saying. But then what is of great significance happens next. A voice from the cloud came from God the Father saying, this is My Son, My Chosen One, listen to Him! Thus took place a shifting a redemptive history. A shifting of redemptive history that came from God the Father Himself. A shifting of redemptive history that we under the new covenant are to listen to Jesus.

Notice that the Father does not say listen to Moses or listen to Elijah. He says this is My Son, My Chosen One, listen to Him! The shifting of redemptive history transitions into Christ being the final authority in the believer's life.

In Hebrews 1:1 we read,

... God, after he spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the world...

The book of Hebrews goes on to declare the superiority of Christ and the superiority of his covenant over that of the old covenant. Does Christ is the final Authority. He is the one we listen to. We do not listen to Moses or Elijah. Indeed we do not listen to the commands of the old Covenant.

The New Testament says that we are under a new law. And that is the law of Christ. By virtue of the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and what he has done in redemptive history and the new covenant. We are compelled to listen to Him. His words carry greater weight than that of The shadow. As he is the substance. Even Moses and Elijah recognized the superiority of Jesus over their respective ministries. Just as a glory of the old covenant faded away as 2nd Corinthians 3 describes. So Moses and Elijah faded off the scene. It was Jesus that remained. It is Jesus that we listen to.

Again 2nd Corinthians 3 tells us that the glory of the old covenant passes away and the glory of the new covenant supercedes it. The Mount of Transfiguration is a pictorial representation of what Paul is describing in the third chapter of 2nd Corinthians 3.

The conclusion of all of this is that we are under a new covenant where Christ is a mediator. We are under a new covenant where we are governed by the Holy Spirit of Jesus. And not the law of Sinai. Jesus is our final authority and not Moses. Moses ministered in a shadow of the things to come. But the substance of the reality is found in Jesus. We are to listen to him as the final Authority in our walk with him.

These are my thoughts.

Re: The Mount of Transfiguration...A Shifting of Redemptive History - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/5/30 21:01

Good thoughts Blaine.

When Moses and Elijah heard the Father's comments were they bummed out or overjoyed beyond imagination?

Re: , on: 2016/5/30 22:47

Can't really say Todd. However, I choose to believe that they were overjoyed beyond all comprehension. Remember they were in heaven. So they certainly got the revelation of who Jesus is. I imagine the response would be much like that of John the Baptist who said when the friend of the bridegroom hears The bridegroom's voice he is overjoyed.

Can't help but think a Holy Ghost party was taking place.

My thoughts bro.

Re: , on: 2016/5/31 4:51

Todd I did some more reflecting on your question. I remember the verse out of John 8:56 where Jesus told the Jews that Abraham rejoiced to see his day. So my guess is that Moses and Elijah were rejoicing in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Simply my thoughts bro.

Re: The Greater Glory of Jesus, on: 2016/5/31 5:20

This morning I continued to reflect upon Luke's account of the Mount of Transfiguration. As I listened Luke 9, verse 32 resonated in my spirit,

... Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with him...

Peter, John, and Andrew saw The glory of Christ. Moses and Elijah were standing with Jesus in His glory. But Moses and Elijah were two men that had no glory. Other than the glory that they were standing in and that was Jesus. This is noteworthy as the glory of Christ surpasses even the glory of Moses and Elijah. For according to 2nd Corinthians 3 the glory of the Old Covenant has passed away in favor of the glory of the New Covenant which remains. Moses and Elijah were from the Old Covenant. That Covenant has passed away. It is the glory of Jesus in the New Covenant that remains.

Hebrews 3:3 says,

... For he has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house...

John 1:14 says,

... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth...

I can't help but wonder if John was thinking of that time on the holy mountain as Peter writes about. The time when John saw the glory of Christ on the Mount of transfiguration.

John 1:18 is a good commentary on John 1:14,

... For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ...

The greater revelation of Jesus Christ in the transition of redemptive history passes from law to grace. In this case grace and truth were incarnated in the person of Jesus Christ that He is the Son of God. He is the Word made flesh. He is the one that we listen to. Moses could make no such claim.

The third chapter of 2nd Corinthians shows the shifting of redemptive history from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. The New Covenant is that which remains as the Old Covenant has passed away. We as Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ under the New Covenant reflect His glory. For consider 2nd Corinthians 3:17-18,

... Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Brothers and sisters just as Moses and Elijah were reflecting the glory of Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. So we also under the New Covenant are reflecting the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ through his Spirit transforming us as unto the image of Christ.

Our glory is not in the law of Moses. But our glory is in the Lord Jesus Christ and His new covenant. For this is the shifting of redemptive history. Indeed history is His story. It is His story of Jesus and His glory. Of Jesus and His cross. Against such things there is no law.

Simply my thoughts.

Re: The Cross...the Center of Redemptive History , on: 2016/6/1 6:49

This morning I still continue to camp on the Mount of Transfiguration. Luke 9:30-31 records,

...And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem...

As I continue to reflect upon this I can't help but think that the conversation was centering on Jesus going to the cross. Jesus who would be willing to take upon Himself the sins of mankind to affect their redemption. For this was the intended purpose of Jesus to come into the world to save sinners. He was coming to be the sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The gospel accounts open up with such statements as He will save His people from their sins and Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. All of Redemptive activity was focusing upon the cross of Calvary.

Further up in Luke 9 Jesus tells his disciples verse 22,

...The Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised on the third day...

All through his earthly ministry the cross was ever before Jesus. He knew that his ultimate destiny would be to die on a tree, on a Roman cross, to be the sacrifice for the sins of mankind. No wonder John declared,

... Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world...

Moses and Elijah, saw that coming fulfillment of everything to be accomplished. They saw that everything would be culminated on the cross of calvary. And no doubt in this they rejoiced as Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Christ.

All of the Old Testament law and Prophets and Psalms pointed to Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross. Jesus tells two of His disciples in Luke 24:44,

... These are my words which I spoke to you while I was with you, that all things which are written about me in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled...

A word that captures our attention in Luke 9:31 is "accomplish". As Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah. The conversation centered on what Jesus was going to "accomplish" at Jerusalem. Another word that might be used is "fulfill". The text could easily be read what Jesus was going to "fulfill" at Jerusalem. Both "fulfill" and "accomplish" can be used interchangeably.

Knowing what Jesus was going to accomplish at Jerusalem will give clarification to the following verses in Matthew 5:17-18,

... Do not think that I come to abolish the law or the prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you , until Heaven and Earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the law until all is accomplished...

There are those who would apply these passages to teach the ongoing perpetuity of the law of Moses. I believe the text is better understood in light of the Redemptive activity of Christ. His ultimate redemptive activity of being the sacrifice on the cross. Thus Luke 24:44 can truly be understood to bring clarity to the verses out of Matthew. I will quote them again,

... Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill, but truly I say to you, until Heaven and Earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the law until all is accomplished. ...Matthew 5:17-18

... These are My words which I spoke to you while I was with you that all things which are written about me in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled...Luke 24:44

... He said, "It is finished!"...John 19:30

My brothers and sisters everything was finished! Everything was accomplished! Everything was fulfilled on the cross of Calvary! We can shout with the words of the hymn writer who said "Hallelujah! What a Savior! We can declare with the Apostle Paul who said may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world" (Gal. 6:14)

Brothers and sisters let our boast be in Jesus Christ and Him crucified for us. For surely the law of Moses could not save us but only the cross of Christ. All of redemptive history focuses upon the cross of Jesus Christ. It does not focus on Sinai. But it focuses on Calvary. What our boast be in Jesus!

Simply my thoughts as gleaned from scripture.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/1 7:07

I think there is a little more to the atonement than just the death of Christ on the cross,, and the bible actually teaches that at the atonement continued after the resurrection, when Jesus enters the real holy place of God with his own blood and made atonement in heaven, the pains of death could not hold him in hell, though the eternal wrath of God was poured out on him, the perfect life he lived for us to impute perfect righteousness,,

And also the death on the cross it had to be a bloody death,,, so brother don't cheapen the atonement it's more than just the death on the cross that was only the beginning....

And brother please it's getting stale that you think that some of us here have said the law of Moses saves us,,,,,can you post one sentence where anyone has said that, I never have seen any ever say that on sermon index,, , Your preaching to the choir brother

I say this respectfully with a gentle tone

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 7:30

Dear Blaine

Where is your final authority?

If you say the scriptures, that was of the old covenant - to have commandments or the law which you would obey written down and which would be final authority.

The new covenant however has the law written on our hearts and the final authority is the revelation in our spirits from the Holy Spirit. The role of scripture is to confirm this authority within and to lead us to sanctification whereby we will know as we are known and need no man to teach us.

That is what is meant by having the living Christ with us rather than just writings.

Once we are in the Spirit, Christ Himself is acting within us and life pours out from Him alone with no mixture. It is the mixture that God condemns.

Re: Brenda , on: 2016/6/1 7:55

--- "This is My Son, My Chosen One, listen to Him!...Luke 9:35

Dear sister my final Authority is Jesus. :-)

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/1 8:01

Sister with all respect, Blaine and I will both say that the scripture is the final authority, it is above and beyond our personal revaluation,, it is perfect and was expressed through God's chosen vessels, we are not chosen to express the perfect revaluation of God's teachings,, we are not the pope ..

It's the other way around, our witness in us confirms the scripture as the authority in all matters moral and spiritual,,,,,

God made that way that a root pride will not spring forth because of an abundance of revaluation, Paul had the messenger of Satan to buffet him because he was the chosen one to bring this revaluation to the Gentiles,,,,,

Remember God said he is my chosen one , about Paul ,,,, not us ,and we should be content with that ,and seek prophecy and wisdom on the level below perfect revaluation

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/1 8:03

Well you have changed blame over the last few years ,scripture was always your authority,, what happened

Re: Brenda and Gary, on: 2016/6/1 8:23

... Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you...Col. 3:16

The change is simply Jesus dwelling in my heart. Simply Him who is the Word being incarnated in my heart. As such, the written word becomes the Living Word. Or is it the Living Word becoming life in the written word? :)

Either way. It is Jesus who is the Living Word who is dwelling in my heart.

Hope this makes sense.:)

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/1 8:35

Hmm not really ,,it's not you who lives but Christ who lives in you ,I get that so that makes you the final authority because Christ is on you ...

Or the scripture is the perfect final. Authority , and because the artist of the scripture lives in us he bears witness of that

Or

Re: Gary, on: 2016/6/1 9:13

Bro let us just keep it simple. Jesus is the final authority.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 10:00

So how does that work out in practice? Are you referring to the written words of Jesus? Many make that mistake. There is a world of difference between reading the word of God or hearing the Word of God.

Re: Authority, on: 2016/6/1 10:33

If one person says: "The Holy Spirit told me it's white" and the other person says: "The Holy Spirit told me it's black"

How do we know which one was really from the Holy Spirit?

We examine which statement aligns with the Scriptures.

That makes the Scriptures the highest authority in my opinion.

Edited to add:

We examine the whole scripture and let the HS witness in us as Gary said.

Re: Brenda my sister,, on: 2016/6/1 10:46

... It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and our life...John 6:63

... for the letter kills but the Spirit gives life...2 Cor. 3:6

... All scripture is inspired by God (literally God-breathed)...2 Tim. 3:16

My sister Jesus speaks to us by His Spirit. His Spirit will speak the Words of Jesus into our soul, into our heart. I believe

this is what our charismatic friends call the Rhema Word. Perhaps that spoken word for the moment.

Brenda this is still uncharted waters for me. I'm still on this journey of faith getting to know Jesus intimately. As I get more insights I will be glad to share them with you.

I appreciate the spirit of your questions. Forgive me that my answers are still being developed here.

My sister these are simply my thoughts as given by the Holy Spirit.

Re: Tozso, on: 2016/6/1 11:14

... This is My Son, My Chosen One, listen to Him.. Luke 9:35

... My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me...John 10:27

... A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers...John 10:7

My sister if we are in relationship to Jesus then we will become familiar with the voice of the Shepherd as He speaks to us. The more we become familiar with His voice, the less inclined we are to listen to the voice of strangers. If anything we will flee from The stranger and flee to the Shepherd.

Simply my thoughts.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 11:22

Blain,
I believe that our Rhema word should be subjected to and always aligned with the scriptures. This is I think the insurance for us that we do not get deceived by false revelations, or our fleshly thoughts, thinking that they are from the HS.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 11:39

Blain,
What if what we think is a relationship with Jesus and a familiar voice, is a relationship with an other spirit and his voice, and he would deceptively say to us that he is Jesus. John tells us to test the spirits: "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God."1John4:2

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 12:03

There are all kinds of tests in the scriptures that we can perform. If a spirit (which we think is the Holy Spirit) tells us to build a statue in our backyard and bow down to it, how do we know it's a deceiving spirit?
We know it FROM THE SCRIPTURES.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 12:10

Hi Tozsu

Just because the way of God is abused does not make it wrong. Those who are in the same Spirit as the writers of scriptures, will be in accordance with each other. Those who are not will have their own interpretation and therefore thousands of denominations.

Of course scripture is the safe guard of what is of God, but there are many levels of growth and no-one knows it all but on sanctification, there is much agreement amongst those who have submitted all to Him.

Understanding scripture comes with obedience to the heavenly light and not through studying theology. More obedience and more light. Not that there is anything wrong with theology but there must be that light within that tells us the truth when we hear it.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 12:20

Quote:

-----by Tozsu on 2016/6/1 10:33:59

If one person says: "The Holy Spirit told me it's white" and the other person says: "The Holy Spirit told me it's black"

How do we know which one was really from the Holy Spirit?

We examine which statement aligns with the Scriptures.

That makes the Scriptures the highest authority in my opinion.

Edited to add:

We examine the whole scripture and let the HS witness in us as Gary said.

It depends on the context of what is being talked about.

The Lord spoke to the Ten Boom family in Holland to stay in Holland when the Germans invaded. Obviously, because the Lord had a mission for them. Other disciples, the Lord led to leave Holland. Was the Lord being contradictory? No, not at all.

As I have said before, the "Law of Christ" is His word to you personally. Do what He tells you and don't be concerned if others agree or not. The final authority is Christ Himself and no one can tell you how to follow Christ, except Christ. This is why I am always against Christians "marshalling" other Christians to get on some kind of bandwagon and use the power of numbers to impose their will on others. Jesus does not use the power of numbers to accomplish His will.

John 21:20-22 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

"The Christian...life is dynamic. Each situation, like each person, is novel. The command of God is not a general rule, or collection of rules. It is always particular for a person at this moment, in this situation. In the unity recovered through grace, in the union with God, we are in the presence of quite a different ethical orientation. It can only be lived in Christ. There is no Christian life without the action of the Holy Spirit, without His inspiration and guidance. The necessity for God's intervening to guide our lives puts an end to our pretending to erect a Christian morality. Christian living does not exist as a morality; for he who lives it, lives by it. He does not follow commandments nor achieve objectives. He lives by the word of God which nourishes him, guides him, and carries him. There is not one Christian life. There are as many Christian lives as there are Christians. One lives in ever-surprising novelty. (Jacques Ellul - To Will and To Do)

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 12:41

I did not mean to check the scriptures by the letter as the pharisees did. We check the spirit meaning as the Bereans did. Because there is no contradiction in God. So how do you brothers and sisters safeguard against deception? For we all know about a lot of Christians that tried to follow the Holy Spirit (the way you recommend) and fell into serious error. Yet they were not wolves, they were deceived.

Re: A Gentle Exhortation, on: 2016/6/1 12:43

Brothers and sisters I have no desire to see this thread locked. So far the posts have been quite encouraging. And have stirred my heart to think deeper on Jesus. As I have meditated on the cross of Christ I feel somehow the fragrance of Jesus hovering over this thread. I wish to keep it that way.

Before we post, and that includes me, let us pray and ask is this going to edify and build up those who would read our post. If we get a check in our spirit, and that includes me. Let us hit the "cancel post" button.

I appreciate those of you that have posted on this thread and the Spirit by which you posted. I believe God is wanting to reveal more of Jesus to us. Let us and humility explore what it means to Listen to Him.

Simply my thoughts.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 12:53

Thank you Blaine for that reminder.

Tozsu sister

The way of the religious world is to follow the teachings of those who have studied in college. But the way of the Lord, is to look to those who have the spiritual discernment of maturity gained through rough spiritual trials and walk in holiness.

Instead of holy men having authority, the church splinters off with every new teaching from men who are not holy. This must be the test and those seeking holiness will submit to their teaching and guidance whilst those with an independent spirit will think more of qualifications and reputation.

Re: Tozsu, on: 2016/6/1 13:00

Sister for me and goes back to Jesus. I ask myself is the Resident Author of scripture Himself living in my heart. We know by this that He abides in us by the Spirit whom He has given to us (1 John 4:24).

The more we get to know the Author through prayer. The more the Author will open up His blessed Word to us.

Simply my thoughts.

Re: Toszu, on: 2016/6/1 13:18

... Now these were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so...Acts 17:11

My sister just some further thoughts as I think about your questions. As the Bereans I believe we need to be noble minded. We need to have an open and honest heart. And I might add a spirit of humility to receive the Word. As we receive Him into our hearts. Then there will be an eagerness to examine the Scriptures daily to prove Him true.

I hope this makes sense.

Again dear sister my thoughts.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 13:54

I am not disagreeing with you, The Bible is the word of God.

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Jesus and the Word are one.

I am following that.

Re: Tozso, on: 2016/6/1 14:28

My sister I remember one day I was trying to figure it out. I was pondering before the Lord thinking. Okay. Jesus is the Living Word. The Bible is the Living Word. And I was going around and around in my head. Finally the Holy Spirit came back and told me, "They both are living!"

I think you get the nail on the head. :-)

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 14:32

Is the bible not living word when we read it enlightened by the Holy Spirit?

EDIT:

Sorry wrong post. This is just what you said.

My point is that we can not listen to Jesus without checking with the bible, and we can not read the bible without checking with Jesus. Can you agree with that?

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 14:41

The Bible says that Jesus is the Word John 1:1. The Bible is the Fountain but is not the source. The living word is the direct, immediate, communication of the Spirit with our spirits. The Bible is the writings of those who communicated directly with the Spirit and is only understood by those who are in the same Spirit.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 15:13

Amen, Brenda.

Faced with two job offers, I must pray and get the mind of Christ on the matter regarding which job to take. The living word will lead me and I will not find a verse in the bible for that (per say). The Lord has given verses along with the Holy Spirit's witness to lead and does do that. When you walk with the Lord you get to know how He works. I'm just saying you can't look up a black and white word on what to do in all situations. Jesus wants us to come to Him, to depend on Him, the Person, otherwise He would have left us with a book ONLY (no Holy Spirit).

I will however find many verses on how the Lord leads His children, but I will not personally be led by Him unless I am in relationship with His Spirit and have a yielded heart.

The Bible is objective truth. We must make it subjective by being a "doer of the word".

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 15:20

I believe we all are saying the same thing perhaps in different ways. It is the Spirit and the truth. Both are needed how to hear from God.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 15:21

Tozsu,

If you are in prison and don't have a bible you can depend on the Lord's voice. His voice is dependable to those who know it.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 16:14

Bear, I think we are all touching on the same truths. Truth is a many faceted gem.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 17:40

"If you are in prison and don't have a bible you can depend on the Lord's voice. His voice is dependable to those who know it."

These people in prison either have heard about Jesus before, or hearing presently from those who have read the records of Him in the Bible. I do not worry about them.

But I do worry about those Muslims who saw Jesus in a dream and never in their life before or after had any knowledge about the bible (and its message) either by reading or by others speaking about it.

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Why do we need missionaries and evangelists, if the Holy Spirit by himself will do that job. Why do we need the Bible?

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 18:06

The Holy Spirit builds the church with Jesus as corner stone, the Apostles and prophets as founding stones and us Christians as building stones.

Would He build a church without the founding stones?

Ephesians 2:20

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"

Re: Tozso, on: 2016/6/1 18:25

My sister there are credible reports of authentic conversions of Muslim Background Believers who have seen Jesus in a vision or dream. In every case those who have such dreams do embrace Jesus and follow Him. For some after having such a dream the journey may take weeks or months. And there may be more than one dream or vision. But in the end the Muslim who comes to Jesus is willing to follow Him. Even to death if necessary. And some are martyred.

Often in the dream or vision Jesus will direct the seeking Muslim to get an Nijil. This is Arabic for New Testament. The seeking Muslim still needs to be directed to the Word of truth to know Jesus. Often the seeker will be directed to other MBB's who have experienced Jesus in a dream or vision to help the seeker grow.

Consider the case of Cornelius. He had a vision of an angel of God. That angel could have told Cornelius to repent and believe in Jesus. But Cornelius had to send for Peter to hear the gospel.

My sister a Muslim may have a dream or vision of Jesus. But the seeking Muslim still needs the New Testament to know how to come to Jesus in saving faith and life. And they still need the New Testament to grow in Jesus. If anything the written Word is more precious to the Muslim seeker because they have met the Author of the book.

Dear sister I will address your other questions when I get home. I hope this helps.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 18:53

"Often in the dream or vision Jesus will direct the seeking Muslim to get an Nijil. This is Arabic for New Testament."

Exactly this is what I meant. They do need the bible Jesus does not want them to go without it. So do we.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 18:57

Toszu,

There are MANY sources showing that THOUSANDS upon THOUSANDS of Muslims are coming to Christ in the last few years (5-10) and either the immediate event preceding their conversion was seeing Jesus in the dream or vision, or some actually said to Him in their dream something along the lines of I believe & woke up different (converted, "Born Again" as Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3).

You can verify this in a video called "More than Dreams" online (YouTube it - I particularly remember Khalil) in the testimony of people like Padina (YouTube search "Padina's Story"), etc. I am in contact with a brother in the underground church in Iran that speaks of MANY coming to Christ through Him appearing to them in a dream or vision. Of course they are then HUNGRY for the Word of God & to expand their knowledge of the Truth (Jesus said "He is the way, the truth & the life"), etc. but they came to Christ through exactly what the prophets Joel, Amos, etc. said would happen in the last days, dreams & visions, prophesying, etc. among men & women, young and old.

In fact, the brother in Iran shared with me one story he personally saw himself when visiting a remote Iranian rural village where a man appeared in a vision to the Muslim man, came through his wall, said get out pen & paper, & recited as he wrote the entire Gospel of John! Verbatim! The Muslim didn't even know what it was!

And in fact, a lady in our fellowship came to Christ through a dream. Another brother was warned he wasn't truly saved in a dream & came to Christ, & even one lady's mom just moved here from Cambodia & was a Buddhist for years. Had dreams about Jesus & rejected him in the dream. Until one day He came to her again & she repented & got born again! And there's even one verified report in Egypt of a radical salafi Muslim who had dreams night after night seeing Jesus & arguing with Him because Jesus told him the Koran was wrong. The next day a young Christian girl was led by the Holy Spirit to get out at her stop, pay, and tell him "Yeshua loves you!" & started to run (they can get kidnapped, tortured, sold into sex slavery, etc. over there for that). He said, "wait! What did you say?" She repeated it & the man broke down and explained he'd been arguing with this man in a white shining robe in his dreams night after night & Jesus told him, "to prove how much I love you and that what I say is true, tomorrow a young Christian girl will get out of your cab at her stop and tell you this!" It's been confirmed, the man has been baptized & is serving the Lord!

Many of the Jews converting to Christ on the One For Israel videos (I met Messaiah & I found shalom - all on YouTube) are similar too. In fact, Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus, knocked him off his horse, blinded him with his brightness & said, "Why are you persecuting me?" No one else seemed to see him but Saul. The later Apostle Paul who penned 2/3 of the NT!

Believe it sister, it's happening & real Fruit of salvation and radical Muslims coming to Christ to be radical Christians who lay down their very life's unto death is taking place! You can believe it. It's awesome too! Some of the "radical cessationists" don't like it because it doesn't fit their theological

Paradigm, but God isn't limited by their finite brains' understanding, thank God! ðŸ™ŠðŸ™Š•ðŸ•»âˆ••ðŸ•aðŸ•»

God Bless,
Jeff

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 19:29

"Believe it sister, it's happening"

I did not say it was not. My point was that it would be weird if after the conversion these converts would not need the bible (or its message) and they could just follow the voice of the sheppard (Jesus).

edit : corrected spelling.

Re: Yoszu, on: 2016/6/1 20:02

Dear sister we do need the Bible. We do need the scriptures. I certainly hope no one is leaving you with the impression we don't need the scriptures. Let me say again we do need them.

I am legally blind. Thus I listen to an audio New Testament. I listen to it at least 2 or 3 hours a day. I listen to it when I walk. I listen to it when I open mail. I listen to it when I get up in the morning to have the Lord. I even listen to it when I'm sleeping.

Likewise too I need Jesus to open up His word to me. I need the Holy Spirit to speak that Rhema word into my core being. I need to hear the voice of the Shepherd. As I shared with you and a previous post both are living. I need both your sister.

Hope I come across a little more clearly.

Appreciate your heart dear sister. :-)

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 20:03

Oh I see. Yes, of course we all need & hunger for the truth of His Word! Amen! ðŸŽŠ The brother I was telling you about in Iran has as a crucial part of the underground house church's network Discipleship Making Ministry teaching from the Word. We grow by the truth. Why it's crucial IMHO to feed into the evangelization, discipleship, ministry & purchasing of Bibles for believers in these areas while this sovereign move of God in bringing many to Himself is taking place.

Re: , on: 2016/6/1 22:01

Dear sister

It is not an either/or question.

The scriptures are a wonderful gift and precious but still, secondary. It is only in the last two centuries or so that they have been available to the average believer and only if that believer lived in certain situations. Blind believers in the past had no access and ability to check out immediately that what they heard was in the Bible.

We are very blessed to live in times where we do have easy access but in the beginning, the church spread amongst gentiles without access and Christ taught His people Himself, and we have a perfect example in the apostle Paul who met the disciples and was in accordance with them without previous teachings from them.

I am not downplaying the scriptures at all, but there is a danger of raising it to a place where we will not expect to have that precious immediate and direct communication with our Lord.

The prophets in the old testament had it and could hear the Lord speak clearly to them so why would the saints lose that in the new covenant?

No-one has said that the scriptures are not of huge benefit to them and enable them to check out what has been revealed to them, but the Lord has never depended on printing presses to enable those who love Him to know Him intimately directly to their spirits.

Re: , on: 2016/6/2 6:20

Simply reading the scriptures caused great revivals in the past:

https://archive.org/details/cpm_films

This video shows how the masses were revived in the time of reformation when the bible was translated and made available to the masses.

The deception of the RCC was exposed by the truth of the bible.

When they found the book of law in the time of Josiah they simply read it to the king, this started a revival/turning to God in the nation.

In the book of Nehemiah they read the book of law again and the people were revived and exceedingly happy celebrating the Lord for weeks.

The Bible-the word of God is awesome. It tells us in the first place who Jesus is. People today also revive when they read/hear the word of God.

Richard Owen Roberts explains in this video why word centered revivals last longer than experience centered revivals. https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=word+centered+revival&source=video&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwjBz8LriYnNAhUQz2MKHZ7uBjAQtwIIHzAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D58bsgh04hOQ&usg=AFQjCNGCkok_CfWIXZkd_rPpIQ5ab2ewig&sig2=FWZPGbadli4ZZtJjrN6RDA

Personally when I was in a false movement, Madame Guyon, Brother Lawrence, even Tozer did not help to revive me but David Wilkerson, Keith Daniel and Jessie Penn Lewis did. By the way those who listen to Keith Daniel know that some times almost half of his sermon is just simply quoting the Bible. When the truth from the word was shown to me, the deception of that false movement was exposed.

Re: , on: 2016/6/2 8:15

Amen, Brenda and Zsuzsanna.