

## **It Comes From God**

*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

*1 Timothy 1:12*

From a human perspective, the Apostle Paul appeared to be the best equipped of all the Apostles to embark on God's mission. He had the better education, more extensive influences and contacts, better communication skills, broader understanding of the Hebrew religion, knowledge of multiple languages, and a tireless zeal for His religion. Refined and sanctified all of these advantages could be of some use; but these were not what enabled Paul to be effective in advancing the Gospel. Before Paul began the missionary endeavors, God would take him to the isolated Arabian desert to purge him from having any confidence in his own abilities or resources. The God who called him, would also enable him.

We might not have had the supernatural experience that Paul had on the Damascus Road, but as followers of Christ we also are commissioned to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. Though we have differing gifts and abilities, we all have the same commission; and He who called us will also enable us to carry out His mission. Those with teaching abilities can teach a Sunday School class, but their teaching will be hollow words if it is done by trusting in their own abilities. Every effective teacher learns that conveying God's truth is to be done by His enabling power. An impact of spiritual truth is caused by the working of the Holy Spirit in both the messenger and the hearer. Not everyone will have a lesson to teach to a Bible class, or a message to preach to a congregation; but everyone has a realm of ministry with the people God has placed in their lives. Friends, family, workmates, and casual encounters will be arranged at the appropriate moment by the Lord, our part is to be prayed up and ready when that happens. In the Gospels we see individuals who had limited spiritual knowledge and no training, yet they shared the gospel by giving their testimony. The Samaritan woman invited others to come hear a man who had told her about the previous details of her life. A man healed from his blindness shared the account of his healing. Others who were impacted by Jesus, began publishing abroad the great works that he had done in their lives. The Apostle Paul's method of sharing the Gospel was not in preaching with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit of power.

Remember, the Lord has enabled all of us to share the message of Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.     ~J. Ekis