

# EXPERIENCING THE ALMIGHTY

## Part 4: Experiencing God Through Community

### Introduction – Culture Vs. Community

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Understanding the pervasive influence of CULTURE...

Mark 4:23-25

Understanding our need for COMMUNITY...

### Community In Corinth

1 Corinthians 12-14

THREE POSITIVE PRINCIPLES...

- Each person's experience of the Almighty is \_\_\_\_\_.
- To be a Christian is to be "plunged into" the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- Gifts are given to make Christians \_\_\_\_\_ dependent.  
(e.g., Tongues – \_\_\_\_\_ = Self-gratification.)

THREE BIG BUTS...

- But didn't this stuff stop after the Bible was written?
- But what about frauds?

2 Corinthians 11:14 vs. 1 John 1:5

- But how can I be sure?

James 3:17

### Conclusion – A Love Beyond Words

1 John 4:9-10

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. What has been your personal experience of experiencing God through other people?

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read about Elijah's encounter with the Almighty in 1 Kings 19:11-13. a) What might be modern counterparts to the strong wind, earthquake, and fire in our lives today – events that might seem spectacular, but are more of a distraction than anything else? b) God spoke to Elijah out of the gentle wind after Elijah came to the mouth of the cave. What are some contemporary parallels to this experience from your life – hearing God's quiet voice once we have the courage to step toward him?
4. Read John's words of encouragement in 1 John 2:27-29. a) How does this passage illustrate the partnership of community with God's internal voice within individual believers? b) What do you think John means by his instruction to "abide in Him" (NASB) or "remain in him" (TNIV) in light of the context?
5. Read Paul's words about experiencing God through community in 1 Corinthians 12. a) What does Paul say is a key mark of a Christian in v. 3? What does this mean? b) How does the message of v. 11 apply to someone who is seeking a particular spiritual gift? c) Have you ever experienced (or known someone who has manifested) the negative attitude expressed in vv. 15-16? d) Have you ever experienced (or known someone who has manifested) the prideful attitude described in v. 21? e) What principles in the surrounding verses help counteract these attitudes? f) How could your Home Church better experience the principle of v. 25?

#### SO WHAT?...

6. Read 1 John 4:9-10. How well do you think you have grasped God's primary message to you of his infinite love for you? b) What might help you grasp, comprehend, experience this message in an increasingly deeper way? (Also see Galatians 2:20 & Ephesians 3:14-19).

Bruce Cavey @ The Meeting House – Sunday, January 26, 2003