

Title: The missing dimension
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a) The 3 dimensions of Christianity

2 Kings 7:1-9

¹ THEN ELISHA said, Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour will sell for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel in the gate of Samaria! ² Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, If the Lord should make windows in heaven, could this thing be? But Elisha said, You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it. ³ Now four men who were lepers were at the entrance of the city's gate; and they said to one another, Why do we sit here until we die? ⁴ If we say, We will enter the city--then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there; and if we sit still here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the army of the Syrians. If they spare us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. ⁵ So they arose in the twilight and went to the Syrian camp. But when they came to the edge of the camp, no man was there. ⁶ For the Lord had made the Syrian army hear a noise of chariots and horses, the noise of a great army. They had said to one another, The king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to come upon us. ⁷ So the Syrians arose and fled in the twilight and left their tents, horses, donkeys, even the camp as it was, and fled for their lives. ⁸ And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried away silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them [*in the darkness*]. Then they entered another tent and carried from there also and went and hid it. ⁹ Then they said one to another, We are not doing right. This is a day of [*glad*] good news and we are silent and do not speak up! If we wait until daylight, some punishment will come upon us [*for not reporting at once*]. So now come, let us go and tell the king's household.

- **'Confronting powerless Christianity' - by prof Charles Kraft**

Views christianity as 3 distinctly different but complementary dimensions:

- **Allegiance leading to relationships**
- **Truth leading to understanding**
- **Spiritual power leading to freedom**

1. THE ALLEGIANCE DIMENSION (leads to relationship)

- **most important dimension (numbers 2 and 3 supports this dimension)**

Matt 22:37-40

³⁷ And He replied to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). [*Deut. 6:5.*] ³⁸ This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as [*you do*] yourself. [*Lev. 19:18.*] ⁴⁰ These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.

- all His teachings about relationship / 12 disciples God is love
- starts with conversion and should grow

2. THE TRUTH/KNOWLEDGE DIMENSION

Matt 22:37-40

And you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free.

- leads to understanding
- leads to better relationships (marriage)//supports1
- learn (where?) and then experience the Truth
- problem area

3. **THE SPIRITUAL POWER DIMENSION** (supports relationship dimension)

- aim is to be set free
- Why???

Luke 4:18

... He has sent me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set forth as delivered those who are oppressed (who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity).

- Veteran soldiers!
- Power to disciples/ to us!!

John 14:12

I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father

Matt 10: 1, 7 – 8

¹ And Jesus summoned to Him His Twelve disciples and gave them power and authority over unclean spirits to drive them out, and to cure all kinds of disease and .All kinds of weakness and infirmity... ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand! ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons. Freely (without pay) you have received, freely (without charge) give.

Acts 1:4-8

⁴ But many of those who heard the message believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on Jesus as the Christ). And their number grew and came to about 5,000. ⁵ Then on the following day, their magistrates and elders and scribes were assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ Including Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander and all others who belonged to the high priestly relationship. ⁷ And they set the men in their midst and repeatedly demanded, By what sort of power or by what kind of authority did [*such people as*] you do this [*healing*]? ⁸ Then Peter, [*because he was*] filled with [*and controlled by*] the Holy Spirit, said to them, Rulers of the people and members of the council (the Sanhedrin).

b) Problems

1. WRONG FOCUS

- too much focus on dimension 2 (knowledge)
- not enough attention to relationships

2. NO EXPERIENCING OF THE TRUTH

- no testimony
- no active faith

James 2: 26

For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from works obedience, is also dead.

3. THE MISSING DIMENSION

- Christians do not demonstrate God's power

- **The opposite of the ministry of Jesus**

Matt 12: 28 (Jesus said)

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out the demons then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 10: 9 (Jesus said to the 72)

And heal the sick in it (towns) and say to them The Kingdom of God has come close to you.

- **Jesus presented His Kingdom by demonstrating His Power not by using words only.**

John 2:23 (Jesus demonstrated His Kingdom!)

But when He was in Jerusalem during the Passover Feast, many believed in His name after seeing His signs (wonders, miracles) which He was doing.

John 14: 12

You will be able to do the things that I do and you will do even greater things than these ...

c) Questions

- **Why do we neglect this dimension?**
- **How do we start living a Spirit filled life?**

1 John 3:18 – 19

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love (merely) in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity) ¹⁹ By this we shall come to know (perceive, recognize and understand) that we are of the Truth and can reassure our hearts in His Presence.