

Christianity with Power #2

Connections Class - September 23, 2018

Teachers: Pastor Steve Miller and Marsha Butler

1. Prayer for the Lord to meet us
2. Review of last week's class
3. The Goal: To understand and experience the power we have as believers and how our worldview affects our life in faith.
4. How do people from the West generally view the world?
 - The influence of the Enlightenment – “seeing is believing.”
 - Revolt against institutional religion
 - Boundaries of the past were lost - No one tells us what to do
 - Deistic view of God
 - Quest for a rational view of life -Supernatural aspects of the Bible did not happen
 - The West became: Materialistic, Humanistic, Rationalistic, Individualistic, and changeable
5. Symptoms of Enlightenment Christianity:
 - A pervasive rationalism
 - Doing things decently and in order
 - Centering church meetings on lecture
 - Downplaying the value of experience
 - A tendency to think of God's Word only as written
 - Our approach to evangelism & missions is primarily a matter of knowledge and technique.
 - We tend to think of medicine and doctors before we think of God.
 - Secular Social Programs
6. What can we do about this powerless view of Christianity
 - Address our need (or my right) to understand - Isaiah 55:9
 - Listening to God - Matthew 17:5
7. Look at our habits and our patterns as we live as believers
 - How we pray and listen for God's response – the good thoughts
 - How we notice the Work of Holy Spirit – change in us and others
 - How the Lord to guide us - ask every day to be guided
 - How we act in faith in spite of some doubt – trust the Lord will bring something good
 - How we exercise the authority we have in prayer – that God is with us as we act upon His encouragement
8. Small group questions to process for a few minutes
 - Of the items on this outline which have affected your faith the most? Tell each other why?
 - Do you struggle with “a need to understand” the dynamics of your faith?
 - What habit would you like to change in order to see more power in your life?
9. Summary thoughts for today
10. Close in prayer – does anyone desire prayer today?
11. For next week read: Ch. 3 & 4 in C with P + workbook pages 23-49