

***Fanning it into Flame***  
**Sunday, February 20, 2011**  
**The Real World**

As I was thinking about a title for this message a number of them came to me: *Choosing to believe; Things are not as they appear to be; A new way of thinking; Letting God be God; Seeing through God's Eyes; Not "Seeing is Believing," Rather "Believing is Seeing."* I settled on *The Real World* because I want us to think about the way we think, why we think like we do, and how it affects the way we believe.

The academic community along with the majority of mass media has pretty much adopted an anti-supernatural bias. If it cannot be perceived by the five senses it is not given much weight. Christians are looked at as though we are living in the dark ages and not up on what is perceived as progressive contemporary thought. All of this apparent progressive thought, however, has not led to a better way of living, but has in fact left society without a rational framework for truth. Relative values rule the day and have created instability in our culture.

Jesus came to defeat the works of the devil and reveal the truth which includes the nature of God and the nature of man. His life was not only the sacrificial atonement for our sins, but a demonstration of what mankind was capable of in union with him. Jesus said that seeing him was seeing the father. Well, seeing him was also seeing mankind in its purest form. He came to right what was wrong and reveal the way, the truth, and the life. He wanted us to see in him the life we were always meant to live. That is, a life of relationship with the Father through him, a life of compassion and love with one another, and a life of miracles in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

People have reduced Jesus to just being our Savior, but have written off the noble goal of truly being like him. Miracles have been looked at something necessary to get the ball rolling but not essential after that. Where do they come up with that idea? I believe that people have allowed their experiences to dictate their theology rather than taking God at his word and allowing it to dictate our circumstances. Jesus was part of the real world. The real world is not made up of just the things that happen in the natural realm. It includes the realm of the spirit. In John chapter 17 Jesus prays to the Father regarding our being one with him as he was with the Father and the Father with him. This union would empower us to live like Jesus and bring glory to him by our lives that would reflect him in what we do. He said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." He also said that apart from him we could do nothing. God's desire for us is to participate with him in every aspect of life.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.* It's no wonder that people think spiritual things and supernatural things are absurd. They need the Spirit of God. They need us to be who God called us to be. We can't allow fear of looking foolish or fear that God won't do what he said he would if we step out on a limb and put our faith to the test. We must believe that we are the people who are to demonstrate to the world the reality of who Jesus is by our actions. Jesus said in **John 10:36b-38** *Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?<sup>37</sup> Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.<sup>38</sup> But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."* Jesus told us that we would do what he did. The same things that were proof that he was who he said he was, he told us would be our experience as well.

While these things may seem far out of our reach, they are not. Natural minded thinking does that. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. That renewal begins with saying "Yes" to the circumstances that come our way and believing that God will be himself in us as we yield to his will. In Heaven there is no sickness or disease, etc. We are to pray "*your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*"

Rather than the defeatist attitude that says, "What if it doesn't happen?" Let's think, "What if it does?"