

THE GIFT

Hello I'm Jim Fuller. I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures about God's gift to us. My intention is not to give you a teaching, but to lay out before us, what God has given to us, and allow the Holy Spirit to make it our reality.

I often hear Christian say how difficult it is to live the Christian Life. Actually for the natural man, it is utterly impossible.

We had absolutely no ability, no way, and no hope of becoming one with God and becoming heirs of his eternal life by our own efforts.

The only one in the universe who can make us one with him and make us sons and heirs of his life, is God himself. What is completely amazing about this is, that God has already done this for us, without our help, before we even asked for it.

Our natural condition, because of the Fall, was so hopeless that God took it upon himself to pay our penalty for sin, which is death, and give us himself in exchange for our pitiful lives.

Please take a look at the following scripture.

1st Corinthians 1:30 It says

by his doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness, and sanctification, and Redemption, that just as it is written let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

God's plan was never to give us a book of methods, principles, and techniques, so that we could use our intellect, our emotions, and our wills to try to become better people that he would like a lot better. He loved us even when we were his enemies. He wasn't trying to give us truths, so that we would have a way, to improve our own lives. Jesus said that, I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life.

Our righteousness isn't the improved condition of our flesh, it's a person. It's him. Likewise our sanctification isn't the dedication of our wills to be better people, it's him. Our wisdom isn't a concerted effort to study the Bible and apply it to our lives, it's him. Our Redemption is also, nothing but him. This scripture seems painfully clear about the way that God intends to recreate his life in us. It makes us wonder why this is such a foreign Concept in the church today.

So here are a few of my thoughts about the question.

Many people aren't accepting God's work on their behalf. They're choosing religion over him. Religion gives people, who have a fallen nature, that cannot serve God, doctrine, teaching, religious activities and acceptable behavior, thinking that these will change them.

Religion feeds people self-improvement programs, how to overcome depression, how to survive divorce, and biblical principal for our finances.

All of these things are done by us, in attempt to change us. This stuff works on the outside, but can't change the inside. Flesh is flesh.

God's plan is completely different. He does the work, and we are changed.

Look again at 1st Corinthians 1:30 again.

Christ actually became our wisdom, he became our righteousness, he became our sanctification, and he became our Redemption. Our deliverance is a person. It's him.

It's not us trying to improve us, it's him. God wasn't trying to improve us. He ended us so that he could give us him! God's plan to redeem us from our self was to put us in Christ, crucify, bury, and raised us up with him, so

that we could live his life. Not so we could improve our life.

God wants sons who are like him. Who have a heart like his, who love like him, speak like him, are merciful like him, who actually manifest his life. No other plan will accomplish this Oneness with God only his plan

Here are a few more more scriptures. These scriptures will require the Holy Spirit's Revelation to become reality in our lives.

Many of us have been frustrated in our lives because we've been trying to accomplish this change with outward extraneous efforts. With things like church meetings, Bible study, prayer, humanitarian service, giving, etc etc.

Because we've been ignorant of this Revelation we've spent a lot of time trying to obtain wisdom, become righteous, dedicate and rededicate ourselves for sanctification, and acquire Redemption. Apart from him this is all just self-generated stuff.

God isn't trying to give us stuff. He has given us Himself.

Let's look at a few scriptures that help shed some light on this concept. This first one is probably on a refrigerator magnet nearly every Christian Home in the United States.

It's Philippians 4:19.

My God shall supply all of your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ.

We interpret this to mean that God wants to give us everything that I want. Not true.

He actually wants to be everything that I need. Christ is everything that we need. He actually is the riches of his glory.

Look at it Ephesians chapter 1 verse 3.

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

It says that he has blessed us, not will bless us. The father gave us Christ. Christ actually is every spiritual blessing from God.

And how about 2nd Corinthians 5.16 through 18.

Therefore If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things have passed away, behold new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

It doesn't say old things will pass away or new things will come. It says that they have passed away and they have come.

We often look to our senses to confirm the word, and immediately reject it by saying, I don't feel like a new creature, it doesn't seem like old things have passed away, and I don't think new things have come.

It's not based on our senses. It's what he has already done.

Take a look at Romans 6 verse 11.

Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is our reality in Christ, not in ourselves. He's not going to make it happen. He has already made it happen, in Christ. He asks us to accept it as our reality in Christ.

Another one is 2nd Corinthians 3 verses 14 and 15.

But their minds were hardened, for until this very day at the reading of the old Covenant the same veil

remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.
Even the ability to comprehend these things is in Christ.

Here's another one Ephesians 2 verses 4 through 7.

But God, being rich in Mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ, by Grace you have been saved, and raised up with him, and seated with him in the Heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come he might show The surpassing Riches of his grace and kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.

Christ is the surpassing riches of his grace.

We were made alive, raised up, and seated in the Heavenly places, in Christ.

Give a look at Ephesians 3 verse 6.

the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus. Christ is the inheritance of his sons, Christ is our Oneness with God, and Christ is the Fulfillment of the father's promise to us.

Colossians chapter 1 verses 27 through 29 says,

And we proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Proclaiming him is what gives the revelation, that we are complete in him. It isn't the constant self-improvement religion that is being preached so often. If we don't see him as our deliverance, there won't be any. There may be lots of religious activity, but no deliverance from ourselves.

Colossians 2 verses 8 through 10 declares,

For in him all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, and in him you have been made complete. Christ is our completeness.

And the last one for now is Romans 8 verses 32 and 33.

He who did not spare his own son, but delivered him up for all of us, how will he not also with him freely give us all things?

Christ is the all things he wants to give us please note that the word was give not earn.

I've shared a lot of things with you so far about Christ's gift. It brings up the question how did these things become our reality?

Let's go to the scriptures to find out.

Let's look at Romans 8 verses 1 through 4.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, weak as it is through the flesh, God did, sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

The answer to the question is, God did it.

He wants us to accept his work on our behalf. He wants us to live according to his spirit and not according to the old life that he delivered us from.

The next obvious question would be, how does he work that out in our lives.

Again let's go to the scriptures. John chapter 14 verses 16 through 24.

I will ask the father, and he will give you another Helper, and he will be with you forever, that is the spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know him, but you know him because he abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you. After a little while the world will hold me no more, but you will hold me, because I live, you shall live also. In that day you should know that I am in my father, and you and me, and I in you. He who has my Commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me, and he who loves me shall be loved by my father, and I will love him, and will disclose myself to him. Then Judas not Iscariot said to him, Lord what then has happened that you were going to disclose yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered and said to him if anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him.

Here's Jim's paraphrase of that scripture,

I will send the helper. He will not only be with you, he will be in you. You will know me and see me, because I made you one with me. If you hang onto my word the father and I will live inside you permanently.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way I am the truth and I am the life.

He didn't say I'm giving you truthful teachings to do the best you can to follow. I'm giving you Me.

In John chapter 16 verse 7

Jesus said I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the helper shall not come to you but if I go, I will send them to you.

In verse 13 it says

When he, the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own initiative, but whatever he hears, he will speak, and he will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify me, for he shall take of mine, and disclosed 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.

Here's Jim's paraphrase of that scripture,

It's good for you that I go away. I'll send the helper, the spirit of Truth to lead you into me. He'll take of mine and impart it to you. The spirit hasn't come to deliver truth and teaching. He's come to lead you into Christ, the truth

Here's another scripture that shows how Gods Holy Spirit makes this our reality.

It's Romans 8:14 through 17. It reads, all who are being led by the spirit of God, these are the sons of God. 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 out, 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.

The spirit bears witness with our spirit of the reality that God has already created for us in Christ. He leads us into who we really are, who he has made us in Christ.

Look at it Ephesians 2 verse 10.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

We are his handiwork. He made us new creatures. He qualified us to share in his inheritance. He actually is the inheritance of his children.

The next question that comes to mind is,
after all this, what does he really want from us?

Let's look for a minute at John 15 verses 6 through 13.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is my father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. Just as the father has loved me, I have loved you, abide in my love. If you keep my Commandments you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my father's Commandments, and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

I'll wrap up this video up with my own paraphrase of that last scripture.

Jesus says,

I loved you so much, that I put you in me. Stay there, live there, and let me be in you, everything that I created you to be to the world. Then love them the same way that I loved you, so that they can become part of my family too.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller