

CHAPTER 11

POWERLESS

We now enter the final stages of where we are, how we got there and how to get back. The first thing we must recognize is the state that most Christians are in at this point in time. Jesus stated that we could recognize his people by a couple of different ways, one being by their fruit. That does not mean by how many people know that Jesus is the Christ, for even demons admitted that Jesus was the Christ when they said “for we know that you are the Christ” and “have you come to torture us before our time”? It is apparent by this passage that they knew that he was the Christ yet it didn’t change their status as far as heaven was concerned. He also said you will know us by the love that we have one for another, something I touched on earlier. So it seems evident that we clearly lack the evidence that we operate in the supernatural power from God that changes the world around us as many other generations have in the past. We seem to walk in a form of believing and knowing yet lack the evidence that would separate us from the world. As I stated in the last chapter, we live in a world that has assaulted our senses and rendered us almost uninterested in the power of the almighty one that dwells inside of us. For lack of a better term we seem to enjoy ourselves a lot more than the things of God.

In 1 Timothy chapter 3 it spells out an attitude that will prevail in the last days. A time in which I am sure that we are clearly living in right now. It states:

“ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
For men will be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters,
proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers,
incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
Traitors, heady, high minded, **LOVERS OF PLEASURE MORE
THAN LOVERS OF GOD;**

HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF; FROM SUCH TURN AWAY.

Paul was writing to Timothy here warning him of false teachers and doctrines that would creep into the church in the last days. Lets look a little deeper at these characteristics of this last days apostasy. Note many of these words in the original are found only in these verses.

- 1) Lovers of themselves: (v2) from the Greek *philautos*, fond of oneself, selfish. Only here is this word found
- 2) Covetous: (v2) from the Greek *philarguros*, fond of money. Only here and Lk 16:14 is this word found.
- 3) Boasters: (v2) from the Greek *alazon*, braggarts, self-exalted. Here and Rom. 1:30.
- 4) Proud: (v2) from the Greek *huperephanos*, to indulge in pride or self-gratulation; be exalted; elated; glory in self; display or strut self before others; undue sense of superiority; unnatural self-esteem; arrogance; wishing all men to receive their sayings as oracles. Here and Rom. 1:30, Lk. 1:51, Jas. 4:6, 1Pet. 5:5.
- 5) Blasphemers: (v2) from the Greek *blasphemia*, an insulting remark or curse, even attributing to satan the works of the Holy Spirit. It is unforgivable if it is done maliciously and knowingly.
- 6) Disobedient to parents: (v2) Head-strong children.
- 7) Unthankful: (v2) from the Greek *acharistos*, ungrateful, found only here and Lk. 6:35.
- 8) Unholy: (v2) from the Greek *anosios*, without piety; no reverence.
- 9) Without natural affection: (v3) living in unnatural affection sins; perverts; homosexuals; sodomites.
- 10) Trucebreakers : (v3) from the Greek *asunthetos*, not morally bound to any agreement; not dependable; treacherous to covenants; faithless to promises; false to trusts.
- 11) False accusers: (v3) from the Greek *diabolos*, slanderer; accuser; adversary.
- 12) Incontinent: (v3) from the Greek *akrates*, no control of appetites and passions. Only found here.

- 13) Fierce: (v3) from the Greek *anemeros*, wild; savage; uncivilized. Only found here.
- 14) Despisers of good men: (v3) from the Greek *aphilagathos*, unfriendly to good men. Only found here.
- 15) Traitors: (v4) from the Greek *prodotes*, betrayers; only found here and Lk. 6:16, Acts 7:52.
- 16) Heady: (v4) from the Greek *propeteis*, rash; hasty; reckless; headstrong. Only here and Acts 19:36.
- 17) Highminded: (v4) from the Greek *tuphoo*, senseless; conceited; silly.
- 18) Lovers of pleasure (v4) Sensual gratification is their god.
- 19) Having: a form of godliness: (v5) from the Greek *morphosis*, a semblance; sketch; form. Only here and Rom.2:20. Their religion is only in their creed and formal confession of faith, not in their hearts.
- 20) Denying the power of godliness: (v5) Destitute of godliness, having no faith that one can be godly in this life.

These are the traits of a church in a state of apostasy. As you can see it strips you of power to the point that you don't even believe that you can live a godly life. These traits don't come upon you overnight, it takes years of complacency and wrong unchecked teaching to render a church in this state. I fear my generation has played a big part in allowing ourselves to get into this place. Through doctrines unchecked and teachings that bring men to themselves but not to the God of our fathers and a way of life that so much indulges in the delicacies obtained by following the principles of God that we have left the God who made the principals. As is says in the book of Revelation chapter 3 verse 17 of the Laodicean church, they thought they were in need of nothing. They thought they were rich and increased with goods and in reality Jesus said they were wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

Imagine thinking your at the top of your game when you are really at the bottom and almost out of the game. Yet Jesus clearly says if we repent we can get back to that place of fellowship with Him.

I am seeing that attitude begin once again to emerge in the body of Christ. Worshipers are beginning to heed the call and come back to that one on one that was lost years ago. They have learned a great lesson at a great cost and they are once again heeding the call back to God for He is seeking such to worship Him.