

IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY

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

One of the aspects of spiritual discernment is being able to determine what's is of God and what is not of God.

Often things that are Godly and very good for us aren't very appealing to our flesh. Things like repentance, discipline, and dying to our self-life.

Satan will often disguise something very evil with a very enticing sales pitch.

Here is a classic example.

Genesis 3.6

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

Satan enticed Eve with appealing perceived benefits leaving out the eternal consequences.

Since Jesus had taken on the nature of man, Satan thought, it worked pretty well in the garden with Adam and Eve, I'll try it on Jesus.

Luke 4.5

Then the devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give You authority over all these kingdoms and all their glory," he said. "For it has been handed over to me, and I can give it to anyone that I want. So, if You worship me, it will all be Yours."

Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of this world without the crucifixion. He offered painless immediate reward, conveniently ignoring the eternal consequences.

In 2 Corinthians 4.18 Paul says that,

we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

How can we distinguish between that which is temporary and that which is eternal?

THE SOURCE IS THE KEY.

Let's look at a few scriptures.

James 4.14

You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Man's life here on earth is very short. When he is the source of something, it too is temporary.

1 Peter 1.24

"All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever."

Mankind and everything that he does, because of his separation from God through the fall, is temporary.

Romans 6.23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5.12 states that,
Just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...

Adam's sin and fall from eternal fellowship with God made everything about our life in this world temporary.

Romans 8.6 declares that,
the mind set on the flesh is death...

Jesus said in John 3.6,
"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

In John 6.63 Jesus said
it is the spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing....

He didn't say that our flesh couldn't do anything. Our flesh can do many things. Those efforts may be compassionate, well-intentioned, and even loving. But Jesus gave the eternal result of all our fleshly efforts. NOTHING.

After the fall from God's presence, man's soul became the directing force of his life. He received all of his input, his reality, from his five senses.

He made all of his decisions and determined his course of action by his own perception of reality.

The problem is that,
There is a way that seems right unto man, but it leads only to death. Proverbs 14.12

Isaiah 55.8 God tells us that,
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.

Let's look at some of the examples of man's soulish decision making and their long-term consequences.

Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup. He traded his eternal destiny for his momentary hunger. Genesis 25.32

Abraham's wife Sarah convinced him to have a child with her handmaiden Hagar, to try and hurry up God's promise of a son. This produced Ishmael. The descendants of Ishmael are still giving the Israelites problems even to this day. Genesis 16.3

The children of Israel wanted to go back and become slaves when Pharaoh's chariots pursued them at the Red Sea. Exodus 14.12

This lack of trust in God's deliverance cost them 40 years in the wilderness and no entrance into the Promised Land.

In contrast to the ways of man, the things of God are like him. They are spiritual, perfect and eternal.

Let's look at a few scriptures.

The everlasting God is a dwelling place.
Deuteronomy 33.27

His loving-kindness is everlasting.
2 Chronicles 5.13

His kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. Psalms 145.13

I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Jeremiah 31.3

God wants to deliver us from our own soulish perceptions and natural efforts. He wants to replace them with His eternal revelations and the empowering of His Holy Spirit.

In his first letter to the Corinthian church, chapter 3, Paul explains the difference between our natural efforts and the ones made possible by His Holy Spirit living in us.

For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man's work.

Even if it's not evident at the moment, time will show the vast difference in the source of our work.

Let me wrap up this video on an encouraging note. As God's children, because of Christ's incredible sacrifice on our behalf, our old, sinful nature, and the failures that it produces is no longer our permanent condition.

1 John 5.11 declares God's witness of our new condition,
The witness is this, God 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 is eternal. It's God's life.

When we repent of our old sinful, and spiritually dead nature, and accept His eternal life in exchange, we make our previous condition completely temporary.

That means that our fears, our unbelief, our doubts, our sins, and our weaknesses and character flaws, are ALL TEMPORARY and are replaced by CHRIST'S ETERNAL LIFE IN US.

ENABLING US TO BE WHAT WE WERE CREATED FOR - THE EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE AND HIS ETERNAL LIFE TO THIS ENTIRE WORLD.

God bless you.
Jim Fuller