

Control and Manipulation

Have a read of **John 9v1-5**. Then go and have a read of **Luke 4v18-23**. There are 2 things I want you to think about here, from the book of John we see that a man is born blind, the disciples asked the question who sinned, him or the parents? Jesus reply was neither, now if we take away the commas and full stops, we can also read it something like this v3 *Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him* v4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work*. Jesus was not even replying that the man was blind so that God could be glorified, basically if it were today Jesus would have said something like, “such is life but watch the power of God work in this mans life regardless of how or why was born blind”.

Now when we read what Luke says, and also what Jesus said in Matthew 18v19, do you think that maybe you and I can lay hands on the sick and see them healed, that maybe you and I can also counsel someone with the word of God, ever stop to think that maybe we can even raise the dead, see the lame walk and so on? Ever think about that? I bet you have! There is also one thing that also stops us from doing any of this, and the main reason I have seen other than fear of nothing happening is Pastors or elders or people who are “high up” in the church say that you have to go to Bible school first, or you have to be a Christian for so many years, or who do you think you are we are the anointed ones of God to pray for the sick. You can’t do that!

Have you ever found yourself in this situation? I know I have and I know plenty of other people who have too, in one way I agree with them, if it is “their church” they believe that they have to “know you first” but for how long? It is just plain dumb control and manipulation so that the people see them as someone special or having the anointing or for whatever reason they might give. Yet, noone owns the streets! It is not their church, it your street, your home, your work place, your school, your children, your relatives, **YOU** pray for them! Unfortunately many churches are and their leaders are “power happy” and don’t want the “normal” people like you and me in the congregation to get any recognition that God can and does use us. I know of a good man of God who is a Pastor, he came to me one day and told me he had been invited to a large church to share his testimony, his senior Pastor told him he couldn’t go and that it should have been him that was invited. That man never went, he missed that opportunity regardless of me sharing with him that he needs to do what God has told him to do not man!

You and I don’t need a church building to pray for the sick, we don’t need a church building to preach the gospel, we need the Holy Spirit and his anointing. We don’t need Benny Hinns anointing or Kenneth Copeland or Billy Graham preaching anointing. We only need the Holy Spirit and God’s anointing, God’s word in our mouth and in our hearts, how many opportunities have you missed to possibly see God’s power work through you because someone told you, “You are not allowed to” or something similar. Jesus himself gives us the command in Matthew to “go”. Have you gone? It is a sad day when people are controlled and manipulated by “officials” but it is no different today than it was in the time when Jesus walked the earth in the flesh, have a read of Matt 5v20; Matt 12v12; Matt 23v13 and there are many more I could use to show you that Jesus hated everything about the pharisees and sadducees of his day. Is it any different today?

Why is the world so rampant with “New Age” teachings and followers? I will tell you why, because they promise the listener power and signs and wonders like tarot card reading comes to fruition, and palm reading shows people that there is a more real side to spirituality than they think. The church on the other hand very rarely offer anything like this, when was the last time you went out with your church into the streets and prayed for the sick without having to first jump through hoops and do back flips to be accepted? The kingdom of God is real my friends, and we need to learn how to tap into it and go and see a mighty move of God on the streets, who cares what church they go to after they get healed and saved as long as they love God and go somewhere and fellowship, isn’t that all that is required.

What is the kingdom of God? **Mark 4v30** talks about it being the word of God as a mustard seed that grows and produces fruit, so in other words, we go to church learn the word of God and put it into practice and see it happen. **Mark 15v43** shows us that it gives us boldness, **Luke 9v12** shows us to preach and heal the sick with the kingdom of God, **Luke 10v9** also shows us this, **Romans 14v17** shows us that the Kingdom of God is not all about a God bless me club, nor about people controlling each other either. **1Corinthians 4v20** is the ultimate verse we need. Have you got this in your Christian walk? If not don’t be depressed just make a choice decision and repent, tell God that the next opportunity you get to pray or share the word with someone you will do it, but make it a choice decision and don’t go back on it, and don’t let noone tell you that you can’t do it either because the word of God tells us that we can do all things through Christ (the anointing) which strengthens us Phillipians 4v13.

I went to a camp recently, all I wanted to do was get away for a while, I wasn’t even wearing my Bikers 4 Christ regalia but a lady knew me anyway and came and started talking to me, she told me about her partner being “Christian Orientated” and asked if I would talk to him. I didn’t particularly feel like it at the time but I had no choice she dragged me over to him anyway. We spent the next hour sharing the things of God, he had experienced some pretty full on things like death and angelic visitations, he was a catholic, and also an ex Vietnam Vet, he had a heap of questions that had never been answered and God had me meet with him to answer those questions. In reality, I could have got out of it by saying you need to go and talk to a Pastor or a preacher, I am not “qualified” which I am not by many standards, but that man received from God that night and also met a person who was willing to spend time with him without having to go to a church and be criticised which is what he had gotten before anyway. So are you ready to step away from being controlled and manipulated? God will use you, and you will be judged for it too by those who say you are not permitted to do anything.