

Visions and Revelations Message 2: "The Change of the Age"

As Christians we all want to strive to follow God's commandments as best as we can. The question is, how does God want us to achieve this in the Age of Grace? In the Old Covenant, man was on his own in his pursuit of following the Law. But today we are blessed, because we have the indwelling Lord who is operating within us. However, even as a "good Christian" we sometimes end up striving to please God out of our own outward efforts. For example, if I want to give up smoking, then I may feel that I need to improve myself and improve my discipline. This is not how it should be done, because if I try to quit out of my own strength it will lead to failure. Instead, if I want to give up smoking (or any sin for that matter), then I just need to pursue the Lord more. I need to learn to lean on and depend on Him as the source of my strength. I need to give the sin of smoking to the Lord and allow him to work on me. This may not happen overnight, but as I pursue him more, love him more, and know him more, it will spontaneously happen through his transforming work within me. Sometimes as Christians we can be impatient. We want the Lord to change us right away. Instead we need to learn to wait on him, spend more time with Him, allow our love to grow towards Him, and pursue him more each and every day.

Brothers and sisters, most of us know what things to do to pursue the Lord. We spend time with the Lord, we talk to Him, we read His Word, we fellowship with other believers. The question for us is, do we have a desire to do these things, or is it just a duty? In the Old Covenant, man had a duty to do a lot of things to please God. Today, in order to please God, we need to have a desire to be with Him. It's not about what we do, but why we're doing it. Am I reading the Bible because I think I have to, or because I want to? Am I showing up on Sunday morning to keep up appearances, or am I there because there's nowhere else I'd rather be? The Lord always has a desire to be with us, and we need to have a desire to be with him. The more we live by the Spirit, the more desire we will have. As Brother Titus said, "Where is God? In my spirit. Where is he living? In my spirit. What he is doing? Operating in my spirit". Brothers and sisters, in order to please God and better follow His commandments we need to be focused on our spirit and God's Spirit living inside us. As long as we do this, everything else will take care of itself.