

THE NEW NORMAL

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

We're hearing a lot today, from many sources, the phrase "The New Normal". It implies that life as we've known it will change drastically in the future. It will involve new methods of disinfecting, social distancing, new protective masks, and vaccines.

Architects are even thinking up new designs for restaurants and office spaces with plexi-glass shields, and 6-foot space requirements.

The government, our health professionals, and the current wisdom of this age, have decided that this is the "New Normal" for our future. Many believe that in the future we will be living our normal lives, but we will be inhibited and hindered by our current negative circumstances with many more to follow.

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures about this current situation and our life that follows.

Ephesians 2 states that

We FORMERLY walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. That would be Satan.

and

Colossians 1.13 states that

God delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son....

The Holy Spirit was speaking to me this morning about the "New Normal" for God's children.

He took me to 2 Corinthians 5.17. It reads

If any man is in Christ he is a new creation. Old things have passed away and all things are new.

And

Proverbs 4.18

The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

The way of the wicked is like darkness, they do not know over what they stumble.

And also

2 Corinthians 3.17 reading from the niv translation.

We all with unveiled face contemplating as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the spirit.

These scriptures speak of an ongoing, and ever-increasing experience of the New Life that God has made available to us as HIS children. They don't seem to agree with the current assessment of "our New Normal".

When we received Christ as our savior, we received His eternal life. We didn't pray a prayer to join a religion, or decide to do major behavior modification, or commit ourselves to attend church meetings and bible studies for the rest of our lives.

WE ACTUALLY RECEIVED HIM.

To as many as RECEIVED HIM, He gave the right to be children of God. CHILDREN BORN OF GOD. John 1.12

1 John 5.11 testifies that

God has given us His eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life. He who does not have the Son does not have that life.

How should we view our current situation in this world?

Colossians 3.1-3 reading from the amplified version.

If then you have been raised from the dead with Christ, to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead, aim at, and seek the rich eternal treasures that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds, and keep them set on what is above, the higher things, not on things that are on the earth. For as far as this world is concerned you have died, and your new real life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in the splendor of His Glory.

Our "NEW NORMAL" is the eternal life of Christ. It consists of unbroken fellowship, 24/7, and 365 days a year for the rest of our lives into eternity.

As the Holy Spirit was speaking to me about OUR NEW NORMAL He took me to Psalm 91. Read the whole chapter. I'll just share a few excerpts.

He said, as we abide in God, we'll not be afraid of terror, pestilence, or destruction.

God promises that

A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand but it shall not approach you. No evil or plague shall come near your dwelling. Why? Because you've made the Lord your refuge and the most high your Dwelling Place.

God's protection of his children is promised by the God of Heaven and Earth, who cannot lie.

The next part of our "New Normal" is Oneness with God.

John 1.12

We've been born of God. We've been supernaturally reborn of His nature. The very thing that makes God, God, is the same thing that has made us HIS children. We've become members of his family.

Romans 8.16 tells us that

The Holy Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.... He is the heir of everything that God has, and we are joint heirs with Him.

John 17.22 Jesus says that

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 and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Ephesians 2.10 amp

We are his workmanship, recreated in Christ to walk in things that he's prepared for us. What has He created us to walk in?

He's given us HIS ministry of reconciliation as His ambassadors for Christ to reconcile the whole world.

Another part of our "New Normal" is possessing God's eternal life and becoming like him.

I shared earlier from 1 John 5.11 that God has given us HIS eternal life. This life is in HIS son. He who has the son has the life.

Romans 8 29

He predestined us to be conformed to the image of His son and He did everything necessary to make that happen. He called us, He justified us, and He glorified us in Christ.

Ephesians 4:13-15

He created us to grow up into the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
We are to speak the truth in love and grow up in all aspects into Christ.

1 John 4:16 tells us that

As we abide in him we are perfected by his love so that as HE is so are we in this world.

The last part of our "New Normal" that the Holy Spirit showed me is reigning in Christ.

Romans 5:17

Those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through Jesus Christ.

The Greek word used for life is zoe. It's defined as God's life.

God didn't give us HIS Grace and HIS Righteousness so that we could acquire a higher position in the world system ruled by satan. He gave us HIS Life so that we live in and reign from the same place that HE does. HIS Kingdom.

Ephesians 2:5+6

God made us alive with Christ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
God made this our "New Normal" by His incredible love for us.

In the gospels, Jesus was our example who came and modeled the life that God has created for his children in front of the whole world.

He was not driven by circumstances or problems. He lived from the realm of God's presence which had the ability to overrule every circumstances and situation that came against him.

Jesus said in the world you will have tribulation, but I have overcome the world.

God has given us, as HIS children, because of our death and Resurrection with Christ, the ability to reign in His eternal life, regardless of the circumstances or problems that come against us.

We live in this world, but we are definitely not of it.

We are the sons of the Kingdom that He has sown into this world to bring forth eternal fruit from every nation and people group, to glorify Him in everything and accomplish HIS great commission.

We have the option of living by our senses inherited from Adam and walking according to the wisdom of this fallen world or by the reality of God's Word that makes HIS supernatural, eternal life our reality.

In Deuteronomy 8:3, God told the Israelites in the wilderness that He wanted to teach them one thing. Not two things, not ten things, or a large volume of systematic theology. Just one thing. YOU LIVE BY EVERY WORD THAT HE SPEAKS.

GOD CREATED OUR "NEW NORMAL" BY GIVING CHRIST TO BE OUR NEW LIFE.

GOD BLESS YOU.

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