

REVELATION

After Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead, He left behind a group of believers to continue manifesting God's eternal life and His kingdom throughout this world.

They were born into the family of God by faith in Jesus' tremendous sacrifice on the cross and became ambassadors of God's Kingdom to this world.

For several hundred years this group of people was persecuted, and considered an illegal cult, that was filled with the presence and power of God.

Today, I am thankful for and honor the Bible as the written word of God, and I read it continually.

Although these original believers did not have a Bible, their lives demonstrated the presence and power of God in such a way that outsiders called them "Christians" - "Little Christs".

It makes me wonder, how they received, and imparted this incredible reality worldwide, without a Bible, a church building, or the internet?

Let's look at a few scriptures that may shed some light on this question.

The Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.

I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe.

Now I'm not any kind of a Bible scholar but, as I read this scripture, the Holy Spirit encouraged me to look up the definitions of the original Greek words that were translated. I will simplify and share them with you.

The word wisdom was defined as "clarity".

Revelation was defined as "an unveiling".

Knowledge meant, "knowledge gained through first-hand relationship" an "experiential knowing".

The word enlightened was figuratively used for, God sharing His life exposing and overcoming darkness.

Hope was defined as "the expectation of what is sure or certain."

The word calling was used of God inviting all people to receive His gift of salvation – with all His blessings that go with it.

Riches was defined as "abundance".

The word for glory was defined as "the unspoken manifestation of God".

Inheritance as "God's gift to His children".

And

Power was defined as "God's supernatural ability".

I don't think that anyone speaks ancient Greek anymore so, I hope that you will indulge and forgive my unscholarly paraphrase of this prayer.

It goes like this,

I pray that the God of heaven and Earth, the God and Father, who's unspoken presence is completely glorious, may give you His Holy Spirit to impart to you the clarity and the unveiling of Himself so that you would experience a first-hand relationship with Him, which actually is eternal life.

I pray that God would flood you with the light of His life so that you would know by experience the certainty of His invitation into the abundance of His incredible gift to His children, the inheritance of His family.

And that you would know by first-hand experience the unequaled and unsurpassed power and supernatural ability that He has exercised to make you His children.

Many people in the modern church have been taught to study the Bible and do their very best to walk in what it says.

Jesus told Nicodemus that that which is born of flesh is flesh. John 3:6

He also said in John 6:63 that,

My words are spirit and they are life. Your flesh profits absolutely nothing.

The apostle Paul added, that the letter of the scriptures kills, it's the spirit of them who gives life.

As I said earlier, I honor the Bible as the written word of God and I read it continually.

But through the years there have been many false representations and egregious deceptions that have twisted this written word of God to justify acting in direct contrast to the heart, character, and intention of God. People had His written word but lacked the revelation of His Holy Spirit who was given to lead us into to the reality of Christ.

John 1:1 states that, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

What God wanted to say to the whole world, He sent Jesus as His Living Word to manifest God's intentions in our world. He was the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us.

It's our relationship with Him, by His Holy Spirit, that gives us the reality of God's word in our lives.

1 John 5:11 declares that, this is God's testimony. He has given us His eternal life and the life is in His Son, he who has the Son has that life.

Jesus defined eternal life in John 17:3. He said, this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ who You have sent.

Jesus also told His disciples in John 8:32 that you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

The original Greek word for truth meant reality. Jesus did not say study my teachings, they will make you free.

He declared that, I AM the way, I AM the truth, and I AM the life. John 14:6

It's this "first-hand, experiential knowledge" of Him, which actually is eternal life, that sets us free, from the sinful, spiritually dead nature that we were born with.

So, if we can't study our way into this reality, how do we get it? I'm glad you asked.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is not a religious teaching to be applied by our own effort. It's a supernatural act that only God can do.

Jesus preached everywhere, repent, because the Kingdom of God is here. Repent of the nature that we were born into that can only produce death, because the one that we were originally created for is available now.

The next question is, how did God make this new life available to people who were born into a spiritually dead life, separated from God, with no ability to change it?

It wasn't by giving us a new religion so that we could try harder to change our lives. He did it in a way that only the Creator of all things could do.

The Apostle Paul explained God's plan to restore His creations back into His family and His Kingdom.

In 1 Corinthians 1.30 he explained that,

by His doing, you are in Christ, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

And in Romans chapter 6 he explains that when God sent Jesus to pay man's penalty for sin, He didn't just forgive our sins. He put all mankind in Christ, crucified Him, buried Him, raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at the right hand of God.

Because we were all in Christ, whatever happened to Christ happened to us also.

The Apostle John declared God's plan that, whoever repents of his own life, and receives Christ's life and trusts His supernatural work to make us completely one with God will be reborn. He becomes a completely new creation, who is not born of men, but he is born of God. He is actually born into God's family, born of His supernatural nature.

As I said before, God's plan, the gospel, is supernatural.

There is not one person on the planet who by their own will, their own wisdom, or their own intelligence that could accomplish even one of these things for themselves and especially not all of them.

God is the only one in the universe who could have done this for us and He did it before we even asked.

1 John 5.11 gives us God's testimony about all of these things.

He has given us His eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has that life.

It requires a revelation from God's Holy Spirit to see what He has done for us.

But it only requires a simple childlike trust to say, thank you Daddy and receive the inheritance that He has made available for His children.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

kingdomrealities.org