

Oh To Be Like Him

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

James Woodroof made this comment in his book entitled Four Realities, “Kingdom power does not lie in *ought*, but in *want*. *Ought*, as valuable as it is, represents, at best, *information*. *Want* speaks of transformation.” This is at the very core of our one another verses we are going through in Sunday morning bible class. So, what do I mean?

It goes without saying that many of us, if not most of us, know what we “ought” to do when it comes to our Christian walk and that includes personal involvement with each other. I would be willing to suggest that most of us are fairly adept to finding those “one another ought to verses” in scripture. Although necessary, these merely point us in the direction we “ought” to go. For each of us, we must answer the question, “How do I get there?” as well as “What is made available to motivate me?”

In previous lessons over the years, we have considered the POWER that is within all those who are in Christ Jesus. Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...” (Ephesians 3:20). Have you been seeking that power in an effort to apply the one another verses?

Well, there is another aspect that needs further discussion when we consider the POWER made available to us. For those who are in Christ, the Holy Spirit is at work within us and in conjunction with the word of God. How do they work together? I think the answer can be found in another of James Woodroof’s comments. He said, “Thus, when the Christian is involved in gazing with admiration at the magnificence of the Lord as revealed in the gospels, his search for this power to live the Christ-like life is complete, though not finished. Simply stated, *we become like what we love. We come to be what we worship.*” Consider it this way, the Holy Spirit is the artist at work, your mind is the clay being worked, and Jesus (God) is the object being molded into our minds.. As you embrace the Jesus found in the gospels (the Word of God), you enable the Holy Spirit to know what you “*want*” to become.

As we journey through the rest of the one another verses in our Sunday morning bible class, let’s remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit is showing us how to be Jesus. It makes sense then for us all to fix “*our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*” (Hebrews 12:2). Just imagine what would happen if we all, earnestly, fixed our eyes on Him.

Dennis