

“The More Excellent Way”

1 Corinthians 12:28 — “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: And yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

Wowsie, dowsie! Paul, with that last underlined sentence just wiped out the church as we know it and gave a broad and simple display of the Kingdom of God’s people. Let us peek through the keyhole or look across the chasm that separates the people of the Gentile church age and the inheritors of the Kingdom of God.

How many of you know/knew people who spoke/speak in tongues, prophesied, wrote books, were self proclaimed apostles in that realm that Jesus called the “baptism of John”? If anyone had the best of these anointings and did not go on to know the power of the resurrection (our hope of glory) we become nothing more than tinkling symbols and sounding brass.

I just received a letter from a man who calls himself a “significant leader” who settled for being a self proclaimed prophet and his letter was sounding brass. It contained nothing but slander — no temperance. No understanding, no knowledge of God. I write this to his shame. His “in-part” message is keeping many people bound to him and falling short of the glory of God.

This man and many others in the Charismatic move basked in the light of the “baptism of John”. Jesus’ words still resound throughout the ages, “He was a burning and a shining light; and you were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works that the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do.” Please notice the statement, “for a season”. Which is a short period of time and a time with an ending. I basked in this light from 1967 until the early 70’s when I knew it was time to move on.

The finishing works of Christ are summed up in 1 Corinthians 13. Verses two and three sum up all the good works we do and it amounts to nothing unless the works of our head and hands and heart are put to death and sealed with the capstone called, “charity”. If our life does not reflect Christ, all words are to no avail. The word must be made flesh. Any phony humility will be revealed in the next light wave.

You will notice in this unbelievable dissertation on charity there is not one mention of charity as an act of feeding the poor. As a matter of fact it says, “Though I give all my goods to feed the poor and have not charity, I am nothing.” How did we ever get the notion that we can do anything except die to obtain charity? Our old nature can do nothing charitable.

I have seen men and women who have the faith to give unbelievable sermons, heal the sick, grow out legs, grow big “churches” — it amounts to nothing. It is all deeds that puffeth up. Lest the Word is made flesh in you and me, our deeds are nothing.

We cannot put on charity or imitate charity or be charitable. It is the nature of Christ Himself, only obtained by giving up the old life to obtain a new creation. Sorry, all you pastors who have mega churches, mega ministries, mega bucks. It all amounts to self and is nothing in God’s eyes. To those who have done many wonderful works in the Gentile age Jesus has one message, “Get ye hence, I never knew you, you doers of iniquity.”

Now, verse 4 — **Charity suffereth long.** This suffering is not a nagging wife, or cancer, or rebellious children, although God can use this to bring down our

arrogance. Suffering that produces charity is the shedding of our old blood, our will, our flesh, our reasoning, our thinking, our motive for our actions, our all. It is being misunderstood by those who are near and dear to you. It is amounting to nothing in the world, it is being a fool for Christ; it is losing your memory, your sense of worthiness, your abilities, your relationships, including those nearest and dearest to you. It is having all your dreams, desires and ambitions shattered. Ah yes, those who suffer with Him will be resurrected with Him and will abide continually in heavenly places.

Charity is kind. How many of you know you can do kind deeds and not be kind? Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. The soul can do kind deeds but not have kindness. Kindness is that fruit that exudes from our essence. It is a perfume for the human race to partake of. It is obtained by much suffering. Out of the issues of the heart the mouth speaketh. Kindness comes from a pure heart with pure motives. Kindness is indeed a medicine that healeth the wounded heart.

Charity envieth not. Envy is a tentacle of the curse. Its source is from self who gets its power from the dragon. Envy makes one never satisfied with what one has or who you are. Envy always wants and when it gets it is never satisfied. Envy never rejoices over someone else's success. Envy and jealousy are twins who rob one of his/her happiness. Praising God and thanking Him for trials, heartaches, misunderstandings, all the "it ain't fair" things that happen to you will begin to take you on a journey of overcoming the dragon.

Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Do you not understand that it is a natural trait of man to vaunteth itself? That all the knowledge we have stored in our arrogant little mind puffs us up? We are proud of ourselves, whether we are a prince or a pauper. To cover up our arrogance we put on a cloak of religion called feigned humility. Jesus said it rightly when He said, "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a man but what comes out." For man is rotten from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. God made a way for us to

change our nature. "Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God's judgments. Repent of old habits and that dastardly need to be right. Call out to God for help and then practice giving yourself away. Be aware of how you treat others with no respect and expect respect for yourself." Then the coup de grace — acknowledge God in all things and He will direct your path. "Oh, God blessed me today with a new house, with kind treatment, with all the goodies of the world" we say. But God says, "Blessed are you when you are hated by all the world for my name's sake. And also, "I chastise those I love or bless."

Charity seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked. What a rest to come into when we can say of a surety, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." That, my dear sojourner, comes only as we own nothing, not even our own life, for then there is no "own" that can seek after things... there is no "own" to be easily provoked. How many times we say things because they do not agree with our way of thinking. Blessed are we when our minds are made new by the metamorphosis and we are no longer conformed to the world.

When does charity become our capstone, ruling and reigning over our life???

When that which is perfect has come. In other words, in the fullness of time after we have been tried and proven in the wilderness, when we have decreased daily until nothing remains of the old and He has increased until He alone is glorified. I hear many pastors say it is impossible to become perfected. Christ commands us to be perfect, even as our Father is perfect. A tree is perfect when the acorn planted fulfills what it is meant to be and that, my dear reader, is the goal of all who would believe and trust in God even though He slay us. **This is the more excellent way travelled by only those willing to pay the price to fulfill the awesome destiny God has planned for mankind.**

"Now abideth faith, hope and charity, and the greatest of these is charity."



Marie Kolasinski