



WOW: Word Of the Week

Absurd

April 12, 2023

“The natural person does not the things of God’s Spirit because to him they are absurd.” (1 Cor. 2:14)

Two realms: the physical or natural realm, the spiritual or supernatural realm. In the life of a Christian, the two intersect. We live in the physical realm: physical life, natural law. We simultaneously live in the spiritual realm (the “heavenlies”): spiritual life, spiritual law. When spiritual laws operate in and govern the spiritual realm, that is normal and expected. God’s spiritual, supernatural laws are not special or extraordinary in the spiritual, supernatural realm. Supernatural occurrences are normal in the supernatural realm. When spiritual realities enter and operate in the physical realm, they are supernatural (above nature, beyond nature).

A person who merely lives life in the physical realm with physical needs, desires, hopes, dreams, plans, problems, heartaches is unlikely to catch a glimpse of life’s fullness and richness – possibilities that exist in the spiritual realm. Paul says that such a person will consider spiritual things absurd. Listen! Acknowledging, advancing, helping with physical needs only accentuates the reality of those physical needs. Life in the physical realm focuses on physical needs – naturally. How can the natural physical person perceive spiritual realities?

God creates a sense of spiritual need through the gospel. The gospel proclaimed creates a sense of need for the gospel. The gospel is to be proclaimed. Blindness initiated by the god of this world causes unbelief. What is the solution? Proclaim Jesus. Read 2 Cor. 4:2-6. The light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus.

Persons who see only the physical part of existence believe that they have morality under control, they live a good life in their own eyes. Their needs are only physical. They have no sense of their need for the gospel. Ask and it will be given, but they will never ask. They cannot see. How will they see? How will the absurd become logical, practical, rational, realistic, reasonable, smart?

The message of the gospel creates needs. “My Jesus knows just what I need.” The message has power to create life, spiritual life, the life of God in us, the presence of the Spirit. As gospel power penetrates lives to bring new life, it creates realities that correspond to that life. Previously unknown, unrecognized, unfelt needs surface. Nothing can satisfy spiritual needs except that which answers the problem that created the need.

Here is a spiritual principle. Lack of X leads to a need for X. To help a person know the need for X, one must help that person see the lack of X. Simple. Think. Ultimately, Jesus’ coming was not about identifying and filling physical needs, helping with physical needs that are lacking. Likewise, we must be about developing spiritual perceptions, seeing spiritual needs.

Jesus: **“If I be lifted up I will draw all people to me.”** Too often, we share and preach our own experiences. Classes and sermons are filled with me. Or we preach human experience—you. People are interested, but no sense of need is awakened. Moralizing is equally impotent—you should do this! Listen to Jesus. Lift up Jesus. Preach Jesus. Then someone will say to you, “You are talking about something I did not know existed. There is a big hole in my life. I do not have that.” It is not personal testimony that draws people. Jesus said it: “The words that I speak to you are spirit and life.” The words of Jesus will bring others to focus on the need only he satisfies!