

## DEATH TO LIFE

Hello. I'm Jim Fuller. I'd like to share a few thoughts and lots of scriptures with you from the Amplified Bible.

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Many Christians throughout the world believe in the Kingdom of God. They believe that it will come with glory and power at the end of the age when Jesus returns to the Earth to set things right. And according to the scriptures this is true.

The scriptures also state that after Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He went about the entire countryside preaching, repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is here now. Matt 4.17

Jesus also told His disciples, truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of man coming into His Kingdom. Matthew 16.28

When His disciples said, teach us to pray, He told them to pray for His kingdom to come in this earth, just as it is in heaven. Luke 11

The kingdom of God is not a place. It's the influence of the King on His territory, and His subjects. So, wherever the King is, that's where His Kingdom reign is.

Jesus told the Pharisees that the kingdom did not come with outward observation, but it's within you. John 5.39

In John chapter 16, Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit, the Father, and Himself would come and make their permanent dwelling in us. Therefore, the kingdom of God would dwell in us who believe

According to the scriptures, because we are His children, we inherit the Kingdom of God, that was prepared for us before the foundation of the world. Matthew 25.34

So how did this inheritance come to be ours?

Hebrews 9.16 explains.

For where there is a last will and testament involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will and testament is valid and takes effect only at death, since it has no force or legal power as long as the one who made it is alive.

The Apostle Paul explained to the Corinthian believers in his first letter, that God put us in Christ by His own doing. Christ then became our wisdom from God, our righteousness, our sanctification, and redemption. 1 Corinthians 1.30.

He also explained to the Roman believers in chapter 6, that because we were in Christ, whatever happened to Christ also happen to us. We were crucified with Him, buried with Him, and raised from the dead with Him, by God's supernatural work.

In his letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2.4, he declares that, even when we were dead, slain by our own shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ. He gave us the very Life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for it is by Grace, His favor and mercy which you did not deserve, that you are saved, delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation.

There is nothing natural about the gospel. It's the supernatural work of God to redeem us back into His family and into His kingdom.

God has held nothing back from His children in their inheritance.

John 1.12 states that, to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority, the power, the privilege, and the right to become the children of God, that is to those who believe in, adhere to, trust in and rely on His name. Who owe their birth neither to bloods, nor to the will of the flesh, that of a physical impulse, nor to the will of man, that of a natural father, but to God, they are born of God.

He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm. That's in Ephesians 1.3

His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that are requisite and suited to life and godliness, through the full, personal knowledge of Him, who called us by His own glory and excellence.

By means of these, He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape, by flight, from the moral decay, the rottenness and corruption that is in the world because of covetousness, which is lust and greed, and become sharers, partakers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1.3

And if that wasn't enough,

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and has not entered into the heart of man, all that God has prepared, made, and keeps ready, for those who love Him, who hold Him in affectionate reverence promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed. 1 Corinthians 2.9

God has made everything He is and everything He has available to His children, who are His heirs, by His eternal covenant.

He has testified that He has given us His eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who possesses the Son has that life. 1 John 5.11

There is no one in the universe like God. He is spiritual, perfect, and eternal. The eternal life that He has given to His children, dwells in our spirit.

Because of Satan's lie, and man subsequent fall from God's presence, man's soul became the controlling force of his life. We received our perception of reality through our five senses, and became self-directed and self-preserving. Our self-preservation instinct was inherited from Adam and Eve and is a very strong force in our lives.

I've shared to this point the scriptures that show God's incredible plan of redemption. He has paid our penalty in full, created an unbelievable inheritance for us, and has given us His Holy spirit to guarantee our possession and expression of it.

This begs the question, with millions of born-again believers on the planet, why is the expression of His Kingdom so sparse and having so little effect on this world?

Let me share a few more scriptures.

Jesus said, that you cannot serve two masters. You'll either love the one and hate the other or you will serve the one and despise the other. Matthew 6.24

In Romans 6 the Apostle Paul states the principle that whoever you submit yourself to, that's who's servant you really are. We can either offer our souls, which is our mind, our will and our emotions, as instruments of unrighteousness or completely submit them to God as instruments of righteousness.

In Romans 6.12, he gives this directive.

Let not sin therefore rule as king in your mortal, short-lived, perishable, bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts than evil passions. Do not continue offering or yielding you're bodily members and faculties to sin as instruments, tools of wickedness, but offer and yield yourself to God as though you have been raised from the dead, to perpetual life, and your bodily members and faculties to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness. For sin shall not any longer exert dominion over you, since you are not under the law, as slaves, but under grace as subjects of God's favor and mercy.

Jesus said, whoever wishes to save his own natural life, will never possess His eternal life. Luke 9.24

So it appears that even though God has given us His incredible eternal life in our Spirits, if we continue to submit to the authority of our souls we effectively hinder, delay, and even postpone the reality and expression of his kingdom in our lives now.

Jesus told the Pharisees, you make the Word of God of no effect in your life by continually serving the traditions of men. You even search the scriptures thinking that in them you have eternal life, but they testify of me, and you won't come to me that you could actually have the life. John 5.39

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Colossian and Ephesian believers to put off their old unrenewed life, and put on the new life that God had created for them. Colossians 3.9 and Ephesians 4.24

This new life that God has provided for us is not a reformed, and reconditioned version of our old natural life. It's a completely new creation. 2 Corinthians 5.17 declares that if anyone is in Christ, he is a completely new creation. Old things have passed away and all things have become new.

Hebrews 2.14 reads,

Since, therefore, these His children share in flesh and blood, in the physical nature of human beings, He Himself in a similar manner partook of the same nature, that by going through death He might bring to nought and make of no affect him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

And also that He might deliver and completely set free all those who through the haunting fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives.

Since the way back into God's eternal life is the death and resurrection of our old corrupted nature, I don't believe that it was any accident that Satan put this "haunting fear of death" in our souls as a road block to our salvation.

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God knew that because of our natural self-preservation instinct we would never willingly lay down our lives. So, He put us in Christ and Christ died for us and we died with Him. So that now by faith we can accept His death as our death and His resurrection to new Life as our resurrection to new Life.

There is nothing natural or ordinary about the Gospel. It's just like God, spiritual, perfect, and supernatural. God is the only one in the universe who could do this for us.

Romans 8.2 explains how.

For the law of the Spirit of Life which is in Christ Jesus, the law of our new being, has freed me from the law of sin and death. For God has done with the law could not do, it's power being weakened by the flesh, which is the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit.

Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, God condemned sin in the flesh.

He subdued it, overcame it and deprived it of it's power over all who accept that sacrifice, so that the righteous and just requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who live and move not in the ways of the flesh, but in the ways of the Spirit, our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at Paul's explanation of our new resurrected life in 1 Corinthians 15.45.

It reads,

Thus, it is written, the first man Adam became a living being, an individual personality, the last Adam, Christ, became a life-giving Spirit restoring the dead to life.

But it is not the spiritual life which came first, but the physical and then the spiritual. The first man was from out of the earth, made of dust, earthly minded, the second man is the Lord from out of Heaven. Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust, earthly minded, and as is the Man from Heaven, so also those who are of Heaven, Heavenly minded.

And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, so shall we also bear the image of the man of Heaven.

But I tell you this, brethren, flesh and blood cannot become partakers of eternal salvation or share in the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable, that which is decaying, inherent or share in the imperishable, the immortal.

God's answer to our fallen nature was not to reform our old nature, but to crucify it and give us His eternal nature.

Christ's sacrifice on the cross forgave our sins and delivered us from eternal judgment, but it also set us free from our selves. It delivered us from the authority of our soul nature that we've submitted to all our lives.

God's Kingdom will not coexist with any other kingdom. Neither on this planet, in the spirit realm or anything that we've allowed to rule in our lives.

Jesus described His Kingdom, like leaven, that a woman put in three measures of meal until the whole lump was leavened. Luke 13.21

God's plan was that His Kingdom would overtake and fill to overflow, every area of our lives. He created man to be the supreme expression in this world of His eternal life.

Jesus said in John 6:63, that it's the Spirit who gives life, your flesh profits absolutely nothing.

When we surrender our souls to the authority of God's Holy Spirit, we allow Him to utilize our souls as instruments of righteousness to express God's Kingdom through us.

Our souls will be redeemed. Bought back for the purpose they were originally created for, to fulfill the Father's Great Commission and produce an eternal harvest of souls. Our souls no longer being Satan's tool to hinder, delay, corrupt and pollute our expression of God's Kingdom.

Jesus told His disciples,

I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just one grain, it never becomes more but lives by itself alone, but if it dies, it produces many others and yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it, but anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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