

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).

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FULL-GROWN CHRISTIANS

Johnie Edwards

God expects His people to grow. Peter said, *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"* (1 Pet. 2:2). Again he said, *"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..."* (2 Pet. 3:18). Let's notice some things about full-grown Christians.

FULL-GROWN CHRISTIANS HAVE CONVICTIONS.

Christians must not be as Paul said, *"tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine"* (Eph. 4:14). To have convictions is to be *"grounded and settled"* (Col. 1:23). We must have our feet on the ground and know why we believe what we do.

FULL-GROWN CHRISTIANS ARE FAITH CONTENDERS.

Jude said, *"...that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3). We must be ready and able to stand up for the truth. We must know how to answer men concerning our hope.

FULL-GROWN CHRISTIANS PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS.

Paul said, *"when I became a man, I put away childish things"* (1 Cor. 13:11). We are

admonished to *"quit you like men..."* (1 Cor. 16:13). This means to behave like a man! When members of the church pout and just have to have their own way, it is a good sign that they need to grow up.

FULL-GROWN CHRISTIANS ARE STRONG. It is a command of God to be strong (1 Cor. 16:13). Paul said, *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might"* (Eph. 6:10). One way to be strong is to eat the right kind of spiritual food (Mt. 4:4) and exercise ourselves unto godliness (Heb. 5:14).

FULL-GROWN CHRISTIANS ARE CHRIST LIKE. We are told to have the *"mind of Christ"* (Phil. 2:5-8). We have been told to *"follow his steps"* (1 Pet. 2:21). We must continue to ask ourselves, "What would Christ do or what would He say?"

FULL-GROWN CHRISTIANS HAVE INFLUENCE. Influence is either for good or bad. Christians have good influence! Their lights are shining for good (Mt. 5:16). Their lives are ordered after the New Testament way of life. Are you growing daily?

Folks have all kinds of ideas as to how faith is produced in their hearts. Some believe that they have to pray for faith and then God gives them faith as a result of prayer. The Bible does not teach this! One fellow was heard to say as he played golf, "God I will believe if I hit a hole-in-one." He did and then he believed! Some base their faith on feelings or some kind of experience they have in life and the list goes on. Did you ever study the Bible to see how faith comes? Let's take a look.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). On the day of Pentecost the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached and the Scriptures say, *"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* (Acts 2:37). These people were motivated by what they heard!

THE JAILOR AT PHILIPPI HAD TO HEAR. The jailor asked, *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house"* (Acts 16:30-31). Now take your Bible and please read Acts 16:32. *"And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his*

HOW FAITH COMES

Johnie Edwards

house.” Ever wonder why they spoke the word of God to these folks? So they could believe, that is why! After hearing the word of God they obeyed it (Acts 16:33-34).

THE REASON FOR MIRACLES AND SIGNS. Do you really know why our Lord and the apostles performed signs and miracles? It was to convince the hearer that the people were speaking the message of God. *“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”* (Jn. 20:30-31). As we read of these signs and miracles the Lord performed, it produces faith in our lives. But we must read and study the Bible in order to believe. Paul said, *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3:4).

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT WORK TODAY?

John Edwards

Does the Holy Spirit influence in the Word or out of it? It is not a question of how He has worked in the past, but how does He operate today — directly or indirectly; personally or representatively?

THE BIBLE IS ALL WE NEED. If the Holy Spirit operates on man today apart from the Bible, the word of God, then the Bible would not be all-sufficient. Paul affirmed, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Nothing more than the Bible is needed.

EVERYTHING THE SPIRIT IS SAID TO DO, THE WORD DOES. You show me a passage that tells something the Spirit is said to do, and I’ll show you a passage that says the word does the same thing. This proves the Spirit works through the medium of the word. Spiritual begetting (Jas. 1:18), spiritual birth (1 Pet. 1:23), quickening of the heart (Ps. 119:50), cleansing of the soul (Eph.

5:26), purification of the soul (1 Pet. 1:22), saving of the soul (Jas. 1:21-22), justification (Rom. 2:13), guidance (Ps. 73:24), growth of the Christian (1 Pet. 2:2), bringing forth of fruit (Col. 1:5-6), source of spiritual strength (Acts 20:32), comforting of the bereaved (1 Th. 4:18), and sanctification (Jn. 17:17) are all accomplished through the word. If the Holy Spirit operates directly upon man out of the word, just what does He do that is not affirmed of the word?

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS THE WORD OF GOD.

The instrument used by the Holy Spirit in influencing men to do the will of God is the word of God as Paul said, *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph. 6:17). The Spirit wielded the sword on the day of Pentecost when, through the preaching of the word, men were pricked in their heart (Acts 2:37). It was through the preaching of the Spirit revealed word that Stephen’s accusers were *“cut to the heart”* (Acts 7:54).

**GOSPEL MEETING!!
APRIL 16-21**

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Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



***We Speak Where the
Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the
Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in
Bible Ways.***

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