**Discerning the Kingdom**

The things of the kingdom can only be spiritually discerned.

 **1 Corinthians 2:9-14**

***1Co 2:14*** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**1 Corinthians 15:34-50** tells us that the things that pertain to the flesh and the things that pertain to the Spirit are not the same because they are opposites. They do not function the same way. They cannot be mixed.

We have tried to make the things of the kingdom about the things of the flesh and we have missed the whole point!

***1Co 15:50*** *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

The kingdom is not about rules and regulations. It is a spiritual kingdom, not a flesh kingdom.

***Rom 14:17*** *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

The kingdom is within you. It does not come by observation. It comes by revelation. Unless you are born of water and the Spirit, you can neither see, nor enter into the kingdom. Unless the word you know comes by revelation knowledge from the Holy Spirit, you will never enter into that position within you where righteousness, peace, and joy abide. That which is flesh is flesh. It can’t perceive spiritual things. **John 3:1-5**

Much of the word that most of us know comes through tradition and our natural understanding. The enemy appeals to us through the things of the flesh which are corruptible that have no spiritual value and our understanding of that which is spiritual becomes distorted.

***Col 2:8*** *Beware lest any man spoil* ***[rob]*** *you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

Much of the frustration that surrounds the lives of many Christians can be attributed to this very concept.

***Jas 1:8*** *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

How do you know what you know about God? Do you have tradition and head knowledge mixed with revelation knowledge?

 ***Proverbs 4:7 NIV . . .****though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

When we purpose to allow the Holy Spirit to discern the things of God rather than natural or second hand understanding, we may discover that much of what we know is not based on truth. We will have to be willing to forsake old ideas and go against religious traditions, but when we begin to discover the truth about God, it will set us free!

***Eph 1:17*** *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

*Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

*Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power*

We are His workmanship!

***Eph 2:8*** *For by grace* ***[Strong’s – the divine influence of God in your life and its reflection therein]*** *are ye saved through faith* ***[persuasion that he will provide everything that you need]****; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*