

NEWSLETTER No. 190, November 14, '07

"CHRIST, 'And Our Spiritual Funnel'"

"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Christ Jesus,"
John 1:17.

I don't want anyone to think I'm spiritualizing, here. A FUNNEL is SIMPLY, an illustration to be an example of how we receive grace and truth from Jesus. Later, in this Newsletter, we will use a funnel to illustrate New Covenant truths that emanate only from Jesus.

A funnel's **spout** (its pipe), if you can imagine, is to be fitted into the heart of each believer. But, the most important part of my funnel is the **cone**. That's because **only** what is in the cone portion can be graciously transferred to the heart.

Too many want to place other items in the cone or, pick one out and major upon it. But, remember, a funnel that goes to the heart, comes from Christ. His being and His Person are the only source. A true believer must trust in Him. Any particular doctrine must commence with Him and terminate in His being; or, faith is not faith, at all.

If we begin with the doctrine of man's lost condition (Ro 5), we clearly see, that natural man is **dead in his sins**. It is not possible for him to acquire spiritual information on his own. While, conviction leads to salvation, man has to have **something**, or **someone**, do the funneling of grace and truth. When man is connected to Jesus, salvation flows graciously, by the Holy Spirit.

VESSELS are mentioned many times in the Bible. Paul was a "**chosen vessel**" to preach the gospel (Acts 9:15). In 2 Corinthians 4:6,7, it says that we have the "**Light of the knowledge of God in the face of Christ**". Paul says that Knowledge comes to man while in the fleshly body. He considers it as a "**treasure in earthen vessels**."

I want to think of transferring grace and truth from Jesus, by using the idea of a funnel. **Funnels** make transfers easy, from one container to another, if we are talking about liquids. And, it usually is done without spillage.

Our Lord said that a transfer is definitely needed. He Spoke about it to His Church in John 14:17, "**...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive...He abides with you, and will be in you**" (Holy Spirit indwelt the church at Pentecost (Acts 2).

Jesus also explained how the Holy Spirit would operate, in John 16:14. "**He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.**"

Truth has to be transferred to man. Importantly, man has to transfer truth back to the Head, as he stands upon **Truth**, in **faith**. We know it's the Holy Spirit's work of transferring but, for illustration purposes, we will think of the transfer in terms of a funnel.

First, grace and truth flows from Christ. And, **secondly**, because faith is reciprocal, the **funnel** must be **inverted**. We turn it around, sending back to Christ, our faith in Him and, thank Him for sending truth to us.

Faith is reciprocal; not to be understood as equivalent, however. He said it. We believe it. All we do is, only believe and Truth does the work. We do not redo His work. We stand upon it and, as we stand, our humble and thankful heart is moved to respond in praise of Him, for sending His **TRUTH**.

FUNNELING THE TRUTH FROM CHRIST

In the **cone** portion of the funnel is where doctrine is carried. The cone is most important because it contains the truth that goes into the heart of man.

In the cone, we see justification, sanctification and reconciliation; along, with all other teachings of truth. There are no man-made teaches in the cone. We see church doctrines there. Doctrines of baptism and the Lord's Supper, just to name the pictorial ones.

As the Holy Spirit receives from the Son of God, He takes that truth and funnels it into believer's heart. Once placed, the truth remains alive by the power of the Holy Spirit.

But, only what is in the cone can be transferred. That cannot be over emphasized. The reason is, men want to take what they like (or, believe) and make it the basis of their faith; for example, baptism.

But, if we use baptism, at all, we have to define it. Baptism is a burial. Dead men are buried. We don't bury men to kill them and, we don't bury men with a spoon full of dirt.

Baptism buries those who are dead to sin (Ro 6), Baptism does not saved anyone from condemnation (hell). That's because Jesus is the Savior; not, doctrine. All teachings, within the cone, are funneled from His Person. Jesus is the One who accomplished our salvation.

Grace and Truth comes from Him, alone. Baptism may speak about what He did. It does not, however, describe who He; such as, the Eternal God, the Great I am, the Resurrection and Life, and so on.

THE HOLY SPIRIT FUNNELS BACK MAN'S FAITH

We certainly want to give glory to Christ. While, the location of praising Him is in the church (Eph 3:21), it is not location, alone, that matters. Truth is what counts. Thus, Scripture is clear that God is Spirit and, **"True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth," John 4:23**.

Worship and prayer are inseparable. So, if we believe in Christ, we must be sure to live in Christ. One text has Peter telling husbands to have knowledge of his wife. He says that husband and wife are **"heirs together of the grace of life"** (3:7). But, Peter attaches, **"that your prayers not be hindered."**

Our spirits, therefore, have to be in tune with the Person of Christ; not, merely some doctrine of His. In other words, all that the cone holds - all that is in the cone, is there for men to receive or, reject. But, we will be held accountable.

Brother Peter adds a warning to his instruction. **"...beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from you own steadfastness," 2 Peter 3:17**.

When we worship in spirit (our spirit) and in truth (His truth), we grow. Peter, once again, "But **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," 3:18.

The Holy Spirit takes of Jesus Christ - His work and teaching, and imparts truth to us. But, there's more. He also enacts each law of the New Covenant. If we receive the truth of, let's say; love, we should walk in its completion. It may take time, but Love is there for us to grow; both, in Him and toward one another.

One more important point: we should know that all Spiritual laws were unleashed by the work of Christ. But, before the power (Grk. *dunamis*, as in dynamite) that is behind each released law can work, it must be received, by faith, within our hearts. A believer is justified but, if he isn't assembling, he does not have the liberty that is promised. We have to walk in the light - all of it.

We should, **absolutely** look at the **transfer of salvation** as having its "charismatic joy." At the same time, we should understand that the transfer of each truth came with energized power. Truth, not only becomes transferred to us in word - a doctrine that we believe, but His transferred work provides the power that we need to "stand for the truth, once and for all delivered to the saints," Jude 3.