

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

February 15, 2023

The Fulness of Christ

God has used many people in amazing and astounding ways in the centuries since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some have been great soul-winners; others have been used in gifts of healings and great miracles. Some, like the Apostle Paul, received great revelation of the gospel of Christ. Yet, no single person has ever possessed or manifested the fulness of Christ. If they had, it would have been as though Jesus Christ himself was walking and ministering in our midst. Those whom we deem to be the greatest ministers of Christ only possessed a limited portion of his fulness.

The Apostle Paul confirms this, saying, *“But unto every one of us is given grace **according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**”* Ephesians 4:7. The word *“measure”* speaks of a *“limited portion.”* Paul had the portion of an apostle and a teacher. His portion was great, but still *“limited.”* John was an apostle and a prophet. Philip was an evangelist and his daughters had the gift of prophecy. Agabus was a prophet. Ananias was simply a disciple, but he received visions from the Lord and was used of God through the laying on of hands to restore Saul of Tarsus’ sight. Each of these had a different *“measure”* of Christ.

Paul reminded the Ephesians of their conversion and their subsequent baptism with the Holy Ghost, saying, *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...**”*

Ephesians 1:13. He then prays for them that *“the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know ...what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the **working of his mighty power**, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places...”* Ephesians 1:19-20. This was a prayer that the believers would understand what the power of the Holy Ghost would do in them if they would allow Him to.

As Paul continues his letter to the Ephesians, he explains how the *“measure of Christ”* is imparted to a believer. He says, *“I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me **by the effectual working of his power.**”*

Ephesians 3:7. This is a reference to the power of the Holy Ghost working in a person who has been baptized with the Spirit of God. The *“effectual working”* of the Holy Ghost in a person is what gives them the grace for their measure of the gift of Christ. The grace given by *“the effectual working of his power”* made Paul a mighty apostle of Jesus Christ. Still, this was only a *“limited portion”* of the fulness of Christ.

In the next chapter of Ephesians, Paul finally tells us what it is that brings the full manifestation of Christ upon earth. He describes various ministries

Christ placed in the church by the effectual working of the Holy Ghost in individuals. He says, *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers...”* Ephesians 4:11. The purpose of these ministries was to establish each believer in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God so the working of the Holy Ghost could cause the entire body of believers to stand up as *“a perfect (complete) man, unto **the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:**”* Ephesians 4:14. The church itself is the only entity that God ever ordained to manifest the fulness of Christ in this world.

Such a church has rarely existed since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was seen and manifested in the days of the “early church” but disappeared with the entrance of the false teachers as the apostles were taken off the scene. Perhaps there have been occasions that Christ was fully manifested in the church during times of great revival and the outpouring of God’s Spirit, but these have been few and far between. When the fulness of Christ is manifested in the church, these words are true for the church just as these were true for Jesus: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”* Luke 4:18-19.

Many foolish and unbiblical teachings have been offered as excuses why the church does not fully manifest Christ today. Some claim certain

“dispensations” have changed the way God works in his people. If this were true then God’s word could not be true which says, *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”* Hebrews 13:8. Others claim the wicked condition of the world limits God. How foolish is that? Does the wickedness of mankind mean God is not God?

There is one reason for the lack of the manifestation of the fulness of Christ in the church and therefore in the world. Paul tells us that this *“perfect (complete) man”* which is *“the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”* is only manifested when *“the whole body (is) fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part...”* Ephesians 4:16. This statement brings us back to the *“effectual working”* of the Holy Ghost in each individual. When the Holy Ghost worked effectually in Paul it made him a mighty Apostle. When it worked effectually in Phillip it made him an Evangelist, cast out demons, and manifested great miracles. When it worked in Agabus it made him a Prophet. Each member has a limited measure, but when the Holy Ghost is able to work effectually *“in the measure of every part,”* the *“measures”* of each of these stand up together and manifest the fulness of Christ to the world.

The Apostle Paul said Christ is *“...the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”* Ephesians 1:22-23. I have seen great ministers and great Saints of God, but I have never seen a church which is the fulness of Christ. Such a church will only be seen

again when each one of those who gather together is filled with the Holy Ghost and the Spirit of God is able to “*work effectually in the measure of every part.*” It is only then that we will see a church that will once again shake the world and turn it upside down through the full manifestation of Jesus Christ!