

"He who is armed with the power of God will not tremble at the noise raised by the world." - John Calvin, Commentary on Paul's Epistles to Timothy

"When Satan tells me I am a sinner he comforts me immeasurably since Christ died for sinners." - Martin Luther

Obedience flows from the cross, it does not contribute to it. It is a fruit of our union with Christ not the root. -- Monergism

BENJAMIN KEACH'S CATECHISM

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Q. 21. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery. (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:18,19; Is. 64:6)

Q. 22. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereunto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereunto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin, together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it. (Rom. 5:19; 3:10; Eph. 2:1; Is. 53:6; Ps. 51:5; Matt. 15:19)

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Sunday Morning Bible Study -- 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship -- 11:00 AM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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THE SPIRIT GOD HAS GIVEN US

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

Paul’s observations indicate that he sensed the need to encourage Timothy to reconnect with the gift that he knew to be in him. It is evident that the Apostle is addressing ministerial and pastoral issues, but we would not lose an application to all in that the manner of the work of the Holy Spirit is presented and defined. We make this appeal in view of the fact that many separate themselves completely from things that they presume to be the exclusive work of preachers. So, the need perceived in Timothy is that to which we are all subjected and would seek to claim in whatever aspects of Christian life pertain. In speaking to the same things in addressing the Romans, Paul made no such distinction.

Paul’s confidence in Timothy was confirmed in bringing to his remembrance that he had personally laid hands on him acknowledging those ministerial gifts. These were the things that distinguished him with abilities out of the ordinary such as an exceptional command of the scriptures along with the ability to press the necessity of the Gospel contained in those scriptures on his hearers. These were not Paul’s gifts; rather they were divinely imparted and empowered. But, Paul had reached even further back in Timothy’s experience to reference the “unfeigned faith that is in thee.” This is the faith that was quickened in him at the feet of his mother and grandmother. He was persuaded of the scriptures that they were “able to make one wise unto salvation.” Paul would have him to know first that there was no separation of his

salvation and his ministry.

The timidity of Timothy is often referenced and is worth noting; and, perhaps we should identify with it and the things that triggered it as well. One of the issues was his youth. *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12.* I have witnessed older preachers and others endeavor to intimidate young preachers and so betray their own lack of an essential of ministerial character. While I am older, I still experience what Spurgeon called “the minister’s fainting fits.”

Timothy had health issues as noted in, *Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities. 1 Timothy 5:23.* It would seem that he was less than robust in health. These are certainly a hindrance and a distraction often leading to self-doubting and lost courage. We note that even Paul sought relief from his “thorn in the flesh.”

We should be reminded of the era in which Timothy lived. Satan had already unleashed a full assault on the Church and the effect was noted within and without. Who was such a young, unhealthy man against such a formidable foe? We can understand his hesitation. Perhaps our situation is that we are lacking the ability to fully sense how bad things are and how strong our enemy is. With such a lack we pose no real threat to the forces of evil. Certainly, in this country we “Have not resisted unto blood.” But, Paul would have Timothy to realize and utilize

the fact that, in being born again of the Spirit of God and empowered with a new nature, he was fully equipped with all that was needed to both stand and withstand in all circumstances. O that we would claim these things to the casting down of kingdoms!

As to the word "spirit" here used with a small "s," the question is raised as to whether this is the Holy Spirit or the "spirit" that is in us. Patrick Fairbairn wrote: "By *spirit* here may be understood either God's Spirit working in a certain manner in us, or our own spirit as wrought upon and formed by God; practically it comes much to the same thing, since either way the gift is of God, obtained by direct fellowship with His Spirit." By double emphasis Paul would have Timothy and us to be clear in that no spirit of fear or cowardice would ever proceed from God; rather that which is produced in us by the Spirit is after the very character of Christ and reflects His work. In a similar fashion, Paul pointed out to the Romans that we have not "received the spirit of bondage" but rather that of sonship.

Alexander MacClaren outlined a message on this text in this way: Christ makes fearless men; Christ makes strong men; Christ makes loving men; and Jesus Christ makes self-governing men. Fearlessness will be experienced where the prevailing of Christ in us becomes evident. The word for power is that energizing and

enabling power that strengthens such as are "good soldiers of Christ." That Spirit borne power enables the meekest and perhaps most timid by nature to stand against the devil and all his wiles. In such strength Timothy (and us) would be able to identify with Paul and all who would bear witness to Christ and the gospel – the power of God in us.

That same spirit with which we are gifted is truly "fruit of the Spirit." See Galatians 5:22. John preciously reminds us: *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18.* Such love is graciously displayed as the work of the Spirit in us, testifying through the love of the brethren and in imitation of Christ in all we do.

The spirit of a sound mind has nothing to do with mental issues. It is rather sound "in the principles and doctrines of the Gospel; and which shows itself in prudent conduct and behavior; in sobriety, moderation, temperance, purity, and honesty" (John Gill).

Such is the spirit that God produces in His people. That they might be so endowed, He sent Christ into the world to display those same things and then to suffer, to die, and to raise again. We who know the Lord are not waiting to obtain them, but God help us to be exercised therein. *bhs*

So what are we asking when we say "your kingdom come"? We are asking for something wonderful and something dangerous all at the same time.

- We are praying that history would be brought to a close.
- We are praying to see all the nations rejoice in the glory of God.
- We are praying to see Christ honored as king in every human heart.
- We are praying to see Satan bound, evil vanquished, death no more.
- We are praying to see the mercy of God demonstrated in the full justification and acquittal of sinners through the shed blood of the crucified and resurrected Christ.
- We are praying to see the wrath of God poured out upon sin.
- We are praying to see every knee bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

- We are praying to see a New Jerusalem, a new heaven, and a new earth, a new creation.

This is indeed a radical prayer. We must not take this petition lightly. But, as we have seen, this petition also carries great hope. Our God will come to save us and bring us to know the fullness of his grace in the final revelation of his kingdom. To that end, we pray. – Al Mohler in *The Prayer That Turns the World Upside Down*.

ACTIVITIES

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. —Ephesians 4:15 In an effort to get the work of the Lord done we often lose contact with the Lord of the work and quite literally wear our people out as well. I have heard more than one pastor boast that his church was a “live” one, pointing to the printed calender as a proof—something on every night and several meetings during the day.... A great many of these time-consuming activities are useless and others plain ridiculous. “But,” say the eager beavers who run the religious squirrel cages, “they provide fellowship and they hold our people together.” To this I reply that what they provide is not fellowship at all, and if that is the best thing the church has to offer to hold the people together it is not a Christian church in the New Testament meaning of that word. The center of attraction in a true church is the Lord Jesus Christ.... If the many activities engaged in by the average church led to the salvation of sinners or the perfecting of believers they would justify themselves easily and triumphantly; but they do not. My observations have led me to the belief that many, perhaps most, of the activities engaged in by the average church do not contribute in any way to the accomplishing of the true work of Christ on earth. I hope I am wrong, but I am afraid I am right. Help us, Lord, to be willing even today to look at our church programs and evaluate what we do in the light of the truth of this challenge. Amen.

-- A. W. Tozer in *Tozer on Christian Leadership*

The Grand Proof of Christ’s Mission

Let us all thank God that we have such a cloud of witnesses to prove that our Lord rose again. The resurrection of Christ is the grand proof of Christ’s divine mission. He told the Jews they need not believe He was the Messiah, if He did not rise again the third day. The resurrection of Christ is the top-stone of the work of redemption. It proved that He finished the work He came to do, and, as our Substitute, had overcome the grave. The resurrection of Christ is a miracle that no infidel can explain away. Men may carp and cavil at Balaam’s donkey, and Jonah in the whale’s belly, if they please, but until they can prove that Christ did not rise again we need not be moved. Above all, the resurrection of Christ is the pledge of our own. As the grave could not detain the Head, so it shall not detain the members. Well may we say with Peter, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3.) – J. C. Ryle