

Balance

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8 (NASB)

Theho windpneuma blows pneō where hopou it chooses thelō, and kai you hear kouō ·ho its autos soundphōnē, but alla do notou know oida where pothen it is coming erchomai from orkai where pou it is going hypagō. So houtōs it is seimi with every one pas ·ho bornennaō ofek theho Spiritpneuma.” John 3:8 (MOUNCE)

πνεῦμα (pneuma) Strong: 4151 - wind, air in motion, Jn. 3:8; breath, 2 Thess. 2:8; the substance spirit, Jn. 3:6; a spirit, spiritual being, Jn. 4:24

Often extremely doctrinal Christians see those who are led by the Spirit of Christ as “flighty” or “spooky” people who have no intelligence. Those doctrinal believers would have had a difficult time with Jesus himself. Actually, the doctrinal Jews did have a bad time with Jesus, they were called Pharisees. The Pharisees were the religious leaders of their day in Israel, they were extremely conservative and the only people that Jesus called “white washed tombs” and a “brood of vipers (snakes) to their faces. Jesus’ strongest rebukes were given to the Pharisees.

Paul is, without a doubt, the foremost New Testament theologian. He was himself a Pharisee, and proud of it. He was a doctor of the Law.

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. Philippians 3:5-6 (KJV)

And yet Paul asked the legalistic Galatians:

This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Galatians 3:2 (NASB)

Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, based the foundation of Christianity on an EXPERIENCE.

My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. 1 Cor 4-5 (NASB)

A healthy Christianity has a balance of both doctrine and experience.

You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again.” John 3:7

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace Hebrews 13:9 Authorized (King James) Version (AKJV)

Too much doctrine without enough experience makes a believer a LEGALIST. Too much experience without sound doctrine makes a believer a FANATIC!

Today the Church desperately needs BALANCE.