

HIS PLAN

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

I've been a Christian a very long time. I can't tell you how many times I've heard Christians say things like this. I attend church and read my Bible faithfully. I do my very best to try to walk in the words of Jesus and I modify my behavior as much as I can.

Since no one could ever be like Jesus, and I'm only a sinner saved by grace, I just repent every time I fail and pray that God would help me be more like Jesus.

This is pretty typical for the modern Christian and for most people this effort qualifies as living a Christian life.

God said in Isaiah 55.8,

My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither 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 than your thoughts.

He said that our ways are not His ways and there is as much difference between our ways and His ways as there is the difference between Heaven and Earth.

If this type of "Christian Behavior" was enough to satisfy God's desire to redeem man into His family, establish His kingdom in the Earth, and give us His eternal life, then Christ died needlessly.

No religious effort, no praying of prayers, no Bible reading, or going through some catechism, can make this happen.

God's plan to redeem us into His family, and make us citizens of His kingdom, is supernatural. He's the only one on the planet who can do this.

So what is God's plan to make this our reality? Let's look at the scriptures.

John 1.12 amp reads,

To as many as did receive and welcome Him (Christ), He gave the authority, the power, the privilege and 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.

As I said before, this is supernatural. The very thing that makes God, God, His supernatural nature, is the very thing that makes us His children.

So how did God implement His supernatural plan, the Gospel, to redeem us? Let's look at some more scriptures.

1 Corinthians 1.30 says,

By His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption....

This scripture DID NOT SAY that

He set up a religion and gave us teachings to study to help us try to be righteous. He actually made us one with Him, and we share the same righteousness - HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Look at Romans 6.4

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin.

So according to God's word, He put of all of mankind in Christ, He then crucified Him, buried Him, and raised Him from the dead. Because we were in Christ, everything that happened to Christ, happened to us.

God's plan was not to give us a new religion and ask us to do the best we could to walk in it. His plan was to kill off our old nature and replace it with His eternal life

This type of transformation doesn't come from studying doctrines and doing religious rituals or disciplining our actions and modifying our speech.

In John 6.63 Jesus said,
It's the Spirit who gives life, your flesh profits absolutely nothing.
Only God can accomplish this.

Let's look at some scriptures that show the results of God's unique plan.

2 Corinthians 5.17

Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things have passed away, behold new things have come.

The Gospel is the supernatural re-creation of our old spiritually dead nature into the eternal life of God that He originally created man to have.

Let me read a few scriptures from Paul's letter to the Hebrews that show the incredible results of Jesus's perfect sacrifice for us.

Hebrews 9:12

Not through the blood of goats and calves but through His own blood, He entered the Holy Place once for all of us, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9.15 says that His perfect sacrifice purchased for us an eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 10.10 reads,

By this will, we have been sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all of us.

And Hebrews 10.14 declares,

For by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

No religious effort of man to try to be one with God can compare with Christ's perfect sacrifice to make God one with man.

Everything that we receive in God's Kingdom comes by inheritance. Being God's children qualifies us for some tremendous benefits.

In John 17.22 Jesus spoke to the Father.

The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are One. I in them, You and me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that You did send me, and did love them even as you did love me.

Romans 8.16

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.....

John 16.14 Jesus speaking of the Holy Spirit said,

He shall glorify me, for He shall take of mine, and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are mine, therefore I said that He takes of mine and will disclose it to you.

Ephesians 1.14 also says that He has given us His Holy Spirit as the guarantee of our inheritance.

I've only shared just a few scriptures that show the inheritance that God has prepared for His children.

God has held nothing back from His children's inheritance.

And if this wasn't enough,

1 Corinthians 2.9 states, Things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor ever entered into the heart of man those things that God has prepared for those who love Him.

God's plan is just like Him. It's spiritual, perfect and eternal. It borders on fantasy to the natural mind and seems foolish and unattainable to natural men because it requires a revelation from His Holy Spirit.

In John 3, Jesus told Nicodemus, unless you are born again you can't see the Kingdom and unless you are born of the Spirit you can't enter it.

It's pretty obvious that God's inheritance for His children is vastly superior to our inheritance from Adam and Eve or any inheritance that any natural man could create for his children.

But it begs the question, with the millions of people on this planet claiming to be born again Christians, why is the possession and expression of this inheritance so sparse and almost imperceptible in the church today?

Let's look at some more scriptures.

Matthew 16.25 amp reads,

For whoever is bent on saving his (temporal) life, (his comfort and security here), shall lose it, (eternal life), and whoever loses his life, (his comfort and security here), for my sake shall find it (life everlasting).

John 12.24 amp reads,

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.

(Whoever has no love for, no concern for, no regard for his life here on Earth, but despises it, preserves his life forever and ever.)

Jesus makes it pretty clear in these scriptures that in order for us to receive the eternal life that the Father has for us, we have to let go of our life inherited from Adam and Eve.

God's plan is an exchange. His new life for our old one. Even though God made this happen for every one of us, by our death and resurrection with Christ, most of us still aren't able to possess and express it.

Here is one reason why.

Hebrews 2.14+15 states that,

Jesus took on a human nature that by His death He might bring to naught and make of no effect him who had the power of death that is the devil.

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

Man's spirit is the part of him that gives him the awareness of God. His soul gives him his awareness of this natural world.

After his fall from God's presence man's spirit died and his soul and his senses became the controlling part of his life. Every input of his senses was interpreted by how it affected him. He became self conscious.

He also became self motivated, self directed, and self preserving. That self preservation instinct was inherited by all men.

In 2 Timothy 3.1-5 Paul warns Timothy that in the last days difficult times would come. He shares with him a long list of very negative behaviors and says that it's because men will become lovers of self rather than lovers of God, even though they retain a form of powerless religion.

Since the way into eternal life is to die to ourselves and receive Christ's life in exchange for ours, it's no accident that Satan has kept man in bondage for fear of death.

Human beings are very resilient. They can go through just about anything. They just don't want to die.

Years ago there was a saying, everyone wants eternal life, but no one wants to die.

Many Christians have been taught that the Christian life is all about accepting Christ as your Savior and having your sins forgiven so you can go to heaven when you die.

The cross is a very important part of our salvation. Christ's sacrifice forgave our sins and crucified our old man that created them, but that's only part of the process.

According to 2 Corinthians 3:18,

It's the Holy Spirit that transforms us into the image of Christ.

Without this transforming work of the Holy Spirit, we will be stuck applying our very best effort to be like Christ in a powerless religion.

The following exhortations by the Apostle Paul were to believers who had accepted Christ as their Savior, not to unbelievers.

Romans 12.1

Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

He also told them to,

Put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Colossians 3:9 Ephesians 4:24

The Father's plan to send Jesus

was to create the same life that Jesus demonstrated on earth in us.

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers *and sisters*; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

God made His plan foolproof for us. He knew that we couldn't overcome our survival mentality by our natural effort, so He put us in Christ and had Christ die for all of us. He then sent the Holy Spirit to establish His new eternal life within our spirits.

God made this supernatural, transforming experience available to every breathing person on this planet by faith in His incredible work on our behalf.

Accepting Christ as our Savior and having our sins forgiven is part of the plan.

Surrendering the authority of our senses to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to recreate us into the image of Christ is the other part.

If we leave out this step we become like the kernel of wheat that abides alone and bears no harvest, competency unable to fulfill the Father's heart of making every nation, tribe, and people group members of His family and citizens of His kingdom.

He left us here on this planet to fulfill His Great Commission, not to try and survive doing powerless religion.

Let's scrap our plans of trying to do the best we can and allow the Holy Spirit to do His perfect work of recreating us into the image of Christ.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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