**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, September 28, 2020**

Good Afternoon!

As a kid, I found a large stone the size of a bowling ball. I decided to play Hercules and hold the rock up high with both hands extended to show my strength. That was until the stone slipped out of my grip and landed on my head. Ouch! Gravity, it’s a powerful unseen force! Air is also an unseen force of incredible strength! It can keep a 747 Jumbo jet from falling to the ground, power a jack-hammer to split concrete. Air brakes can stop a tractor-trailer on a highway and so much more! However, we can’t see it, feel it, or smell it. As people, we are usually so impressed with what we can see and touch. Sometimes we pass off the invisible powers at work! But the nature of the kingdom is unseen, God is unseen, the Holy Spirit is unseen. That said, we can see the effects of that unseen power! The Holy Spirit is not a ghost! He is a person! He is the Holy Spirit of God! He has the power to transform our lives!

In 2 Cor.3:17-18. We read, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

The word for transformed here in the original language is where we get the word metamorphosis. Like when a caterpillar through the process of a cocoon becomes a butterfly. What is even more interesting is that the word is in the middle passive voice. This means that the subject is not doing the transformation but permits himself to be transformed. In other words, we simply need to let the Holy Spirit of God have His way with us! The results can be extraordinary!

This is why the apostle Paul says in Eph. 5:18 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.” Being filled with the Spirit is something He (the Spirit) does, not something we do. The result is that as wine has the ability to influence us, the Holy Spirit does as well. When we lived in NY, late one evening, a man crashed into a pole outside of our house. He was severely drunk. The police were called and although he was not injured, he was charged with DUI. Driving Under the Influence! The point is that as someone submits themselves to the influence of wine, in the same way, we can submit ourselves to the influence of the Holy Spirit of God.

You see even Jesus said that as Christians we need a helper; the Holy Spirit as our “Helper.” In John 16:7 we read ”But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.” The idea of the Holy Spirit as our helper presupposes that we need help! You see living the Christian life alone is not just difficult, but impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit! God does not expect us to live it without Him! It’s time that we came to grips with this liberating thought!

2 Questions:

1. Are you a Christian whose life can be boiled down to simply doing the best you can? Maybe there is no power, dynamic or real distinctiveness in your life. Is your walk with God attributed to sheer discipline and determination? Do you find yourself when faced with big challenges, trying to do it yourself? Maybe there is a deep chasm between what you sing on Sunday and what you actually do Monday through Saturday. The key is recognizing the need for the Hepler and yielding to Him. How did the original disciples go from a group shaken, frightened, awkward, reluctant followers to turning the world upside down? The Holy Spirit empowered them! We are not given a class B Holy Spirit to indwell us today but the same one as the disciples! Every day needs to begin by relinquishing control of our lives and pray, Holy Spirit have your way with me!

2. Are you a person that realizes that you need to be freed from yourself? How do we get to the point of getting ourselves out of the way and freeing ourselves to be transformed by the Holy Spirit? Total Surrender! How do you save a drowning man? Rule #1. Trying to help him while he is still trashing around will never work. As long as he thinks he can help himself he is dangerous. He will pull you under. Rule#2. Wait until he finally gives up. Now he won’t work against you. He will let you help him! Until we give up, we aren’t really in a position to be helped by the Helper! It is all about brokenness and surrender. Letting go and letting Him have His way! Let’s live a Holy Spirit transformed and empowered life!

Blessings,

Mike