

STRANGER THAN FICTION

Hello, I'm Jim Fuller. I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

But first let me share a crazy hypothetical story with you.

Imagine with me, that I walk up to a King's Royal Palace. For example Buckingham Palace in England.

Imagine that I walked up to the front gate, and the guards say to me, what do you want? I tell them, I want you to open the gates for me and let me into the palace. I just got out of prison, and I plan to move in, become a member of the Royal family, and reign with the King. Now open the gates.

Now, there is no way in the world that those guards would ever open those gates and let me in. And if I persisted long and hard enough they would call the people in the white coats to come and haul me away to the mental hospital.

Now that's a pretty ridiculous and unbelievable story that I've shared with you. Let me tell you a true story that's even more incredible than that.

It starts by God sending one of His angels to a young, Jewish, virgin girl. He explains to her that I am God, I am a Spirit. I want to come into this world and end man's separation from Me that was caused by Adam and Eve believing Satan's lie in the garden. I want to redeem all of mankind back into my family.

I need a body to be able to function in this earth. And since this problem was caused by man's sin, a man is going to have to pay the penalty for it.

She asked, how will this happen? He said My Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will give birth to a son and name him Jesus. That's the supernatural part that only I can do. The rest will be just like any other birth on the planet.

She said, let it happen to me just like you say.

Nine months later Jesus is born. He lives a sinless life, and when he turns 30, he is baptized at the Jordan River and filled with and empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

He begins to preach everywhere saying, repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is here. In other words what you were actually created for from the very beginning, is available to you now. He then went about demonstrating the life that God originally created for mankind to live.

God then, put all of mankind in Christ, and had the religious leaders deliver Him up to be crucified to pay the penalty for Adam's disobedience that brought about the separation from God, the spiritual and physical death, and every other part of the curse.

Jesus is buried, raised from the dead, and seated at the right hand of God. And because man was in Christ, whatever happened to Christ happened to man. Man was recreated from being a living soul, living under the curse to a life-giving spirit like Christ, living in God's presence.

All of mankind was now able to receive from God, by faith in God's supernatural work, the complete and total redemption into God's family, and the restoration of our oneness with God, as his children.

As his children, He qualified us to share in the inheritance of Christ. We became sons, heirs and joint heirs with Christ of everything that Christ has in His oneness with God.

That's quite an amazing story isn't it. I'll wager that you've never heard the gospel presented quite like that.

The gospel is not a religion that we can pray a prayer to join, do some religious rituals, and commit ourselves to a life of self-generated behavior modification.

Many people today have realized their need for change, and have turned to religion to try and bring about the change. Unfortunately, religion is done by men and for men, and is done with the same unfixable nature that God has delivered us from.

The efforts of men using their wills, their emotions, and their intellects cannot produce the righteousness of God. They only produce more religion.

People can change their speech, and try to amend their behavior, but they're incapable of producing the fruit of God's Holy Spirit.

For example, natural human effort cannot produce God's unconditional covenant love.

People can produce a natural kind of love, and commit to love one another. But it only lasts until we are offended and then we quit loving.

1 Peter 1:24 declares that,

All flesh is like grass, and its glory like the flower of the grass. The grass withers, the flower falls off, but the Word of the Lord abides forever.

In contrast, 1 Corinthians 13.8 says that God's love never fails.

Without this supernatural transformation by God, our efforts to love are doomed to failure.

Often times, in an attempt to walk in this love of God, religion attempts to modify the word to fit our flesh's ability.

Jesus commanded His disciples in John 15.12+13 to love people just like I loved you and greater love has no one than this, that he would lay down his life for his friends.

Religion's application of this command becomes, be the nicest person you can be, and love them the best you can, because after all we're only human, and no one's perfect.

Our death and resurrection with Christ is the only thing that empowers us to walk in the supernatural, eternal life that He made available for us to live.

Our death with Christ ended our old nature and the Holy Spirit was given to establish our new nature in Christ.

Our natural efforts to attempt to produce God's life in us, although they may be well-meaning, compassionate, and noble by natural standards, will never produce it.

John 6.63 Jesus said,

It's the spirit who gives life. Your flesh profits absolutely nothing.

And in John 3, he said,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you are born of water and the Spirit you cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Thankfully in John 1.12 God declares that, As many as received Him (speaking of Jesus) to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

God's plan to pay our penalty for sin, to redeem us into his family, and restore us to our original created oneness and authority in Christ, is unlike any other plan on the planet. It may seem like fantasy to the natural mind,

but as God said in Isaiah 55.8+9,

My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts that your thoughts.

And in verse 11, God says, So shall My Word be that goes forth out of My mouth, it shall not return to Me void (without producing any effect), but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

And in Isaiah 46.9-11 God says, I am God, and there is no one else, I am God, and there is none like Me.....

And I will do all My pleasure and purpose.....

Yes, I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass, I have purposed it, and I will do it.

Let's remember, that all fleshly effort is like grass, completely temporary, but the God's Word and his plan to redeem us is everlasting.

Let's give up our best efforts, die to ourselves, and receive God's eternal life in exchange for our useless one that we inherited from Adam and Eve. Then we can submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to manifest God's eternal life to this entire world, through us, just like Jesus did.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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