

CONCLUSION

The events of "9-11" should give all of us Christians a wakeup call as to the relevance of our Christianity. These zealots attacked us because our nation is known as a Christian nation. We know from history, the Muslims originated because of the weakness and failings of the formal church which at that time was practically devoid of the Holy Spirit.

How we are going to face this threat without the power of the Holy Spirit? If we try, we are going to lose. Jesus asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit for our benefit. In a time such as this we need every resource available to us. It's stupid and dumb to worry how we would look to the world if we are considered "too spiritual". God is not going to push the Holy Spirit on us; He wants us to ask Him for this help. But keep in mind, the Father wants to reveal Himself to His children. He does this by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. What we need to do as individuals is ask God to fill us with His Spirit and participate in the manifestations of God. We must know this is to be a group effort driven by the Holy Spirit.

With all the emphasis on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit you probably assume I would recommend the Pentecostal Church as a way out of this mess. I'm sorry I can't do that for it has been my experience they are more prone to one-man rule (pastor) than most of the others. The one-man power is the main obstacle to the Holy Spirit. When Jesus said in Luke 10:21, "I thank you Father . . . that you concealed things from the wise and understanding and learned and revealed them to babes, the childish, unskilled and untaught". Jesus meant what He said and this is hard for an intelligent man to comprehend. Jesus knew man's intellect would get in the way. He wants someone who knows he doesn't know and is willing to sit back and listen to the revelations from God to the Body of Christ. Everywhere we look we see too much of man's organization and this stands in the way of the spiritual freedom of the Holy Spirit. I don't propose anyone change their church or place of worship. Point is, you can't expect the true Body of Christ to exist under the conditions of the formal church with its organization.

What we need to do as individuals is form small groups and meet in homes or public places where we have the right to do so. We can worship and pray to God to manifest Himself to us by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This can be done with very few people in your home, in a public place, in the jail house, in college, in high school, in the service, in Africa, or in Saudi Arabia. When the manifestations occur, God will be manifested to you and your group and you will have the power to witness to the world.

Paul did this at the beginning of his first mission trip. After the Jews stoned him in Lystra, Paul's first group prayed for him to be healed after he was left for dead (Acts 14:20). These people certainly didn't have a theological degree of any kind nor did they have experience at healing people. All they had was faith!

At times several of the small groups could come together in public places to praise and worship and show the public the power of God. Sounds like Jesus' ekklesia. The foremost challenge for us as individuals is to make sure the Body of Christ with the attending Gifts of the Holy Spirit becomes an active force in our lives in today's world.

THE END