

## ABOVE THE INFLUENCE!

Col 2:8 See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah).

- **Influence:** The root meaning is to “flow in” – that sure wraps up the action in a nutshell. Power, authority, persuasion, manipulate, impact, stimulate, effect, affect, inspire, direct, shape, change.
- God wants us to live above the influence of the world
- Too many of the church are living “under the influence” of the world, outside God's influence.

**FIRST THING** – What is the first thing we do when we hear or see trouble in our camp?

**How do we walk in God REJECTING the influence of the world, the devil and people in today's world?**

Wisdom – we must learn, know and live the Word of God –

**How do we train ourselves to hear God and simply obey His voice and commands?**

By the discipline of hearing the Word of God and then living (doing), what we hear.

### WHERE DOES OUR WISDOM COME FROM AND HOW TO WE GET IT -

**Read** - Jam 1:5 - 3:1-18 (our real issues are lack of wisdom and speaking without the wisdom we need.

### **The influence of the Holy Spirit**

John 15 & 16 But when the Comforter, the Spirit of truth is come, he shall testify of me: he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. He will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, they are the sons of God.

1Co 12:8 For to one is **given by the Spirit the word of wisdom**; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed** into the same image from **glory to glory**, even as **by the Spirit of the Lord**.

Rom 8:2 For the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free** from the law of sin and death.

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For **to be carnally minded is death**; but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace**.

Rom 8:7 Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1Co 2:14 But **the natural man receiveth not** the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Eph 5:8 For **ye were sometimes** darkness, but **now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light**:

Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

**How much of what we hear do we speak? (Our words are the major cause of open demonic doors)**

**Giving the devil “place” in our lives -**

In the world there is a tremendous amount of “influence” from many directions. From many concepts, ideas, beliefs, doctrines, religions, natural and supernatural voices.

The voice we **must hear is the voice of God, speaking “THE TRUTH”** so we can live above the world's influence.

Psa 89:34 My covenant **will I not break, nor alter** the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

**We must be “qualified to speak” or we need to keep quiet!**

If we are to speak, declare, prophecy what God says we have to evaluate, listen to and change what we are saying if what we are saying is not of or from God.

If we open our mouths and speak from or out of fear – we disqualify ourselves in God to speak anything.

**Because what we speak in not from or of Him.**

- Too much of our conversation is “FEAR” based – Not “FAITH” based -
- Even when we just “repeat” what the world is saying we tend to join with that system of believing
- We are repeating what they are saying as if what they are saying is the final word on the subject – NOT SO!

**We have come into agreement with the world’s report – we deem it valuable enough to repeat, and repeat -**

Isa 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Or to paraphrase – **who’s report will you believe?**

- The news is pushing the “swine flu” – Yes its real! What should our reaction be as Christians, **who or what** should we allow to influence our thoughts, beliefs, and importantly our words –

**God's Protection -**

Pro 4:7 **Wisdom is** the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Understanding (discernment, comprehension, and interpretation) – how to walk in the wisdom received!

Psa 91:2 **I will say of the LORD**, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Psa 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of **the fowler**, and from the **noisome pestilence**.

Psa 91:5 **You shall not be afraid** of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day,

Psa 91:6 Nor for the **pestilence that walketh in darkness**; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Psa 91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it **shall not come nigh thee**.

Psa 91:10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

Psa 91:9 Because **thou hast made the LORD**, which is my refuge, even the most High, **thy habitation**;

**When the influence comes what do we do –**

How do we qualify the influence and determine the source – good or bad for us. We choose God every time.

Most of our choices are for our “benefit” – not God’s! – We do things because we want to do them, many times without consulting God, or asking “what do you want God?” We claim freedom when we are very much bound.

Don’t get me wrong – God trust us with much more than we realize, but we must maintain a constant open conversation between us and God, so our decision are God approved and blessed!

**Five weeks of glory -**

For the last 5 weeks God has shown up in a strong way in our services –

God has come to “influence” this church, and He wants to know will we be “influenced”

- **What will we to do with the Glory?**

God wants fruit – God wants action – God wants us up off our butts doing something for Him.

- **What is God saying to us?**

Several years ago God gave me a word of coming direction – then He gave me a second word.

1<sup>st</sup> – “SOULS” – Salvation Outreach Unto Longwood Streets”

2<sup>nd</sup> – “SOULS” – “Seeking Out Unconventionally Lost Souls”

I believe it is time to do what God said – But we must have clear directions on what God meant and wants done. *God wants us to be “influencers” – to affect and bring about change anywhere we are with anyone we see.*

*– We are God’s mouthpieces on this earth – If we are to live by the Word of God, we must speak the Word of God.*

**We must look and discern carefully what is “flowing” into our lives and what is “flowing” out of our lives. The outflow is creating our future and highly influencing the atmosphere we live in and others around us live in.**