



From the National President's Desk

2019 – The year of great things, in the Spirit of God, for all those who love Him. Are you ready for the wave of the Holy Spirit that is about to sweep across our nation? This is our time to move. I wanted to study and write an article on spiritual gifts, **1Corinthians 12:1-11**. Now, as I started to edge my way into the subject matter I referenced **1Corinthians 2:1-16** and God started to show me things about the times in which we live and what the true power of the Holy Spirit is all about, and how we come so short of God's best as we sojourn here on earth.

Before we can receive and indeed operate properly in any of the spiritual gifts, we need a far better understanding of the wisdom of God in His great work of redemption, plus His purpose for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and now in this day, on our generation. You must understand that there has been a stirring in my spirit as the old year was closing and the New Year opening.

2 Corinthians 5:5b KJV makes this statement "God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." The word 'earnest' is an old Phoenician word used by the Greeks and was about money, pledges; much like our words 'deposit' or 'down payment', with the promise of more to come – and I believe there is a lot more to come for those who walk in the Spirit. On the day of Pentecost God poured out His Spirit on those in the upper room; it was great for their day and the purpose of God, Peter preached and 3000 men came to salvation. Wow! But that was only the deposit; greater will be the power of God in our day. You want a training text for FGBMFI?

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 would be the one I would choose, for it reads like Paul is telling us what God has in store for us who want more of God, the Holy Spirit and the power of God. Yes! This text takes us back to the basic instructions of our ministry. We have had more sermons by fine eloquent orators and well trained men trapping our imaginations by ear pleasing rhetoric, but has it motivated us out into the harvest fields for souls? No! Paul's mission was to declare unto the Corinthians the testimony of God. The Greek word used here for testimony is "Marturion" meaning the witness of God, which the testifier brings forth in his message based on the reality of his own life experiences

in the things of God. His knowledge being gleaned in part from real encounters with God and presented as irrefutable proof. The gospel is preached as a sequence of events, presented as actual and practical truth, and a declaration of facts, in an attempt to convince the hearer of the reality of God and man's need for salvation.

The centre of Paul's message was Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and he was determined to present it in such a way that the carnal Corinthians would understand God's wonderful works of redemption in and through Christ Jesus. In the third verse Paul sates that he "*was with them in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling*".

Why? Well before coming to Corinth according to **Acts 17:16-34**, Paul delivered his Areopagus address, that one to the unknown God; sadly only 4 or 5 souls were saved and Paul continued on to Corinth. Corinth was so named because it was the city of fornication and full of sin. It was one of the most wicked cities of ancient times, boasting a temple which offered a thousand prostitutes both male and female. Paul's fear was not the people, but more his God-given responsibility for the lost souls of that city. Would they receive the gospel message he was compelled to deliver? The fear that each and every lost soul was going to a Christless eternity and under the judgment of God to the lake of fire, to be tormented forever and ever.

Let's put ourselves in that situation. Our cities are full of sin, maybe even worse than Corinth with the numbers of abortions performed each year. How would we handle things in a godly manner? I would take a leaf out of Paul's testimony. He possessed a sense of protectiveness over souls even to godly jealousy; and a deep sense of his own weakness causing the fear and trembling. In Athens he was called a babblers; one that couldn't speak clearly, so here in Corinth he says "*My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*"

When we as Full Gospel Businessmen are preparing our testimonies, we should be of the same mind as Paul and ask God to put His power behind our speech, that the power of God might be in our message and souls are saved for His glory. Have a great year, all you empowered fishers of men.

Len.



Coffee & Conversation with James

Another true story from the experiences of a long-time member and friend.

Submitted by Ron Oastler

The Marina Promenade and the Foreshore Reserve always seem to be somewhat magnetic. They draw people, regardless of the weather. Today was no exception.

Our table had a view along the lovely sandy beach by the Foreshore Reserve, and we could see a man and a teenage lass, probably father and daughter. He was apparently giving her a 'fishing lesson'. We could see what appeared to be the series of steps in the process, including attaching the hook and sinker, baiting the hook, casting, gently trolling the line back into the beach and then ... sensing the line for any fish that may be attacking the bait.

The young lady was obviously keen and was diligently following his instructions intently. She practiced it all a number of times and then it came her turn to 'do it for real'. It took several casts and subsequent trolling of the line before some limited success ... bait taken but no catch! After some further attempts ... bait taken **plus** a catch! It was small, but legal size. What excitement.

It really was fascinating to watch. James thoroughly enjoyed it all, as though he was watching a Three Act Play!

'There are so many Life Lessons to be learned from situations such as we are witnessing:' James observed, 'the desire of the pupil to learn plus their perseverance in practice, the willingness to teach coupled with the experience of the tutor. Not to overlook the 'How to ...' that has been handed down and virtually inherited by the tutor.'

I am always amazed at the insight that James draws from a simple situation ... and of course I must admit that I always expect a direct connection with one of his own life experiences. Sure enough ...

'This clearly brings to mind that wonderful Scripture in Matthew 4:19, does it not?' James posited. "*Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.*" Ah, when we really follow Him we can expect Him to help us to become "*fishers of men*". But what folk do not always realise is just how our Lord



accomplishes this within us.'

James was apparently about to connect the Father and Daughter scenario - that we were watching right here - with the promise of Jesus to make us "fishers of men". However, before he did so he established a clear caveat.

'No eternal work of redemption may be accomplished without the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit- and that requires His working in and through us,' James declared. 'That applies to our own Salvation as well as to our fulfilling of The Great Commission of Matthew 28:19, 20 "Go therefore and make disciples..." in the name, the authority and the power of God.'

'Now, you may remember a short discussion you and I once had about the basic reasons why folk are not being fishers of men.' James continued. 'Those reasons are *indifference, inhibition and inability*, with the solutions being: catching the "Vision" - seeking the "Anointing" of The Holy Spirit and - learning the "How to" of fishing for men.'

'What we are seeing here, with the father and daughter, is a practicum - and it follows a basic model. You tell them how, you show them how, you let them try and you reinforce or redirect their efforts.'

James was on a roll with his expertise as a consultant, but not before a final word, 'Jesus demonstrated this so perfectly when, having taught The Twelve, having demonstrated "the way", he sent them out to experience it themselves as we read in Mark 6:7.'

'I had the privilege' James continued, without drawing breath, 'of running a practicum in Newcastle, for the men of our Fellowship. They were all committed Christians who were endeavouring to walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. They all had a desire to be *fishers of men*, fulfilling The Great Commission. What they were looking for now was the How to of being a *fisher of men*. Included in the group was a lady who was a high-school teacher in the Hunter Area who was a friend of the Chapter President. She told me that she had shared faith with many students but never had seen any of them come to know Christ - she wanted to learn more.'

'Well,' said James, launching into his narrative, 'with an early start, we had a good half day to get folk started on this important undertaking. In four steps we covered the Principles, the Preparation, the Process and the Practice - much like the fishing lesson we were observing on the beach here.'

'The *Principles* included the 'Power of a Testimony' that is scripturally based, the "Power of Expectation" based on faith, and the "Power of Encouragement" based on our ambassadorial role.

'The *Preparation* included preparing a *testimony outline* that can be shared briefly or more fully, that covers the situation before your commitment to Christ, how you came to know Him and the situation now. Preparation also includes having our heart ready every day, that is ready to 'go fishing' - that our relationship with our Lord plus an alertness to the opportunities that are there.'

'For the *Process*, we covered a comfortable approach to actually presenting the Gospel - that is based on the Scriptures and clearly linked to them.'

'Finally, the *Practice*. Basically, we practiced on each other ... getting used to sharing testimony, to talking about God's plan of salvation, to encouraging someone to respond to God's call to reconciliation.'

'These wonderful folk left the session that day with an increased comfort level about sharing faith and fulfilling the real role of an ambassador for Christ. That was all good. But the most wonderful thing for me happened some week or so later. I received a lovely 'thank-you' letter from the lady high-school teacher, telling me that within a week she had led her first student to faith in Christ. She felt so blessed - and of course, so did I. What greater joy than being an ambassador, fulfilling the Great Commission, sharing faith effectively and seeing someone come to faith in Christ and being reconciled to the Father. Yes!'



How to Fan the Flame that God has Placed in You

- By JB Cachilla

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." (2 Timothy 1:6)

We believers are told to fan the flame that God has placed in us. We are told to stir up the gift that is placed in us so we can serve the Lord with all our might. When we do that, we will be able to do so much more for the Lord in His Kingdom. That said, how do we fan that flame? How do we cause it to grow larger and larger, that it gets to bring warmth to many who are getting cold?

Fanning the flame - In the verse indicated at the top of this article, we read that the apostle Paul was reminding Timothy of something very important: stirring up the gift of God in him. Many Christians do this the wrong way, simply because they don't know how to. Some Christians think it's through some sort of emotional (even mystical) event where everyone cries while the minister is praying for them or speaking some declarations over them. While God does bring us to tears sometimes when He ministers to us, crying (and many other emotional expressions) is not a sure sign that a flame is being fanned. Some others think it's by joining a group of passionate Christians. While that may be helpful indeed, some Christians who don't know or understand God's individual plan for them yet will end up carrying someone else's flame.

To help us understand what it takes to fan the flame, let's look at what is needed to make a fire:

1) Fuel - God's word - First, we'll need something to burn. If we want to keep God's flames burning bright inside of us, we'll need His word to keep it burning. Why God's word?

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

The Lord Jesus Himself said that only those things that the Father shows or tells Him to do are the things that He does:

"Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for



January 2019 Newsletter

whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." (John 5:19)

If Jesus is like that, then we should be like that too.

2) Heat - God's Love

Next, we'll need heat to burn the fuel. For this, we need the love of God and His compassion for everyone. We can have the gifts but if we don't have God's love, these gifts won't be used for His purposes. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 tells us,

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing."

3) Oxygen - God's Holy Spirit

Lastly, we'll need an oxidizer or ambient air to allow the heat to burn the fuel. Without this component, fire will be extinguished. For this, we'll need the Spirit of God to allow us to grow in faith and love. The enemy strives to extinguish the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, because he knows that if the Spirit of God succeeds in doing His work in us, we will be very fruitful for the Lord's purposes.

So why do we need the Holy Spirit to fan the flames that God has placed in us? It's because these gifts are from Him.

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

God's Spirit is there to allow us to live the Christian life successfully. Without Him, we won't make it: - *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." (see Zechariah 4:6)*

In closing - Friends, let us fan the flame that God has placed in us. It's His gift, but it's our responsibility to make it grow with His help.

2019

Spiritual Oversight

Ron Oastler



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"His Banner Over Us is Love"

Membership



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (Australia) is open to all men who wish to be part of this vibrant organisation, who have a heart to reach others and bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. You must read and understand our Doctrinal Statement and be willing to serve as a chapter member giving of your time and expertise.

Please return your completed membership application (along with our doctrinal statement) form our **Membership** Director, Daniel Wright - PO Box 129 Taigum Qld 4018. Telephone: 0404 004 946. Membership forms can be printed from our website: fgbfiaustralia.com

Membership fees are \$100.00 per annum. To have an effective Fellowship we need all members to pay their dues to fund the ongoing expenses of the Fellowship as per the budget approved by the National Board. Being paid up members of the Fellowship is important and all personnel should hold their membership as significant and of value. Being members allows you to experience all the benefits that are associated with the organisation including being able to vote and have your say at the appropriate time. If you have no chapter in your area or it is not functioning your membership will be held as a National member. Those already in an active chapter will also be National Members and then chapter members. This way all members are included and not overlooked when information is being passed on.



INTERNATIONAL Our Mission

FGBMFI is one of the largest Christian business organizations in the world. Founded in 1953, we are in 142 nations - meeting in over 7,000 chapters. Our members and leaders include every race, culture, social status and language.

By God's grace, we connect people with opportunities to reach out and help others find a better life and work together to build better communities.

We do this by:

Calling people back to God...

There is a better life by following Jesus Christ.

Promoting integrity and good character...

Being a reflection of God to our world.

Participating in God's good work...

Releasing gifts, talents and resources to help others.

Working together to build better cities & nations...

Impacting our leaders and our culture.

Taking the message of God's love to every family...

A true grass roots effort that is changing the world.

"The mandate from God is that we break the chains of despair in the world. Our mandate is to destroy the isolation of loneliness, and link the world to God!"

Demos Shakarian, Founder



"It is our destiny to lift up God in every business center, every marketplace, every government center and university... every nation, city, town and crossroads of the world. People of faith, shining with God's glory, bringing the uplifting message of God's power... reaching out, helping, encouraging and lifting. Today, through our efforts, we believe that over 2 million people come to God each year."



International President Mario Garcia



Testimony: God's Grace, Love & Peace – from Michael Welsh Batemans Bay NSW

On 22nd November 2017 Wednesday morning I did my usual 6 km run on the beach, and was nearly finished when I felt a slight pull in my right calf muscle. I stopped to rub my calf muscle and thought no more about it. On Friday 24th I did my usual one hour work out in the gym and finished to go home and have a shower, breakfast and then go to work.

Now on Sunday 26th November I woke up feeling good all day, about 4:30pm I had a sharp pain on the right side of my body. It felt very strange and after a little rub down the pain seem to go. About 5:30pm my whole right side shut down and I could not breathe. It was like a thousand knives going into me. I cried out to my wife Josephine; she came running in and asked what's wrong and she saw that I was in great pain. I asked her to take me to the hospital – we went by car but there was no way I could put a seatbelt on. When we arrived at the hospital a man came out from the front door and I shouted to him to help us. I could not walk and went to the outpatients. I collapsed and the doctor and two nurses rushed me in, they thought I had the flu. My wife asked them to take my temperature. I went straight in to intensive care and was screaming with pain.

On Monday 27th November my doctor came and sent me by ambulance to Moruya NSW for scans on the right lung and when the results came back my doctor sent them to Canberra.

Tuesday 28th November about 11:00am my wife was beside my bed and the doctor said that the whole of my right lung was full of blood clots. I could not believe it. I asked him where they came from and he said he did not know. I was crying and very upset.

Tuesday was a very heavy day for us but we trusted God. I said to Josephine, "Ask the nurse if you can stay the night" and she said "yes". I said to Josephine that we needed to inform our families so we did. By 6:30pm that evening I told Josephine I was slipping. She held my hand and I closed my eyes, went to sleep then I woke up, not in bed but standing on a white road. At the end of the road I saw a beautiful sunrise coming towards me and I knew it was the lord Jesus. In myself I surrendered; the love and peace that came from Him was amazing and just went all around me filling me through and through.

Wednesday 29th November, I woke up knowing something had happened inside of me. Josephine was holding my hand and she asked me what happened. I told her and she smiled, then she gave me a prayer healing book. I came to the second last one, Isaiah Chapter 58 Verse 8. 'Then your light shall break forth like the morning your healing shall spring forth speedily and you righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the lord shall be your rear-guard'. I read the scripture late Wednesday evening, on the same day the doctor sent me back to Moruya. Once again more scans, this time on my right calf and knee. The results came back – they located the problem, it had all started behind my knee with the clots travelling up through my right lung.

Thursday 30th November, the nurse came in and started injections into my stomach with warfarin. Waiting around all that Thursday, all the pain that I was suffering was gone.

Friday 1st December, my wife came in about 7:30 am and we started to pray. I asked Josephine to stay just a little while longer so she did. The doctor came in and he was amazed. He told me I could go home now because I was healing well and he was very happy with my progress.

Saturday 2nd December, I went back to work. Be blessed all of you, he is faithful and true, he will never leave us nor forsake us.

Michael Welsh