

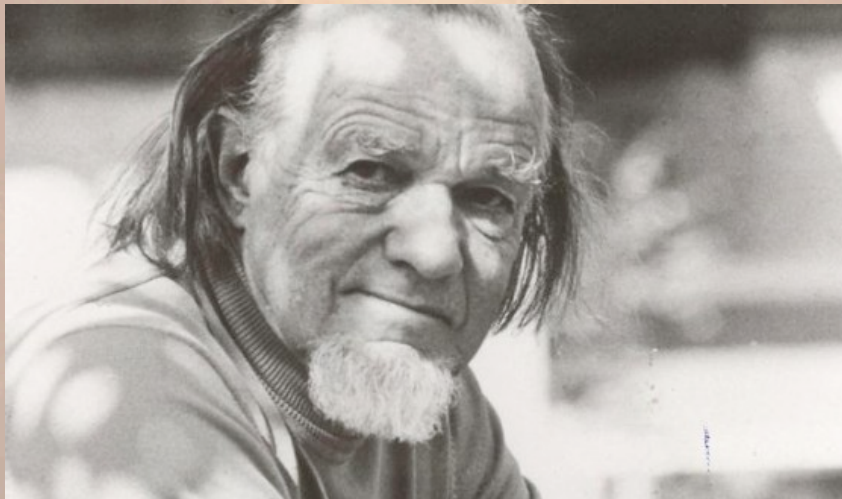
Under Spiritual Authority

~ Are You? ~

II Corinthians 10:7-18

The Text and Context

- Vs. 7-12 Look at the obvious facts...
 - If anyone can claim to be Christ's its Paul...
 - Make no mistake – God has given him spiritual authority...
 - A weak, unimpressive man of no account...



Who just
happened to be
powerfully used
of God!

The Text and Context

- Vs. 7-12 Look at the obvious facts...
 - If anyone can claim to be Christ's its Paul...
 - Make no mistake – God has given him spiritual authority...
 - A weak, unimpressive man of no account...
 - Don't make me come with a rod...
See I Cor 4:21
 - If you want to boast...

The Text and Context

- Vs. 7-12 Look at the obvious facts
- Vs 13-18 Legitimate 'boast' – the sphere of spiritual influence given by God
 - To boast:
 - ~ brag, speak too highly of yourself
 - ~ call attention to some that is a rightful source of pride & joy
 - A sphere of spiritual influence (**vs. 13, 15, 16**)
 - *Geographic*: Asia Minor, Macedonia, Achaia and regions beyond (**Rom 15:17-18, 24**)
 - *Personal*: deeper within them (**vs.15**)

The Text and Context

Spiritual Authority and You

- Spiritual Authority = a God-given responsibility to influence others *Godward*.
- Responding to God's influence is a defining characteristic of a Christian.
 - See II Cor 13:5; I John 3:7-10; Phil 2:13

The Text and Context

Spiritual Authority and You

- Me – under someone’s authority? Yikes!
- Spiritual authority in the church...
 - In the NT *the elders* are charged with the responsibility and authority of exercising godly spiritual influence over members
 - In the NT *individual Christians* are responsible to welcome and to respond to that spiritual influence.
 - I Thess 5:12-13
 - Heb 13:17

The Text and Context

Spiritual Authority and You

For Personal Reflection

- *Are we in fact under spiritual authority – or do we keep God and those whom He has placed over us at arms' length?*
- *Do we welcome and intentionally seek it? Is our heart willing, pliable, malleable... easily influenced by the spiritual leaders God has placed us under here in this church?*