The Deep Waters of the Holy Spirit

There is a song which we have been singing at the church we attend. I confess that I don’t know who wrote the song or its name, but some of the lines go like this: “Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, as I walk upon the waters, wherever you may call me”. Those are very serious words, and when offered in worship…..out of our own mouths…..are taken at face value by our Lord Jesus Christ.

 I remember, years ago, while attending what was called by many visiting pastors and prophets a “cutting edge” church, during worship singing songs, repeating over and over again, songs like “Refiner’s Fire, my hearts one desire, I want to be holy…set apart for You, Lord”. And many other songs, asking God to make me into someone else…….someone whom I thought was a new or better me. But Jesus isn’t asking us to become a newer better version of ourselves. He is asking us to be willing to let our natural, human, soulish self die. To go to the cross. To be crucified. So that we can give our bodies to Him as a living sacrifice. To let Jesus Christ become conceived within us to inhabit us and possess us for His purposes. This may seem radical to us, but Jesus spoke of this in John 16 & 17. In John 17:26 Jesus said: “I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for Me may be in them and that I Myself may be in them.”

In John 4, Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well and told her that “ a time was coming and had now come when true worshipers must worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth, because those are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” Well…….the time is here. It’s here and has been because, if Jesus said it had “now come” 2,000 years ago, how much more is it here now! In Romans 12:1 it says: “Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” We are talking “spiritual possession” here folks. And, since we don’t control spirits, but they control us, there is only One Spirit you want to invite into yourself……the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Truth.

What thinks it is “the church” and calls itself “The Church” is teaching us to give our “hearts” to Jesus. Our “heart” consists of our mind, will and emotions…..it is also called our “soul”. What this tends to do is separate our soul from our body, thereby leading us to believe that it is alright for us to live our “human” bodily life for ourselves, but to give our thoughts and some time on Sunday and some tithe money and some good deeds to God, with the thought that we will go to heaven when we die. In fact, in John 4, Jesus is telling the woman at the well that the Father is looking for a whole lot more than our souls someday when we die. He wants to restore relationship with us right here, right now so that we can give our whole body to Him for Him to inhabit while we are living in it here on earth……so that His Kingdom can come to earth as it is in heaven. After all, the Kingdom of God is within us. There will only be as much Kingdom of God in the earth as there are people who have the Kingdom of God within them.

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We may have given our heart to Jesus, have been filled with the Holy Spirit, speak in new tongues, prophesy, go to church and be involved in doing good deeds, and, yes, we will go to heaven when we die. But, if we are holding on to the lifestyle we don’t want to part with, think that the most important thing we have to pray for is our own provision, healing, and happiness and have not been willing to do whatever God has told us to do, we are only wading around in the very shallow waters of the Spirit. The Father is looking for those who are willing to swim in the waters of the Holy Spirit which are way over their heads. He is looking for those, who, like Peter, are willing to get “out of the boat” of their comfortable, predictable lifestyle……even during a raging storm…….and walk upon the waters of the sea of life, sons of God who are led by the Spirit of God. When is the last time we got out of our “boat”?

These waters are the waters that involve giving up to Jesus any and every right to ourselves and what we want for ourselves. He is looking for those who will lay down their lives in intercessory prayer along with Him, as He ever lives to make intercession for the saints. If it is a job that Jesus does, surely it is a job that is good enough for us. He is looking for those who will say “Send me, Lord” and really mean it, and put no conditions upon where or when or how we go. He is looking for those who will give the word of their testimony about what God has done for them and how they have seen Him work His wonders in their lives and the lives of others. He is looking for those who will not “love their lives unto death”….that is, be willing to let the life they are living for themselves die so they can gain the life they will live if they let Him live His life through them when they give their body as a living sacrifice to Him.

Relating back to when I have stood before the Lord in worship, singing songs of surrender and asking Him to refine me and give me trust without borders, I had no idea in those moments that I sang those words what the Lord would lead me into and through to refine me and to build my trust in Him until there were no borders……that is in “no limitations” to the circumstances. He began in the “shallow waters” of the Holy Spirit (that is, being led by the Holy Spirit) because He is kind and merciful and didn’t just “throw me in” to waters way over my head. I remember, when in a very difficult financial situation, going into my closet and closing the door and saying, “Lord my worst fears are not having enough money to pay the bills and not having any home. But, Lord, Your word says that You have not given me a spirit of fear, and that perfect love casts out all fear. So, Lord, I am asking You to deliver me from all of my fears in the presence of Your perfect love. I admit to You, Lord, that I am even afraid of what You might make me walk through in order to get me over my fears…….but, fear is the opposite of faith, and without faith it is impossible to please You……and I want You to know that I love You and want to please You…..so I will trust You to deliver me from all my fears, Lord.” It was a “scary” prayer, in my mind, but one that I knew I needed to pray.