

Ignorance: Part Three

By Pastor Anthony Higginson

Last week we highlighted in our subject of Ignorance just how much ignorance there is in much of today's church when it comes to operating and functioning in spiritual gifts, which is ironic when you come to think that Paul warned the Corinthian church not to become ignorant about spiritual gifts - **1 Corinthians 12:1** - knowing that spiritual gifts opens up doors both for blessing and advancement, not to mention open doors for errors, heresies and flawed practices. Only this week on national television, Channel 4 broadcast a programme called 'Dispatches' showing how **some African** churches in the UK, and I stress **some**, were practising deliverance on young children, saying they were witches. The programme used an undercover journalist posing as a 15 year old girl to highlight the inaccuracies in Gilbert Deya ministries and others who practice such spiritual gifts of deliverance. This is Channel 4 making the accusations here, **not me, or us, the Dream Centre**. Then the national TV broadcast another programme this week showing an American guy who had 21 wives and 124 children, a man who runs his own church, albeit he is a Mormon.

My purpose and objective on teaching on ignorance is not to name and shame men or ministries, but rather to put on your own radar possible ignorance you may or may not have. The greatest deception is to think everyone else is in error and that you are alright. Remember what scripture says, that if you think you are standing on firm ground check yourself. Prophetically speaking I believe we are going to see more and more ministers and ministries become exposed by the Holy Ghost and He will do this by using the media.

Mt 7:22-23 *Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

Now if you can prophesy and cast out devils in Jesus name and not qualify for the kingdom of heaven, then it means there are some counterfeit gifts in operation and if people cannot tell the difference between counterfeit and the original then it means there is some ignorance somewhere in the body of Christ .

Timothy my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. **1Timothy 1:18**

2Timothy 3:1-7 *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. **All these are in the church.***

· How do you overcome ignorance? Follow apostolic patterns.

Philippians 3:13-20 *Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in*

following my example, brothers, **and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.** For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven.

2Timothy 3:10-15 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,** and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Kings 17:7-22 Three key elements of Israel's sin.

- With **Deception** the outcome is you are **deceived**.
- With **Delusion** the outcome is you are **deluded**.
- With **Destruction** the outcome is you are **destroyed**.

Verse 19 Even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God they followed the practices Israel had introduced. **The praise and worship had been polluted.**

Verse 22 The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them until the Lord removed them from his presence, as he had warned them through his servants the prophets.

2 Kings 17: 24-26 God was sending Lions into their territory to kill them because they did not know how to worship the Lord nor did they know what the Lord required such was there **deception.**

2 Kings 17: 26-33 Notice who it was teaching the people erroneous ways - it was the priest.

2 Kings 17:37-41 **Even whilst the people were worshipping the Lord they were serving their Idols.**

Conclusion

1Timothy1:3-4 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith.

1Timothy 6:3-5 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

Whatever happens my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord, I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it so as to safeguard your faith. **Philippians 3:1**

1. Destructive Doctrines **2 Peter 2:1-3**
2. Doom of false teachers **2 Peter 2:4-11**
3. Depravity of false teachers **2 Peter 2:12-17**
4. Deception of false teachers **2 Peter 2:18-22**

10% cannot be found
20% never attend
25% never pray
30% never read the bible
40% never give to the church
60% never give to world missions
75% never assume a ministry service in the church
95% have never personally led one person to Jesus Christ
Yet 100% expect to go to heaven

John 4:22 *You Samaritans worship what **you do not know**; we worship **what we do know**, for salvation is from the Jews. **To know** is to be enlightened, whereas to **not know** is to be **unconsciously oblivious or green about an issue, person or subject.***