

ETERNAL LIFE

I'd like to share with you a few thoughts and some scriptures about the life that God has made available to us.

The Holy Spirit recently brought back to my remembrance a conversation that I had with one of my customers when I worked as a marketing representative.

As we talked, I found out that she had been a Christian for many years, and was very involved in her local church. She also taught Sunday school there. As the conversation went on, she said a couple of things that made me think maybe we weren't on the same page.

So, I asked her a question. What can you tell me about eternal life? She said the strangest thing. She said, I haven't got a clue about eternal life.

I was puzzled and taken back a bit by her comment. So, I said, may I give you the definition that Jesus gave about eternal life? She looked at me with a look that said, there really is one of those in the Bible?

There really is one. It's John 17. 1-3.

Father, the hour has come, glorify your Son, that your son may glorify you, even as you gave Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom you have given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I realized that day, that she was one of those many Christians who have been taught all her life that, eternal life is what you get after you die. They've been taught that our time here on Earth is to be spent faithfully serving, giving, studying the Bible, tithing, witnessing, and many other things, then they can expect eternal life after they die.

It reminded me of Jesus's words to Lazarus's older sister Martha. Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. Only a few are necessary, really only one.

It made me wonder, if Christians only get eternal life after they die, what life are they using to do all of their faithful serving, giving, and witnessing?

Jesus said, it's the spirit that gives life, the flesh profits absolutely nothing. John 6.63

In the business world, if they repeatedly do the same things over and over that produce no results, they are called crazy. If we do that same thing in the church, they call us faithful.

Faith is not repeatedly doing things with our own wisdom and our own natural efforts. The Greek word used for faith in the Bible is "pistos". Its definition is, to be fully persuaded.

To have faith is to be fully persuaded that God's word about us is real and true and then act on it by the power of His Holy Spirit within us.

When we received our salvation, God made His supernatural, unlimited, and eternal life available to us.

John 1.12 says,

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but they are born of God.

Satan, through religion, has tried to make the word of God into merely a book of teachings, principles, doctrines, and Bible stories.

When God's words are actually statements of reality that He backs with His integrity, His authority, and His power to perform them. They are promises from God, and He has given us His Holy Spirit to guarantee the fulfillment of those promises.

Here is one of those statements of reality.

John 17.22

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 in me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that you sent me and did love them even as you have loved me.

Having this world come to know how much God loves them, won't come by our continual religious effort. It will only happen when we accept the reality of our oneness with God and we allow Him to express His unfailing love for them through us.

God's will in this Earth will not be done by Him apart from us. We were created in His likeness and we are God's supreme creation to manifest His life and His kingdom in this Earth. We were originally created and commissioned by God to fulfill that calling.

God's activity in the Earth through His people will not be done through a master slave relationship either. Jesus said I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not know what his master is doing.

When Jesus met Mary in the garden after the resurrection, he told her to tell my brothers, that I'm going to my God and your God, to My father and your father.

Hebrews 2.11 also states that,

He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from the same father, therefore He is not ashamed to call them brothers.

God did not send Jesus to the Earth to recruit workers for Him. He came to redeem sons, who love like He does, who speak like He speaks, and who manifest His life and His kingdom to this world.

1 John 4.17 says that,

As we abide in Him, we are perfected in His love, and we become, as He is in this world. It's our oneness and communion with Him that transforms us and accomplishes God's purposes in the Earth.

These next 2 scriptures show how vital this relationship is to the fulfilling of God's will.

1 Corinthians 1.9

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 John 1-3

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have beheld, and our hands have handled the concerning the word of life.

The life was manifested, and we have seen and bare witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us. What we have seen and heard, we proclaimed to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

They were experiencing God's eternal life now in fellowship with the Father and the Son. They were not waiting for some day in the distant future after they died.

It's our experiencing the eternal life of God, that empowers us to fulfill the ministry of reconciliation that God has committed to us. We can't lead anybody to a place where we've never been ourselves.

Now some will say, Jim this fellowship with God and experiencing His eternal life sounds great, but how do I get that to work in my life. Let's look at the scriptures.

Matthew 4.17

Jesus began to preach saying, repent for the kingdom of God is here.

Everybody, regardless of their status or station in life got the same word, repent. Repent of what? Repent of our old nature that we inherited from Adam, because what we were originally created for was here now.

Let me ask a question. Do you know how many times the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned in the New Testament? I went through my Bible and counted about a 118 of them.

Do you know how many times being born again is mentioned in the New Testament? Actually, only once. It was a private conversation with Nicodemus, probably in the middle of the night.

The text of that conversation was,

Unless you are born again you cannot see the kingdom of God and unless you are born of the spirit you cannot enter the kingdom.

So, in the only place that being born again is even mentioned in the scriptures, Jesus made it very clear that the reason for being born again was to enter the kingdom and experience God's eternal life.

Jesus didn't pay for our sins on the cross and then ask us to do the best we could with our old nature to try to follow Him.

It seems today that many have only heard part of the gospel. They've heard repeatedly that Jesus came to die for their sins, to save them from hell, and this is true. He did pay the penalty for our sins in full on the cross.

They accept Christ as their savior, but then experience the frustration and futility of trying to wrestle their flesh into trying to be like Jesus, who is spirit.

When Jesus was exalted to heaven He sent the Holy Spirit to us to establish God's eternal life in us. Christ our savior, saved us from judgment, but it's His lordship in us through the Holy Spirit that changes us into the same image.

2 Corinthians 3.18 explains that,

We all, with unveiled faces beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

So how does this process of transformation happen in our lives?

Before I try to answer that let me ask a question?

How do you take helpless, hopeless, and spiritually dead people, and make them children who are born of God, sons, heirs of God's eternal life, and joint heirs with Christ of everything that God is and has?

The answer.....YOU DON'T.

God is the only one in the universe who can do that, and He did it for us before we even asked.

The gospel is not a religion. It's the supernatural act of God to redeem His sons and daughters back into His family, and into His kingdom.

God didn't send Jesus to establish a new religion. He came to open the way into the kingdom of God and He modeled for all mankind the life that God made available for us to live.

God did what no religion of man could ever do.
He put all of creation in Christ by his own doings. 1 Corinthians 1.30

He then crucified them, buried them, and raised them from the dead, with Christ. Romans 6

He sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within them, and He and Jesus have come to make their permanent dwelling place in them, establishing the kingdom of God within the hearts of men. John 14

Only God can do that.

We receive it as our reality, by faith in the supernatural working of God on our behalf. Colossians 2.12

Our faith in God is being fully persuaded of God's incredible love for us, becoming His children and receiving His eternal life as our inheritance.

We love Him because He first loved us.

I stated previously that the death of Christ on the cross forgave our sins, but it's His lordship over our lives by the Holy Spirit that makes us new creations in Christ.

Let's back up a little bit while I try to share a little more about this process.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and submitted to Satan's lie in the garden, their spirits died. Their souls became the preeminent part of their lives and they became ruled by their senses.

Look at 1 Corinthians 15.45.
The first man Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

God put the entire race of man in Christ and when He crucified Him, He became the last Adam. When He raised Him from the dead He became a life giving spirit, the first born from the dead.

Paul state's God's tremendous promise in verse 49, as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Our death and resurrection with Christ allows us to be transformed from living souls, born of Adam, into life giving spirits born of God, and like Jesus said to Nicodemus, you must be born again of the spirit to enter the kingdom of God.

In other words, the very thing that makes God, God, is the very thing that makes us his children.

1 Peter 1.23 says that we have been born of imperishable seed. There's only one person in the universe whose seed is imperishable. It's God himself.

1 Corinthians 5.17 explains that,
If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things have passed away, behold new things have come.

It's God's nature within us that displaces our old nature and recreates within us the Father's life and makes us new creations.

1 John 5.11 states,
This is God's witness, He has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son, whoever has the Son, has the life.

Please note that the scripture does not say, that God WILL GIVE US eternal life someday. It says HE HAS GIVEN US His eternal life in Christ.

When we received Christ, we received God's provision for His children, His eternal life.

God created these realities for us by His word. Satan cannot stop them, but he does his best to hinder our perception of them, and our laying hold of their reality in our lives.

Let's look for a moment at how this process works in our lives. Colossians 2.6 says,
As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him....

How do we walk in Him? He doesn't dwell in our bodies. He doesn't even dwell in our souls. He resides in our spirit.

The Holy Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we have been born again as God's children. Romans 8.16

Proverbs 4.18 says, that the path of the just is like the shining of the sun, it shines more and more unto the perfect day.

Our experience of salvation and God's eternal life is supposed to grow more and more as the days go on. It's a shame that so many Christians pray a prayer of salvation, attend church faithfully, petition God to take care of their needs, try to hang on until Jesus returns, and never experience His eternal life, which is knowing Him.

It's not enough for God to forgive our sins, and meet our needs. He wants to give us our inheritance. The inheritance of God's children is the unlimited, eternal life of God in abundance.

One of Jesus's parables about the kingdom of God is in Matthew 13.33.

He said, the kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, until it was all leavened.

His life within us is designed to swallow up everything we ever were before and make the kingdom of God our reality and us the ambassadors of it to the entire world.

Jesus said that the great feast in John 7, if anyone is thirsty let him come unto me and drink, and from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

God didn't give us eternal life and make us life giving-spirits for ourselves. He made us life giving spirits to manifest His eternal life to this world and proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom to every nation.

Jesus said, a disciple is not above his master, but it's enough for the disciple to become as his master. Matthew 10.24

So how do we go about becoming like Christ? Let's look at the scriptures.

Jesus told his disciples that if anyone wants to follow Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross. Matthew 16.24

He also said, whoever wishes to save his life, will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 16.25

The word used in the scriptures for your life and yourself is the Greek word "psuche." It's defined as our personal identity, our self-life, or our soul life.

Jesus was not telling His disciples to kill themselves, He was telling them to lay down their soul life in exchange for His eternal life, to surrender the authority of their senses and accept the truth of God's word as their reality.

Colossians 3.1-3 amp

If then you have been raised 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 and 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 our life appears, then you will appear with Him in the splendor of His glory.

Our spirit has no contact with this world, except through our soul. When we surrender our soul life to God's Holy Spirit dwelling in our spirit, our soul can be redeemed and saved, and can become the expression of God's eternal life through us, instead of being the input tool for Satan and this world to oppress us.

The surrender of our soul life to the Holy Spirit, empowers us with the ability to live God's abundant, unlimited, and eternal life instead of our natural life, inherited from Adam and Eve.

In chapter 12 of Paul's letter to the Romans, he exhorts them to, present your bodies 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, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

When we submit our senses to the Holy Spirit, He can renew our minds to Kingdom thinking, and transform us into the life-giving spirits that God created us to be in this world and we can manifest God's Kingdom in this Earth to every nation.

Paul also exhorted the Ephesian and Colossian believers to, lay aside your old self which is corrupted, be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness, and the image of God. Ephesians 4.20 and Colossians 3.9

In Romans chapter 6, Paul explains that because we have been crucified, buried, and raised with Christ, we are to reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God, and to offer ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness. This enables us to experience God's free gift of eternal life.

I've shared an awful lot of scriptures with you in this video. I am completely convinced that I've barely scratched the surface of the eternal life that our Father God has made available to His children.

In closing, I'd like to pray for everyone listening to this video. I'd like to pray over you the prayer that Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers in chapter 3 as recorded in the Amplified Bible.

I pray that God would grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in your inner man by the Holy Spirit, Himself indwelling your innermost being in personality.

I pray that Christ, through your faith, would actually dwell in your spirit and make His permanent home in your hearts. And that you would be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love.

I pray that you would have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints the experience of that love, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of it.

I pray that God, by His power that is at work within us, will be able to carry out His purposes and do super abundantly, far over and above all that we would ever dare ask or think, infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, and dreams.

God bless you all.
Jim Fuller