

By the Faith of Christ

Many people make the mistake of believing that it was their decision to seek out God. This is contrary to how God works, which is by His Spirit. An example of this type of error is when Saul of Tarsus, who studied under Gamaliel, became quite knowledgeable of the law; yet this natural knowledge led Saul to kill the people of God (Acts 8: 1-3). In 2 Cor. 3:6, we find that “the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.” Just as every child of God has to do, Saul had to acknowledge his error in persecuting the people of God based on his natural understanding of the law. In the mist of Saul’s persecution of the church, the lord visited Saul,

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

When Saul arose, he was blind. This was symbolic of his blindness to spiritual things and the error of his ways (Acts. 9: 8-9). Although Saul had much zeal to serve the lord, in his natural understanding, he was working contrary to God and was in need of deliverance. Saul’s actions demonstrated his lack of understanding to the scripture in Gal. 3:26, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” When understood naturally, one would believe that it is through his or her faith that he or she is a child of God. This is the same mistake Saul made, which resulted in him killing the children of God. The faith by which we are children of God, is the faith of Christ Jesus, and not our own. This point is made clear in Zechariah as it was spoken to Zerubbabel, 4:6, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Just as Saul did, all children of God must acknowledge that it is not in our own strength, testimony, nor faith that we can do a work for the Lord, Remember how Saul was converted to Paul (Acts 9:10-19). In the same way, we all must be covered in the Holy Ghost as a new creature. Many can testify that they, too once shared similar beliefs that they are children of God by their own faith; but now we can speak, I say unto you it is not by way of our own faith, but only by the faith of the Christ of God that we, who were once children of God, are now the sons of God.

The Christ of God Speaks