

Born with Identity
Part 1: Word and Spirit People, First and Foremost!
Slide Notations

When our uniqueness meets God purposes... we will all rejoice!

Life begins with a simple "boy" or "girl" identification and then we all wait and see what unique things each person "unpacks..." It's exactly the same at our new birth... we watch and see what identity God has created for each of us to fulfill!

It's "vitaly" important for us to know who we are in Christ and who we are as His body!

Phil 3.1 I am not slow, nor hesitant, to remind you of the same things over and over, in fact, for you it is security and a guard against failure!

Before Anything Else... Our identity as believers in Jesus begins *with the Word and the Spirit!*

We can call ourselves Christians...

And only mean that we are Western vs. Middle/Eastern born... (*societal*)

And be consumer-only's... (*cultural*)

And develop a Word based life to become Contributors... (*natural*)

Before Anything Else... Our identity as the Church of Jesus comes from the Word and the Spirit!

w/o the Word we are nothing more than a gathering of people...

w/o the Spirit we are nothing more than a gathering of religious people!

The Word! Banker's cliché: Teach tellers how to detect counterfeit bills by having them handle lots of the real thing! We must know the Word so that when we hear something that sounds like it... We'll know if it's only a *sound-alike!*

Far too often sound-alikes are accepted as the real thing!

facebook... *"Heaven is here now. He's all around us. Heaven is Jesus, its the moments we meet!"* Me: "heaven is much better than this... and Jesus is much better than heaven... For being with Him, in heaven, there are no human expressions or comparisons!" (At this point we found out it was a new song lyric from Kim Walker!) K: I remember at a satellite Worship Conf at Life a couple of years ago: Darlene Zschech was being interviewed by Jack Hayford about the process through which Hillsong writes, uses, and records songs. She said one of the tests songs have to pass through church leadership is sound doctrine. Me: Of course we understand Kim's meaning: she thinks it's heavenly, great, wonderful, divine, when Jesus shows up during our worship times... but the key here is "we". We understand it because we get it - we feel it - but to the uninitiated, these are the kinds of things that lead people astray, and worse, they are the perfect illustration of the danger of 'christian speak' and a look at why the world doesn't get us. Outside the context of knowing it was a lyric, it was a potentially hazardous piece of theology. *For us, not a problem, people who know the word instantly line up or resist what is being spoken about the Kingdom of God...* but people who have no context or content... hello Oprah!

How many people are accepting the lyric as ok and singing it just because it came from Kim Walker?

email... 'I was doing a Google search of churches in the Angleton, TX area for a couple of friends and I came across your web-site. Your church community sounds wonderful.' 'I have one simple question,

are you open and affirming?' 'In other words would a gay couple be welcomed?'

Me: "We are open to people from all backgrounds knowing Jesus accepts us for who we are and calls us forward to be transformed into His image. That means that we can only affirm lifestyles that the Word defines. The issue of sexual preference and activity outside the marriage relationship of a man and woman could not be affirmed by us and still maintain the strength of His visitation among us. What has made our church community as great as it is - is that we operate solely from His word."

Thank you for your quick and honest response. I appreciate that. You and I may disagree but that's what makes this America. The Jesus I've come to know and love in the years since I converted from Judaism loves everyone equally with no conditions.

This is a Savior and Lord issue! Everyone wants Him as a Savior... but few want Him as Lord! When He is Lord then there is a responsibility to do what He says!

For us, life must be viewed, based and lived solely on the Word to be valid and validated by the Holy Spirit!

The Word! Is our sustenance! "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!" Mt4.4 "The words that I speak are spirit and life!" J6.63 "I found Your words and I ate them and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart for I am called by Your name!" Jer 15.16

Sustenance... What we must have to feel strong/ alive... If not the Word, not being sustained; kept, maintained, provided for, supported... Only subsisting; bare existence, merely kept alive... If not the sustaining Word, must be brought out and destroyed! A19.18ff

Would you leave poison/pantry? Pass it on to friends/sell garage sale?

The Word! Word based followers are very familiar with the Word of God! Source of faith! R10.17 Fountain of knowledge/wisdom/ prosperity/life! Ps1.1-3 Pr13.13,14 J6.63 Time to study! 2T2.15 Diligence to receive! Heb11.6 But more important to show it than to quote it! Mt23.27

Heart of Jesus revelation/revolution!

Jesus' revolution brought us the Living vs. the Legal Word and the energizing vs. overshadowing Holy Spirit!

The Spirit! If the Word of God is our Bread... the Spirit of God is our breath! OT: Ruach: wind, breath. NT: Pneuma: current, breath, breeze. Without breath, we begin experiencing the symptoms of oxygen deprivation! Go long enough w/o it, w/o Him... die!

The Spirit – Historically! The Holy Spirit operated in the OT... "But He had not yet been *given* because Christ was not yet glorified!" J7.39 But when He came He came w/fullness!

"When the day fully came, they were all together in one accord and suddenly, like a rushing mighty wind, He came and filled all the house and there was fire on them all and they were all filled, and all spoke as He gave them utterance..." A2.1-4

"And there were men there from every nation under heaven... and He spoke to them all thru the disciples about the wonderful works of God! And when they asked 'what does this mean?' He spoke to them thru Peter and 3,000 souls were added to the church... and it grew!" 2.5-47

He was the success; the leader, the fire and breath, of the early church!

The Spirit – Presently! Dwells in the church universal, the church local and church individual! “By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body... w/members in particular!” 1C12 (How can we “forsake the assembling of ourselves together?” H10.25) He directs our times together! Operates thru those He has set in the Church... 1C12.28 Eph 4.8,11,12 Energizes Spirit singing... E5.18,19 1C14.15

Directs our time together! Distributes gifts of knowing, of power, of utterance... 1C12.8-10 Delivers preaching above men’s words of wisdom and ability... 1C2 1Th1.5 Orchestrates prayer... R8.26,27 E6.18 Jude 20 1C14.15

He is in our midst to engage us to; love, comfort, posture, invigorate, exhort, bear one another's burdens...

Without His Fire and Breath... We grow dim and cold... Begin turning blue... Speech slurs/incoherent sentences... Drowsy/trouble staying awake/brain fog... Feeling anxious/panicked... Appendages begin shutting down to preserve the core... and, Ultimately, we die!

We cannot exist as people or as a church without the fullness of the Holy Spirit!

There is nothing of the Word that has passed away... and there is nothing of the Spirit of God that has passed away!