

November 08

Dear Friend,

I am writing you today just one week after our presidential election. Since then I've had the opportunity to pray, reflect and even speak publically about what we watched unfold Tuesday, November 4th, 2008.

So what did we see? If you were a conservative with certain Christian values, those which earmarked this election (*like myself*), I'm sure you were disappointed. For some it was a monumental victory, a breakthrough for the civil and democratic system that we all hold dear here in America. What did we really see? I believe we saw a mindset come to maturity, a generation that has been raised without a revival in America. I am talking about a revival or a standard by which God is able to weave His moral ethics into the consciousness of even the unbeliever much less the "believing Christian." This country has been void of a national revival since the early part of the last century and it shows. The last great revivals were the ones that shaped the minds and hearts of our fathers and grandfathers. They were the ones who helped to put America back into prosperity after the great depression.

Why are revivals so necessary? Revivals are necessary not only for the spiritual benefits but for the overall health of our nation. Here is why. Something happens when God is allowed access into the pulpits and men of God follow Him in their hearts. Revival is a supernatural awakening from a spiritual lethargy. When the heart wakes up so does the mind. What revival accomplishes is that it begins to shape the minds of people not just in the core group but also those on the far fringes. Thus, the whole nation is affected. Why is it important for us to understand this? If we understand how God works with man we can also comprehend how His arch rival (*Satan*) works as well. We benefit by understanding how God's power works differently in dealing with mankind versus dealing with spirits of darkness. It is also vital for us to recognize the difference between what the Bible calls a stronghold and an actual spirit of darkness. **(II Corinthians 10:4) *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;*** We as preachers usually teach a personal application of this scripture. We teach that the spiritual equipping of the average saint has the power to destroy strongholds for them personally. A stronghold here by definition is a fortified city or position. We know by the example of the next verse that it is a fortified pattern of thought. ***Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*** **(II Corinthians 10:5)** So a stronghold is a system of thoughts or imaginations that are contrary to the knowledge of God (*which of course is the word of God or doctrinal truths*) and these patterns of thought bring the individual being exercised by it into captivity.

I believe this personal application holds true in essence to what Paul is teaching here but when we look at the bigger picture what do we see? Keeping it in context let's read verses 1 thru 3 of chapter ten. ***Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:***

Paul's apostleship and authority was being questioned by some in Corinth. Some were accusing him of usurping authority over the church according to a walk of the flesh. Paul's rebuttal was simple but powerful. He contributed his source of authority to that which could bring down strongholds or mindsets. In this authority we find the mind of Christ so dominant that it could repudiate the mindset of a city and/or a nation. This authority could demolish the intricate stronghold of a pagan society. This authority had the power to destroy the infrastructure of any belief system contrary to or conflicting with God's.

What people believe about any subject is made up of a system of thought that eventually will conclude in strongholds good or bad. It is upon this belief system that God goes to work to influence choice. God can not and will not contradict a person's will. A person's will is influenced of course by what they believe. So God has to begin to persuade, not force people into choices. This is why revival is so important. It begins to persuade or bend the hearts into the strongholds of God. Our Father could not override the wills of millions of young Americans at the polls on Election Day. There were young American Christians and non-Christians and yet their minds had been programmed by the systems of this world. There has been no real standard of truth in decades to interrupt or demolish the systems of thought this world has handed them. However, Friend there is hope. We like Paul can say what we have been equipped with can refit a nation for God. It does have the power to repudiate thought patterns that have been taught to our youth by the devil.

I know many of you were disappointed and somewhat perplexed? I know people prayed so hard that right choices would be made only to see things go another way in the end.

Always remember this; redemption was a final victory for us. The finality was for each individual who would accept Jesus' victory. ***And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)***

When the devil comes at me as an individual to try and put sickness, depression or poverty on me I can stop him in his tracks through the accomplished work of Jesus. This is a direct attack of which there is no question in God's mind what the outcome will be. When it comes to praying over the choices of other people this is different. Here we are not dealing with a spirit of darkness, we can directly override the will of a demon but we can not supersede the will of a person. Demons are defeated. People are still in a dispensation of choice and God will not override their wills.

The spiritual outpouring that we're asking God for is not political but will spill over into the arenas of every man's world. Remember where it starts (it is a warfare that is not carnal but mighty through God) my daily prayer life will prove itself much more powerful than my vote.

Now what?

It was interesting to me that the very scriptures that God gave to me Wednesday morning after the elections were the very ones He also gave some of my other ministry friends. Remember this; God saved the heart of the wicked king Nebuchadnezzar through the intercession of the prophet Daniel. God even included the personal testimony of this man's conversion in the canon of scriptures. ***Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase. (Daniel 4:37)***

Take a lesson from Daniel the prophet. He lived through a number of administrative changes in his life time. Some of them were terribly wicked but Daniel always seemed to "land on his feet."

He always excelled no matter who was in office. Was it because he had a relentless prayer life or was it because the Bible said he had an *excellent spirit*? I believe that both of these were true. ***(Daniel 6:3) Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*** Excellent spirit - meaning Daniel was not offended because he was a captive nor was he offended over who was in office. This is a great example to follow.

The other thing to remember Friend is ***(I Timothy 2:1-4) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*** Take note here that Paul's instruction was not given to a present day democratic society; these were pagan kings and dictators. These people had no hope of voting them out in four years; they were just instructed to pray. God can give us peace in our lives if we pray for our president elect. Notice that part of the instruction was to give thanks. I am thankful because I believe that our president elect will become the biggest disappointment to his liberal friends. Remember the high school couple that everyone said was a match made in heaven? He was the football star and she was the beauty queen and a year later they divorced? I give thanks by confession of faith towards God that our president elect rules from a godly perspective and that he is visited by the incumbent of heaven. This incumbent has been seated in His place of authority for the last two thousand years and will never be overthrown.

These are exciting times of “***change.***” Change truly **is** taking place. The Lord of heaven is getting ready to return. There had to be a generation existing on planet earth when all this took place and there had to be a generation on planet earth when the cup of evil came to full maturity. There had to be a generation living when the final showdown of good versus evil was staged and I believe we are that generation. Hallelujah!

In between all this is sandwiched the greatest outpouring of the spirit of God this world has ever witnessed and you and I get to watch and experience it. How great is that? I exhort you in this time of change to be of good courage.

Love,

Pastor Bronc

P.S. - The word says that we are to exhort one another daily while it is called today and that if two shall agree as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of our Father which is in heaven. If you have a prayer request or a praise report to share please let us hear from you. You can contact us through the web site at www.broncflint.org or email us at fpc@broncflint.org and/or feel free to write us at:

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