

PRAYER

2000 Years ago Jesus came to redeem for Himself a bride who was to prepare herself for a wedding and great coronation. Corporately she was HIS bride and HIS body who was to be without spot or wrinkle as she approached that day. Her cleansing was to be accomplished by the *“washing of the water of the word (rhea)”* [Eph.5:26] which is the Greek word used for the spoken – “now word” of the Lord – rather than (*logos*) which is the word used for a more comprehensive instruction or creed.

Both *“rhema”* and *“logos”* are used in the Scriptures, but there is this slight but important nuance in the use of the words. She is prepared by the *“now word”* – the more personal whisper of her LORD.

As we share with people in our world we sometimes need to instruct them with the *“logos”* or the general instructions of Scripture. Sometimes, we may be used of God to speak a *“rhema”* to them. Both types of counsel and instruction are useful, but it is when the *“logos”* becomes *“rhema”* to the individual that real faith occurs and change is made possible. [Rom.10:17]

As you know the law or the general counsel of God brings death with it. **It is the Spirit Who give life** through a present tense instruction or “now word” of God. [2Cor.3:6] Both the law [or the general counsel - the “logos”] of God and the Spirit breathed [“rhema”] – the now – whispered word of God are important and necessary. We need both for our own spiritual health and growth. Both are needed by those in our world.

It’s about prayer....

In the first 300 years of the Christian faith, Christians reached into the entire then known world beginning by radically impacted the entire Roman Empire. In spite of huge persecution, Christianity had replaced many of the gods of the empire and huge numbers of the population were swept into the kingdom. Except for the Holy Spirit, there was no hierarchy of power directing or ruling the church during this period of huge expansion. The church grew as newborn Christians evangelized their personal worlds. The printed page was rare, and among those who received the Savior during those early years, only a few could read. Still, the church grew in numbers and in spiritual vitality. The *“logos of God”* was carried and taught by humble, mostly uneducated servants of Christ. The *“reHEMA of God”* worked it’s life and purpose into the lives of hundreds of thousands and the church grew. The *“washing of the water of the word (rhema)”* accomplished the purposes of God in His people. [Eph.5:26] .

It’s about prayer....

Then Constantine and other power brokers built a hierarchy to protect the Bride of Christ from heresy and to establish creeds to maintain the purity of the believer. Their control began leaching death to the living organism, the Church, which up to that time the Spirit had birthed, nurtured, and protected.

Those same conflicts and controls exist today but we are “*servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.... Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate*” [2Cor.3:7,6] We are ministers of the Holy Spirit Who gives life through the “*washing of the water of the word (rhema)*”. It is through the *rhema* that God releases health, growth, life, and fruit for the Church.

Now, as we minister to those in our world, are “... *we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain....*”

We are ambassadors who working together with Him, *appeal*, *beg*, and *urge* . We do not manipulate or control or attempt to rule by some man-defined authority - we beg by the Spirit. We appeal and beg because we are the servants of the Servant of all. And we pray... Kingdom work is God’s work – it is the work of Holy Spirit – so we pray.

It’s about prayer....

“*For this reason also, since the day we heard of your faith, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*” [Col.2:9-14]

We pray because it is NOT ABOUT US. The **Father** rescued us, the **Father** transferred us into His kingdom, the **Father** is at work within us “*both to will and do HIS good pleasure*”. [Phil.2:13] As we receive His *rhema* and we are “*filled*” - “*FILLED*” with His *knowledge* and *spiritual wisdom*”. And when we are FILLED, there is no room for the wisdom of the world or selfish ambition.

But even the *rhema* given to us personally by the Spirit may be ignored, and often is.

Each *rhema* could also be embraced and thus released to accomplish HIS purpose.

We all have both ignored or embraced His *rhema* on different occasions, but God will not force us to receive or act on HIS *rhema* even though it could enable us to know truth, believe, walk, grow spiritually, and bear fruit. He speaks and then we choose while HE waits.

Likewise when we counsel [*logos*] people or, on those occasions when we release the “*rhema*” of God – we then need to release them to choose for themselves. We do not control,

manipulate, or press the truth; we release them even as God releases us. Then its all in God's faithful and loving hands.

So as we listen, we pray - we pray for ourselves and for those in our worlds and then we wait.

It's about prayer....
...and a loving and faithful God.