

Stability is Good

by Pastor Jason Silver / Kimberley Foursquare Fellowship

Stability is good. That which I'm referring to is being a part of a solid Bible-believing local church that strives to focus only on revealed scripture as a whole. That is the power of the Word of God and the Spirit of God together. The Spirit inspired the scripture; He will not act contrary to it.

However, we live in a day when some charismatic movements are starting to stray from the written word of God giving themselves over to esoteric mystical experience instead. There's a lot of weirdness coming into the mix. We see some groups stirring up extra-biblical activities based solely upon seeking experiences and it's splitting churches, breaking up all kinds of relationships including marriages, and creating elitism's. (ie. I hear God better than you.) The thought pattern seems to be, "If the Pastor isn't lining up with the next new experience, then he must be missing it, so I guess I'll leave the Church."

Yet it's the Pastor's of these Churches that stand fast on the Word of God and remain time after time, while the ones that are all about mystical experience come and go like the wind. As soon as the experiences (or the wind) wane, people leave, because their "so called faith" was based upon whether or not they had an experience or not. They have no patience for sitting under the teaching of the Word of God; they just want to get to the experience. So they go to the next place that promises an experience. And if they don't find one, well they'll start their own.

The truth is that our experiences need to come under the authority and immutability of the Word of God, not the other way around. Many people who pursued God in scripture had a spiritual encounter that touched them physically, yet they were not pursuing the experience itself, they were pursuing God. Jacob wasn't pursuing a vision when he saw the ladder to heaven; He was pursuing God and His blessing. And in His pursuit God initiated an experience. So if I have an experience in my pursuit of God then I have an experience, but if I don't, my faith will not falter. The scriptures are very clear that we "walk by faith" not experience. My walk as a believer is, and always should be, directed by my faith not my feelings. My goodness, a walk directed by feelings would be all over the map wouldn't it? Maybe that's why some of these groups focused on experience really are all over the map. They go from one place promising experience to the next place promising a better one with "new revelation".

We don't need a new revelation, we haven't even gotten a hold of the truth we already have in the Word of God! If we did, more of the harvest would be coming in.

You can be sure that these groups will not endure nor celebrate messages of perseverance, suffering, hardships or persecution. Yet the scripture promises us that salvation awaits only those who "persevere" to the end. Paul and Silas walked away from a physical beating only to celebrate that they had shared in the same type of suffering as Jesus! Now that's faith! That is stability, and stability is good!