

EXPERIENCING JESUS

Sometimes someone tells us something incredible and we find it hard to believe what they are saying. It does not matter how much they explain what they have experienced, we remain sceptical.

Many times in the Bible, someone brings good news only to be treated with suspicion. When Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again, when Mary told the disciples that Jesus was not dead, when the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus. There were many other situations we can read about. What changed them from being sceptical was that they had an encounter with Jesus themselves. Nathaniel was sceptical about Philip's news that a carpenter in a low country town was the Messiah, and who would blame him. The only way Philip could convince Nathaniel was to say, "come and see." We have faith in God through Jesus, but what gives our faith gravitas? It is to really experience Jesus ourselves. But how is this possible?

Reflect on this:

Come and see,

He is (We are) united with Him in Spirit.

In Corinthians 6, we see Paul giving a lecture on sex. Corinthians was a busy port city in which was the temple of Aphrodite. Here, sex slaves, both men and women, were held as offerings to her for fertility rites. Sexual promiscuity was socially acceptable then, and it was in this setting Paul begins his work establishing the Corinthian Christian church. We see Paul teaching what unity in Christ was, against the backdrop of Aphrodite's temple; "Do you not know your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit?" Many Christians today think Paul is condemning those who lived in this culture; but he was imploring the early Christians to live a life counter to the culture, because everything lived by this standard was wholesome holy and healthy. He knew too well that the underbelly of the sex culture brought devastation, disease and death. Verse 16 says, "But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in Spirit." Once again, Paul counters the physical from the Spiritual. United with the Lord, our Spirit is united with His Holy Spirit and we see the key in truly knowing beyond doubt and scepticism that Jesus is real within our lives.