

UHPC WORSHIP-- 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY—1/27/19

SERMON TOPIC: “The Spirit and The Word in The Body”

Why do our physical Bodies need the Word of God in them? Why does the spiritual Body—the Church need the Word of God in it? Why did David write in Psalm 119: 11 “Thy Word have I hid –(treasure) in my heart that I might not sin against You?” OR “How can young people keep their way pure? –ANSWER?—By taking heed there to according to the Word of God?” Further in Psalm 119: 105 David wrote: “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” As children we were told to study and to learn Scripture “by heart.” We were also taught to learn and to recite poems and certain things like Chemistry or Geometry formulae BY HEART. That means we would have to study them and be able to speak them without reading them from paper, and we would have to be able to write them and apply them accurately when necessary. Another thing we would have to learn BY HEART were our Multiplication Tables. We had no calculator but our brain. WE HAD TO HAVE ALL THIS MATERIAL INSIDE OUR MIND AND BODY. When we needed to use them we would rely on our memory bank to produce it so we could apply and use it correctly.

WHAT DID THIS DO FOR US? It built up our ability to recall things quickly so we could work more efficiently. I am sure it built up our brain muscles and strengthened our confidence. Some of us can still be thankful for what we were given both spiritually, mentally, and physically. THE SAME PRINCIPLES ARE TRUE FOR THE SPIRITUAL BODY—THE CHURCH. When we study the Word of God, memorize it, have it implanted inside of ourselves, we become a stronger, wiser, firmer, more united and harmonious body of Believers together.

Psalm 19 tells us about the power, the effect, the goodness of the Word of God in the BODY individual as well as in the Spiritual BODY and in the world at large. David tells us that God’s Word is not only written and spoken, but it speaks through NATURE... the sun speaks, the moon and stars speak, the trees and other vegetation speak. The written Word of the Law speaks to the soul and revives it. It makes the simple wise. It gives clarity and enlightens the (spiritual)eyes. They are sweeter than honey and more precious than fine gold. It keeps one from errors and secret faults so that sin does not have dominion over us. HAVING THE WORD IN ONE’S HEART CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES. But

what if we do not have God's Word imprinted in us? We are told in Deuteronomy 8: 3 that people do not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. We are to teach it to our children, write it in their hearts, hang it about their necks, their ankles and wrists. SO HOW ARE WE DOING AS INDIVIDUAL BODIES? HOW MUCH DO WE SEEK THE WORD TO KEEP IT IN OUR HEARTS? I find that the more of the world's responsibilities we have to carry with family, work, relationships, business, etc. is the MORE THAT WE NEED TO FEED ON THE WORD OF GOD AND TO PRAY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD TO ANOINT AND TO APPLY THE WORD, TO CAUSE IT TO DWELL RICHLY WITHIN US?

We see in Nehemiah 8, how the leaders gathered the people after the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt. They called for Ezra, the priest to take the Word of God that was Given to Moses, and to read it out loud to the people. This day was to be a time of celebration and joy. But the power of the Word of God was so strongly imparted into the people by the Holy Spirit, that they lifted their hands, bowed their heads to the floor, and wept profusely. The Levites and other leaders had to encourage them not to be sad, for the JOY OF THE LORD IS THEIR STRENGTH. They told the people to eat special foods and drink sweet drinks and not to be sad. They were also to share their food with those who did not have. BUT JUST NOTE HOW POWERFULLY THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD AFFECTED THE INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR BODIES!

We also find Jesus in Galilee on the Sabbath Day, reading from the Scroll in the book of Isaiah. He was reading where it said: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor, the recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD. Then He rolled up the Scroll and said: "Today this Word is fulfilled in your hearing." In other words, this prophecy is about ME. Everyone was astounded and amazed at His spiritual authority and depth of wisdom, for He was filled with the Spirit and taught them with confidence in their synagogues. THE SPIRIT WORKING WITH THE WORD GIVES WISDOM, COURAGE, AND AUTHORITY TO PREACH, TO TEACH, AND TO USE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS EFFECTIVELY AND WITH POWER. What does the Word of God do for the BODY INDIVIDUAL AND THE BODY CORPORATE? It will strengthen the inner person spiritually. Then all those who are in the Body Corporate will strengthen the

whole Body and make it whole? SO HOW MUCH WORD AND SPIRIT IS WORKING in EACH ONE OF US?

Paul tells in 1st Corinthians 12: 12-17... how important it is for each part of the physical body to be healthy in order for the whole body to be strong and healthy, working in unity and harmony to become productive, fruit-bearing, and useful. He lays out a case to show how senseless it is for the hand to say it does not need the feet, the ears to say it does not need the mouth, the body to say it does not need the brain... (or words to that effect.) IT IS SIMPLY RIDICULOUS. Therefore, it is the same in the Spiritual Body, the church. Every gift of every member is necessary to make the Body function well, be healthy, joyful, and fruit-bearing.

WHAT IS THE FUEL THAT CAUSES THIS TO HAPPEN? IT IS THE INTAKE OF THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT THAT WORKS IN AND UPON US INWARDLY TO MOVE US TO WORK THE WORKS OF GOD IN THE WORLD OUTWARDLY. IT IS THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT THAT FILLS US AND MOTIVATES US TO UNITE AND FUNCTION AS ONE BODY. If we fail to develop a disciplined prayer life as individual bodies, family bodies, and church body, WE CANNOT BE A STRONG, VIBRANT, AND HEALTHY CHURCH ABLE TO LIFT THE MINISTRY HIGHER AND DIG A DEEPER FOUNDATION ABLE TO REAR UP THE BUILDING GOD WANTS TO RAISE UP THROUGH US. NO WORD WITHIN, NO SPIRIT, NO POWER OUTWARDLY AND NO PRAYER POWER WITH FAITH TO ACT VICTORIOUSLY.

SO, LET US PRAY TO BECOME BODY BUILDERS. -- HEALTHY BODY BUILDERS, STARTING WITH SELF. IT TAKES EACH ONE TO BE WELL BUILT IN ORDER TO MOVE THE MOUNTAINS OUT OF OUR WAY. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto us." WE PRAY THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL BE UPON US TO PREACH, TO TEACH, TO HEAL, TO DO MIRACLES, SIGNS, AND WONDERS, TO INTERCEDE FOR OTHERS, TO LEAD SOULS INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. I ENCOURAGE US TO DO OUR BEST TO SHARE IN THE FASTING AND PRAYER SYSTEM WEEKLY, THE LORD'S PRAYER DAILY AT NOON, THE DOXOLOGY IN FAITH EXPECTING PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED. COME OUT TO THE MID-WEEK STUDY GROUP, AND FRIDAY EVENING SANCTUARY PRAYER. YOU WILL BE BUILDING YOUR OWN INNER BARS, GAINING WISDOM, BUILDING FORTITUDE, DEVELOPING YOUR SPIRITUAL AND FAITH MUSCLES. THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

WILL WORK IN US AND BUILD US UP TO GREATER THINGS. IT IS TIME TO GROW, TO INCREASE, TO DEVELOP, TO MATURE, AND TO LET GOD RAISE US UP TO HIGHER PLACES.

THE WORD AND SPIRIT IN THE BODY IS KEY TO OUR SUCCESS NOT ONLY FOR CHURCH BUT FOR OUR SECULAR LIVES AS WELL. So, seek every day our daily bread. The LORD will deliver us from all evil and protect us from falling into temptation. God's Kingdom will begin to manifest in our lives on earth as it is in heaven. Souls will begin to be drawn to Christ and be saved, baptized, sanctified, transformed, and healed. People will receive eyes that see and ears that hear, minds and hearts quick to understand truth and discern what is false so they can navigate the paths of life. The conscience will be quickened to recognize sin and lead us to confession and repentance. There will be joy and encouragement to serve willingly. Just imagine how mighty, how strong, and how powerful the Word of God is! IT IS BY THE WORD THAT GOD CREATED ALL THINGS AND IT IS BY THE WORD THAT GOD UPHOLDS ALL THINGS. (Hebrews 1) IT IS IN CHRIST THAT ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER. In the Gospel of John Chapter 1, we are told that: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God AND THE WORD WAS GOD; and the Word became flesh and dwelled among us. IN HIM was life and that life is the light of all people.

SO, I ASK US IF WE UNDERSTAND OUR NEED FOR THE INTAKE OF THE WORD AND SPIRIT OF GOD? WILL WE DISCIPLINE OURSELVES TO HUNGER AND TO THIRST AFTER IT? HOW CAN CHRISTIANS LIVE VICTORIOUS LIVES ON A STARVATION DIET OF THE WORD OF GOD? AREN'T WE TOLD IN DEUTERONOMY 8: THAT "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD? HOW CAN WE EXPECT TO MANAGE ANYTHING, DO ANYTHING EFFECTIVELY, HOLD ANYTHING TOGETHER—WITHOUT THE WORD AND SUCH miniscule amount of the Spirit? In this 2019, it is my prayer and my hope that people will feed richly on the Word of God so the Spirit will work with us to accomplish KINGDOM WORK to make a difference in this ministry, in our own lives, and in our world.

AMEN.

Rev. Brenda R. Berry/ B.A., M.Div.

Pastor-Moderator—Univ. Hts. Presby. Chr.

