

EVERYTHING

It seems that in these days, the gospel is often presented as a simple way to miss hell, and cope with the ups, downs, and disturbances of our circumstances in this world.

It's offered as help for our human weaknesses, failures, character flaws and sins. By praying a prayer, we can expect God's help on our job, in our finances, and even in our marriages and family relationships.

We are often told that by utilizing biblical principles, we can create for ourselves, an outstanding life in this world. It's regularly presented as a survival method for us who have to live subject to this world and all its negative circumstances.

A careful reading of Genesis chapters 1 through 3 should show us that we were never created to live under this world system. This world system and everything in it is a product of a lie from Satan and the subsequent fall of man from God's presence.

The world's national politics, educational systems, entertainment industry, social standards, religion, and everything else are a product of fallen mankind, separated from God, and under the influence of Satan. We were all born into it, influenced by it, and have lived under its control.

Many people, especially Christians, don't like the idea that Satan is the ruler of this world. God created the Earth, but this world and all of it's systems were created by man under Satan's influence.

In Luke 4.6 Satan tempted Jesus by saying, "if you will bow down to me I will give you the kingdoms of this world and all their glory, because they've been handed over to me."

God never had any intention of helping us create a better version of our old unfixable nature that we inherited from Adam.

Paul explains in Romans 6, that we, as Christians, have died with Christ, We've been risen with him, and He tells us to declare our old nature dead, and ourselves alive to God in unbroken fellowship, because of our death and resurrection with him

I'd like to share some scriptures with you that show the lengths that God has gone to redeem us back into his family and make us citizens and ambassadors of his kingdom to the whole world.

In Ephesians 4:7 it says, to each one of us Grace has been given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Please note, that Jesus didn't draw off a pint of blood and sprinkle it over us. He took the worst beating anyone has ever received. He gave himself totally and completely, as the perfect sacrifice to free us from the bondage of sin and the authority Satan.

Then as he was exalted to Heaven, as the king of kings, he poured forth His Holy Spirit to dwell within us and transform us into his likeness.

Jesus is not a supplier of goods, services, and attributes. He gives us himself, "in whom all the fullness of God dwells", as stated in col 1.19.

He's not parceling out a little love for you, some healing for this one, a little patience for that one, or some financial help for the other one.

1 John 5.11 declares, that this is the witness, that he has given us eternal life, and this life is in his son. He who has the son has the life. There is only one life in the universe that's Eternal. That would be His life. So he has actually given us His eternal life.

1 Corinthians 1.30 states that by His doing we are IN CHRIST, and HE BECAME, our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption.

Try this exercise. As you read through the New Testament, notice every time there is a statement of benefit or blessing for us, it's always, IN CHRIST, IN HIM, OR WITH HIM. It will be an eye opener for you.

Here is an example.

Ephesian 1.3

Blessed be the God and father of our Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places in Christ. Lord Jesus

They're all through the New Testament.

How about a few more mind-boggling scriptures about God's total commitment to us.

This first one is Jesus speaking of the Holy Spirit.

He will honor and glorify me because he will take of, receive, draw upon what is mine, and will reveal, declare, disclose and transmit it to you. Everything that the father has is mine. That is what I meant when I said that he, the spirit, will take the things that are mine and we'll reveal, declare, disclose and transmit it to you. John 16. 14 + 15

Here's another one.

He who did not withhold or spare even his own son, but gave him up for us all, will he not also with him freely and graciously give us all things. Romans 8:32

In my 56 years as a Christian, I've often heard people say, I tried Christianity but it didn't work for me.

The gospel is so much more than praying a prayer, joining a church, and trying our very best to adopt Christian behavior and trying to serve God with the very nature that he has delivered us from.

Many times people will adopt Christian ideals, biblical principles as an add-on to their existing life. Much like a person will accept or receive a political ideology and act upon it. But since it's only accepted in the mind, people often change their minds and their ideologies, and are persuaded to adopt other ones.

The primary prerequisite for being a Christian, is to repent, cast off our existing life inherited from Adam, and allow Christ, as our Savior and Lord, to recreate us into his image by His Holy Spirit.

God has committed himself to us in Christ and as 2nd Corinthians 1:20 says,
As many as be the promises of God, they are yes in Christ.

The fruits of the spirit, the abundance of grace, the fullness of God, and the unfathomable riches of Christ, and all the promises of God, are all the result of Christ being in us and being our Lord, and our very life.

God is not indiscriminately dumping his divine nature and his eternal life on un-regenerated sons of Adam. He's actually making available everything that He is and everything that He has, as the inheritance for his children that have been born of his spirit.

God's focus is not merely to forgive our sins and get us to heaven when we die. The gospel is His plan to fill us with the same spirit that He has, and transform us so that we can be his children, heirs of His Kingdom, and His witnesses to every nation.

Here are three more scriptures that illustrate God's plan to empower and transform his children.

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our lord, seeing that his divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and excellence. For by these he granted to us his precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2 Peter 1.2-4

About Jesus. Hebrews 1.1-3 says,

God, after he spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days he has spoken to us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he made the world. And he is the radiance of his glory and the exact representation of his nature, and upholds all things by the word of his power.

And about us in Romans 8.15-18

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as Sons by which we cry, Abba Father! The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ....

God intends for his children to be partakers of his nature. Jesus, his first born son, radiated his glory, perfectly represented his nature, and spoke his word with power and God made him the heir of all things.

As we just read, the rest of his children he purposed to make joint heirs with Christ of those all things.

Roman 8.29+30 Amplified version shows us that this is not a new plan, it was God's intention from the beginning.

For those whom he foreknew, of whom he was aware and loved beforehand, he also destined from the beginning, foreordaining them to be molded into the image of his son, and share inwardly his likeness, that he might become the firstborn among many brethren. And those whom he thus foreordained, he also called, and those he called, he also justified, acquitted made righteous, putting them in right standing with himself. And those whom he justified, he also glorified raising them to a Heavenly dignity and condition or state of being

Hebrews 2:10

Tells us that God wants to bring many sons to Glory.

And Verse 11 says,

both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one father, for which reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren.....

... speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him..

As it says in Ephesians 4.15

Now for a few final thoughts.

1st John 4:19 explains that

We love God because he first loved us.

Every wedding that I ever attended, the preacher turns to the man first and says,

Will you forsake all others and take this woman as your wife, to love, protect, and cherish with all your heart. Will you commit yourself to her, in sickness and in health, in good times or bad, til death do you part?

The man says, I DO.

After this, the preacher turns to the woman and asks her,

Will you forsake all others and take this man as your husband, to love, to honor, cherish him, in sickness and in health, in good times and bad, until death do you part? She says, I DO.

Jesus said, you didn't choose me, I chose you.

Think about this with me for a minute.

The man has already chosen the woman. He has already committed himself, everything he is, and everything he has to love her. So when she says I do, she is actually choosing to be chosen.

We love, because he first loved us.

I've shared a bunch of scriptures with you in these videos. I've tried to paint a very rudimentary picture of God's commitment to us and I believe I've barely scratched the surface.

1st Corinthians 2 agrees,

Things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor ever entered into the heart of man, those things which God has prepared for those who love him.

Jesus said in Luke 12.32

It's the father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

Christ made a complete and total commitment, backed by his very life to his bride, before we even asked.

Satan lied to Eve, by telling her that independence from God was the thing she needed.

When we get a revelation from God of His incredible covenant love for us, all of the conditioning that we received in this world under Satan's influence is exposed for what it actually is A LIE.

Jesus said in John 15, you are my friends if you do what I command you.

And, He was asked in Matthew 22:37. What is the greatest commandment? He responded, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment.

The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Let's repent and respond with all our hearts, all our souls, and all of our minds to God's incredible love for us.

So that we can become his friends and walk in these two commandments.

Then we can see every man, woman, and child on this planet receive his love and become members of his family. So that the people of every nation can become citizens of his kingdom, and heirs of everything that God has prepared for those who love him.

God bless you

Jim Fuller