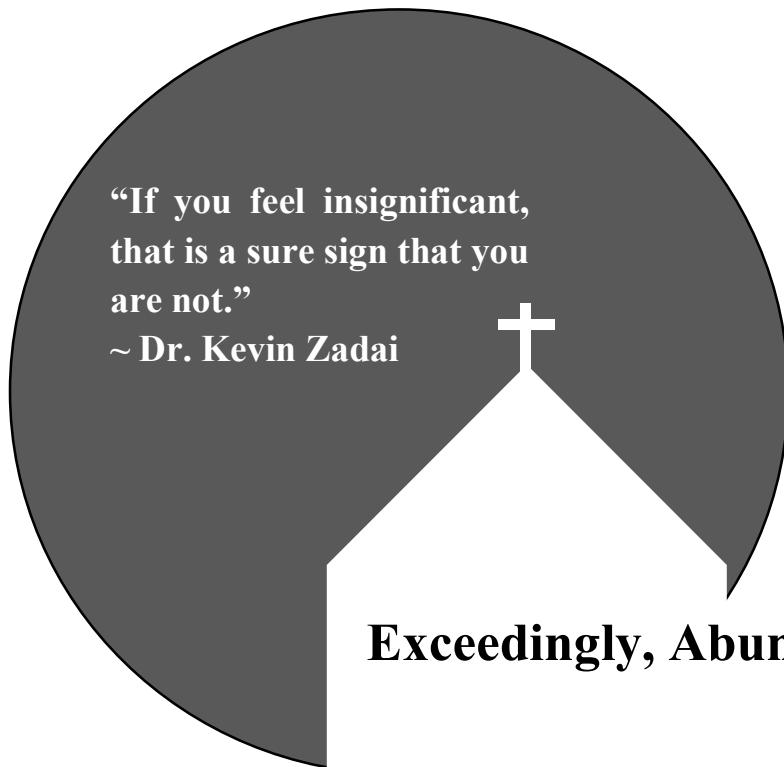


WARRIOR FELLOWSHIPS: SEASON 2

WEEK ELEVEN



*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that
works in us,*

—Ephesians 3:20

DISCUSSION:

In the Book of Acts, Paul and the Apostles went to Ephesus. Ephesus was known for its high places, witchcraft, and the occult. When the city repented, they turned in all their spell books. When people had spell books, it wasn't like today where you could buy one at a store. Each warlock, witch, or sorcerer had a familiar spirit or a demon that would give them secrets on what to do and say, then they would write the incantations in the book. The familiar spirit would help them know how to operate in it, making them significant money.

Each individual had their demon working for them, and they would have particular things that the demon liked. They would have to burn certain types of incense and herbs and say certain keywords, and it would invoke the demon to do what was being requested. There were also blood offerings and animal and human sacrifices.

All types of terrible things were happening. When they repented and turned in their spell books, it meant that they were divorcing that evil spirit, and they couldn't memorize all that was in there, and they would never go back.

This is important because when Paul would write to the Ephesians, they were very well versed in the spirit realm. They understood evil spirits because they operated in that. He said to those that knew the spirit realm, "You don't know my insight until you read my letter on what I know. My insight is in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Messiah." He opened a whole avenue that they knew nothing about, and they knew nothing about the mystery of Jesus Christ.

❖ **Ephesians 3:1-7 ESV:** For this reason, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power.

- Paul said, “I’m a minister according to the gift of God’s free grace that is bestowed upon me by the working of His power.”
- You can’t just have the message and not have the power. You can’t separate God’s Word from His power because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.
- God’s Word is His truth. You can’t have one and not the other.
- The working of His power was bestowed upon him. The effectiveness of Paul’s gift was the working of Christ’s power in him.
- You cannot just have a message. You have to have the demonstration as well as the message.
- His effectiveness was based on the power of the resurrection.
- It gets the attention of those who were witches because they like the whole power and authority thing.

- If a well-learned person has a form of godliness but denies the power, thereof, Paul says, don't even associate with people like that.

HOLY SPIRIT, THE AUTHOR OF TRUTH

- People change their doctrine to compensate for what appears to be God's inactivity instead of standing on who God is as a person.
- People should not manipulate God but allow Him to be Himself and accept that the Holy Spirit has not changed His personality or working one bit.
- He has not changed His expression and who He is.
- When He comes, people get healed. When He comes, people get set free. When He comes, truth is revealed. He leads people into truth.
- He reminds us of things Jesus said and the things to come.
- When the Holy Spirit shows up, miracles happen because there is nothing natural about Him.
- He's the Holy Spirit, and you're going to experience Holiness when He's around. If you don't, then it's not the Holy Spirit.
- You're going to experience truth when He comes. If you're not experiencing truth, then it's not the Holy Spirit.
- It's the same thing with liberty. If He's not in the room, then you're not going to have freedom. If He's in the room, then you're going to have freedom.

❖ **John 3:1-3 NLT:** There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

- Jesus explained to Nicodemus that you could see the effects of the Holy Spirit working. Nicodemus was figuring, “How am I going to go back into my mother's womb and be born again (vs. 4)?”
- Jesus said, “No, this is a spiritual thing. The Holy Spirit is like the wind (vs. 8). You can't see the wind, but you see the effects of the wind in the trees.
- Jesus said it's the same way with the Spirit.
- You don't see the Spirit, but you see the effects of the Spirit on human lives.
- You must be born again to inherit the Kingdom of God.” He attributed the trees and the wind as the thing that happens to us.
- You don't see the Spirit, but you see the results of the Spirit. If I don't see the results of the Spirit, then is He having His way? Now, that doesn't negate Him or eliminate Him because He is always present.

How have you experienced the effects and power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

❖ Ephesians 3:8 AMP:

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints (God's consecrated people), this grace (favor, privilege) was granted *and* graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out],

- When I went to Heaven, I saw what Paul was explaining here; that when you go into the realm of God, you encounter things like favor and privilege.
- You're going to have boundless boundaries. It'll be fathomless, incalculable, exhaustless, and you will have riches beyond what you can determine to ask.
- That's how big it was to me when I was there. I was only there for about 45 minutes, but it would take books and books and books forever just to write about what I encountered.
- It was about a week's worth, in 45 minutes. It just keeps coming to me. As I read the Word, more revelation unfolds.

REVEALING THE MYSTERY

DISCUSSION:

When Paul was ministering to the people in Ephesians 3, he told them, “I have been entrusted to give you this message. What I have been assigned to do is reveal the mystery from ages past, to enlighten you.” (The people he’s ministering to in this letter he wrote were witches, warlocks, and people in the occult.) He says, “My purpose is to reveal this which no human being could’ve ever searched on his own, to enlighten men and make plain to them what is the plan; the strategy regarding the Gentiles.” In other words, God turned outward to make all men redeemable. I saw this when I was in Heaven, and it’s the truth. I saw that Jesus died for every single human being, but people still go to hell. It’s just not right. He paid the price, and He said that we are to tell people this. It’s found in Second Corinthians 5. It says we have the Ministry of Reconciliation. Paul said we are supposed to go out and announce that the price has been paid and that you don’t have to die in your sin. We’re to announce the Good News and that the price has been paid and acknowledge how God chose for redemption through Jesus Christ. He literally calls it the Ministry of Reconciliation, which has been in the Bible since 70 A.D.

I had an angel visitation several years ago before my wife, and I ever had our ministry. I had just been on TV, and Ryan was the producer there. I was still working for Southwest Airlines, and I had asked the Lord, “What is my ministry.” The angel that visited me said, “I have been assigned to explain to you several different things.” When he went through the list, he got to the last one, and He goes, “Here is your ministry, because you asked, and the Lord told me I could share with you your ministry, and what your calling is.” He handed me a scroll. It was just one page. I asked, “Can I take this with me? He goes, “No, just read it. You don’t even need this

because it's in your Bible. It's the fifth chapter of Second Corinthians. That's your Ministry." He said, "You have the Ministry of Reconciliation." I opened it up, and it was the whole fifth chapter in my Bible the entire time. Why did I have to have a supernatural encounter to find something out that was already in my Bible? Yet this is what people want. They want a supernatural encounter when the obvious has already been given.

There are many mysteries that we think we need to know that have already been revealed, and I found this out when I was in Heaven. There is so much in the Bible that I didn't know was already there. I was waiting for this big revelation, but I saw it in full light when I was in Heaven. I didn't think I was coming back. I realized that God had given us everything we need for life and Godliness. That's what Peter says. Everything has been given to us that we need for life and Godliness through His promises. Those precious promises cause us to be partakers of the divine nature (See 2 Peter 1.).

DISCUSS:

1. When you hear the message of God and Jesus Christ, are you mixing it with faith? Faith is of the heart.

2. Faith is of the heart.

4. God's mystery has been revealed.

PRAYER:

Father, lift your people up right now who are weary. I pray for restoration to their hearts. Bring hope and truth to come alive in them, in their cities, countries, and nations. Let the mystery of Jesus be revealed to each person individually and as a group, Father. Lord, come in your most Holiness right now and touch them with your power. Peace be upon your people, God. We tear down the high places. Those who are living amidst the influence of the occult, may they know their authority and power in you, Father, to tear down these influences of darkness around them. May they know who they are and that they're above and not beneath. Release your favor and power upon each of your Warriors, God. Let them see that the work you have begun in them, you will see to fruition. The good work of the Father is being done, and each of you will be used mightily in the Earth as an ambassador of God. Increase your power in them, Lord, to go out and share the Gospel in their nations. Go and make disciples of men. Go and proclaim the glory of the Father. Tell them of His Son Jesus who saved you and brought you to life when you were dead in your sins. You no longer live for yourselves, but you live for God, who has a plan and purpose for your life. Be encouraged in Jesus' mighty name Amen.