

## THE EXCHANGE

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

Many Christians believe in the kingdom of God. They believe it will come with power at the end of the age when Jesus returns to set everything right.

In Matthew 6.10 Jesus taught His disciples to pray NOW  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Mark 9.1

And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God when it has come with power."

Then 6 days later

Peter, James and John experienced the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain.  
On the way down from the mountain, Jesus told them not to tell anyone until he was raised from the dead.

The scripture says They were confused by this statement and wondered what raising from the dead meant.

After they came down from the mountain a man brought his demon possessed son to him.

I told Your disciples so that they would cast it out, but they could not *do it.*" And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you?"

The father said to Jesus, if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" But Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible for the one who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"

We read things like this and often say, well what do you expect he wasn't a believer, but believers are often plagued by this same problem of unbelief. Even those with considerable spiritual experience.

Let's look at Mark 16.

3 women went to Jesus' tomb. An angel said to them, He is not here, He is risen.  
Go tell Peter and the other disciples that He will meet them in Galilee.

Jesus also appeared to Mary Magdalene in the garden and said go and tell my brothers.

She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe *it.*

Then he appeared in a different form to two men on the road. They went and told the disciples and they didn't believe them either.

Then he appeared to the 11 disciples.

He reprimanded them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen *from the dead.*

Jesus had taught them that even with a mustard seed of faith nothing would be possible to us.

HE MEANT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

But it was a mustard seed of faith without any unbelief to hinder it.

After reading these scriptures it should be obvious that when we don't believe God's word, that He backs with His own veracity and His own authority, nothing happens.

Let's have a look at the opposite response to God's Word.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. The one who has believed and has been baptized will be saved; but the one who has not believed will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not harm them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

In Jesus' final instructions to His disciples, He encouraged them to continue to do what He began to preach and do.

He assured them that by trusting in and acting on His Word they would be empowered to accomplish His purposes.

So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with *them*, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

When we believe God's Word, and act on it, we allow the authority of God's Word to produce God's results.

We've ALL lived our entire lives under this world's systems. We've been influenced by them our entire life. We've been influenced by our political, educational, philosophical, ethical standards, and entertainment systems. These were ALL created by self-centered, spiritually dead men, separated from God and under Satan's influence.

These systems have been around and constantly evolving since the fall of mankind from God's presence. They do change over time, but the source is still the same.

Let's look at a few more scriptures.

Ephesians 2 amp

And you [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course *and* fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].

This influence on our lives has been so continual, that we often don't even perceive that it's happening. We just accept it as our reality. Very few people today seem to recognize the source of it either.

Here is the account of Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness before Jesus began His ministry in Luke 4.5.

And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I want. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."

1 John 5 confirms this reality.

We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

When Jesus began to go about the towns and villages preaching, He preached, repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is here now.

He didn't preach repent of your sins so that I can forgive them and you could go to heaven when you die.

He was telling them, repent of this natural life that you inherited from Adam and Eve, because the one that you were actually created for is here right now.

He came to earth and demonstrated the eternal life of God here on earth. He continually overruled natural laws and processes. He turned water into wine, he walked on water, he calmed storms, he healed the sick, and raised the dead.

He demonstrated a life that was available to man, when he is completely surrendered and submitted to God and filled and directed by His Holy Spirit.

Jesus constantly challenged natural life separated from God, and under the curse with His teachings.

He often said, you've heard it said, but I say, and would give a completely contrary approach to what they had heard all their lives.

Several of them are in Matthew 5. For example, verse 38+39.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'" But I say to you, do not show opposition against an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other toward him also.

The Beatitudes also displayed values that are contrary to the world's established attitudes.

Jesus used parables to give people a picture of how different His Kingdom is from this natural world.

Jesus taught that in order to possess His eternal life we need to put aside our own natural lives.

The apostle Paul continued to teach this truth in his letters to the churches.

In Ephesians 4.22, he wrote to them saying, in reference to your former way of life, you are to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

The life that he was exhorting them to get rid of was their soul life, their natural life.

Romans 12.1 amp

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, *and* beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service *and* spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

In Romans 6, Paul explains in detail that we have been crucified with Christ and raised with Him to a completely new life.

He directs them to consider themselves as dead to sin and alive to God in unbroken fellowship.

He also tells them to yield themselves to God "as those alive from the dead" and your bodily members and faculties to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness.

After the fall from God's presence man's spirit died. His soul became the controlling force of his life.

He became self-conscious, completely self-centered, and self-preserving.

Jesus declared that we must die to ourselves (our soul lives) so we could receive His eternal Life.

Man's spiritually dead, and separated from God soul life, inherited from Adam and Eve, is the one that Paul directed the Roman believers to get rid of.

When our soul (our minds, our emotions and our wills) is surrendered to God, the Holy Spirit can then renew our minds and transform us into what we were originally created to be - the supreme creations of God to manifest His eternal Life to this world.

Our soul can then be redeemed (saved), to become the tool that it was created for, to express the eternal life of God to this entire world.

Our mind, our emotions, and our wills will then no longer be a tool that Satan uses to hinder, corrupt, and pollute our expression of God's eternal Life.

Romans 6 declares,

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

But then what benefit (return) did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? [None] for the end of those things is death. But now since you have been set free from sin and have become the slaves of God, you have your present reward in holiness and its end is eternal life.

For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gospel is not a religious effort to amend and reform our old nature. It's accepting our death and resurrection with Christ, and by faith allowing God's Holy Spirit to transform us and "lead us into all the truth."

Jesus said, you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free. John 8.32

In John 14.6 He said, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life....

GOD'S ETERNAL LIFE ONLY COMES FROM ONE PLACE.

WE NEED TO PUT OFF OUR NATURAL LIFE AND EXCHANGE IT FOR HIS.

God bless you.

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