

Holy Ghost Hunters

Today I sat listening to the weather as Meteorologists described Hurricane Idalia. In their efforts to gain as much accurate information to pass along to those who will face this soon-approaching storm, they take advantage of every source available. Thanks to many advances in technology and science, data can be gained from the use of radar and satellites to monitor Idalia's progress.

But there is no substitute for those they call hurricane hunters. Those brave souls that strap themselves into the cockpit of specially prepared aircraft, filled with data-collecting sensors and data-collecting instruments. Their mission is not to fly over the soon approaching storm. Not to circumnavigate as close as seems safe – no. Their mission is to fly to the altitude where Idalia is most intense, line up on a perpendicular course and then fly directly through the storm, piercing through the eye to the other eye wall and again into the ferocity of the storm to its outer rim. And then to circle around until the plane is 90 degrees from their past course and once again pierce the storm – thus, cutting the storm into quarters.

And since the hurricane can make a change in a moment, this demanding approach is repeated until Idalia has completed her course.

The involvement of hurricane hunters as a tried-and-true-method, continues even in the age of satellites and radar, because there is no rival to accurately gauge hurricane Idalia's strength and direction – than being in the heart of her.

The psalmist wrote,

Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.
Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces;
that ye may tell *it* to the generation following.

Psalm 48:12-13 (KJV)

The Amplified version expresses Psalm 48:13 this way,

Consider well her ramparts, go through her palaces and citadels, (emphasis mine)
that you may tell the next generation . . .

To know Jerusalem is to know the kingdom of God, and there's no substitute for moving through rather than reliance on alternatives.

Modern Pentecostalism has followed the course of many who rely upon methods and techniques that are able to captivate the minds and hearts of the masses. Brother Bill Pittman just today sent out an excellent article on what he described as the “Televised Internet Church Syndrome as the new symbol and hallmark of success for the modern-day worldly oneness Pentecostal movement.”

This ‘TICS’ is the most recent phenomena in the progression and development of the arm of the flesh that has historically allured and distracted so many to waver, drift and miss the mark. The Apostolic church solely succeeds through the arm of the Spirit – the course set by the Holy Ghost. And the leadings of the Holy Ghost cannot be discerned by any other method than by lining up at the deepest, widest, highest part of the presence of God and piercing into the midst!

Jesus expressed to Nicodemus, a scholar who was no doubt well versed on all the prophecies that spoke of the coming rest, that there is only one way to intimately, succinctly and clearly see the kingdom of God and that is by the complete immersion into the Spirit of God – thus, being baptized by the Spirit!

It’s in the midst, in the heart of the presence of God – clarity appears, guidance is given, boldness is gained, and burden is intensified – and no modern-day avenue can come close to this approach. The book of Acts does more than express the necessity of obedience to Acts 2:38, it also reveals the emphasis the Apostles placed upon being led of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:2).

When the Apostles faced persecution for their ministry, they didn’t show a weak-kneed reaction by donning the attire of their persecutors – by switching to their tactics and methodology – rather, they went back to the source of their peculiarity,

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul . . .

Acts 4:31-32

What was the source of the boldness? Not attaining a degree to hang upon an ego wall somewhere, and placing post nominal letters after their name to bolster their standing among their constituents and gain creds with those outside the faith – no. They were once again filled with the Holy Ghost!

The late Verbal Bean expressed it this way,

“I finally closed my Bible to further emphasize I would not preach. By nine o'clock they saw it was too late for preaching. Even if I started a sermon, it would keep them there too late. They finally yielded, and it wasn't long until the Holy Ghost fell, and everybody prayed through! The Holy Ghost swept through the congregation and the altar filled from one side of the building to the other in a church that had not had revival in many years.

Why hadn't they been revived? All previous ministers yielded to the pressure I felt, to preach their little sermons, no matter what God wanted. When we finally broke through the move of the Holy Ghost moved in a way and accomplished more in five minutes than a two-hour sermon. Especially if the sermon is out of the will of God. After yielding to the Holy Ghost, sinners ran and screamed to the altar, begging God for salvation!

I'm saying Holy Ghost, Holy Ghost, Holy Ghost! I want to brainwash you here tonight with Holy Ghost!”

We preach the new birth to those seeking their salvation, but perhaps it's worth refreshing our understanding that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. God established that this experience was never meant to be a 'once and done,' but a lifestyle totally dependent upon new birth experience day by day – refreshing and updating as the Spirit of God moves where it listeth. And there's no other way to know where the Holy Ghost listeth, than going airborne in the Holy Ghost in search of the heart of God and then to square our flight path to plunge heart, mind, soul and strength into the midst!

Brother Steven Carrier