THE SIGN OF A GOOD CHURCH

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Col 1:11 (KJV)

A couple of pastors were discussing the respective churches they were serving. One asked the other if his was a strong church. In answering he said that he felt it was. The first asked how many members he had and he said that they had about fifty in regular attendance. The first indicated that those fifty must be quite wealthy and faithful givers. The other said that they were not wealthy in fact they were poor. He continued to say that they were faithful in giving of what they had; faithful to pray for each other; faithful to support the church in every way possible; faithful to witness and pray for the lost. “They are faithful in studying the scripture; faithful in teaching their children, no they are not wealthy but they are a strong church.”

It is not necessary for us to have the largest numbers or the most money to be a strong church but we must be strengthened with the power of God. This power will manifest itself in unity, patience, joy and longsuffering. I added unity because patience, joy and longsuffering naturally breeds unity. Churches which have this strength do not stay in a constant fuss and fight. The fighting churches are only wasting precious energy that could be spent fighting the devil. They are also creating a reputation in their community that is very difficult to overcome.

Therefore Church, continually pray for spiritual wisdom and knowledge that you might understand each other, that you might have the compassion to pray for each other and help each other along. Backbiting and tearing each other to pieces through gossip are signs of a church that is beating on itself. There is nothing to be gained by such actions. So pray for each other, suffer long and claim the joy that The Lord has for you.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram