

## TO THE UTTERMOST

I'd like to share a few scriptures with you. I've said many times that the scriptures are not religious teachings or doctrines. They are statements of reality from God through a person.

In John 1.1 it states that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word actually was God and He was in the beginning with God. God's word is not a teaching, it's the expression of God through Jesus Christ, His living Word.

Jesus in His parables likened God's word to a seed, that has everything necessary within it to create a full grown, fruit bearing plant.

Jesus said My words are Spirit and they are Life. That's John 6.63.

They are not the mere transmission of information. When we receive them by faith, they have the ability to re-create us into what God originally intended for us to be.

We've been taught that God loves us and accepts us just as we are. It's really true, but He has no intention of leaving us that way.

Let's take a look at the scriptures.

Genesis 1.26 declares that God breathed His supernatural life into a pile of mud and created man in His image and likeness.

Man dwelt with God in the garden and God gave man His authority to expand the dominion of God's Kingdom over the entire Earth.

God forbade man to eat of the tree of good and evil and said, in the day you eat of it you will surely die.

Adam submitted to Satan's temptation through Eve and they both ate the fruit. But, the scriptures state that Adam lived many, many, years after this happened. So what died?

His spirit died. The part of him that was in constant communion and oneness with God, Who is the source of Life.

I don't have a scripture to back my opinion, but I believe that because God is Love, I don't believe that He sent Adam and Eve out of the garden in anger or for judgement.

I believe He knew that in Adam's spiritually dead state, if he ate from the tree of life, he would stay spiritually dead and separated from God forever. And God did not want that to be the final condition for His best creation.

He sent them out of the garden in hope, because he had a plan to restore man back into oneness with God.

God's supernatural plan, that only He could do, is called the Gospel.

The Apostle Paul explained to the Roman believers how it works in chapter 6.

He said that God put all of mankind in Christ, crucified him, buried him, and raised him from the dead to a completely new life and seated him with Christ at the right hand of God.

God's supernatural re-creation of man restored unbroken oneness and fellowship with Himself.

Man's new life is the same one that God originally breathed into Adam in the garden and the same one that Jesus demonstrated on the Earth.

Let's take a look at a few scriptures that verify this reality.

1 Corinthians 6.17

Whoever is joined to the Lord is one Spirit with Him.

1 John 5.11 God testifies that

He gave us His eternal life in Christ.

John 14 because of our death and resurrection with Christ, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit can now dwell in us permanently.

These next 3 scriptures show the result of God restoring our oneness with Him.

Romans 8.11

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

1 John 4.16

We have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. God is love; whoever abides in love abides in God, and God in him. In this way, love has been perfected among us, so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment; that in this world we are just like Him.

Hebrews 7.25

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

I looked up the Greek word translated "to the uttermost." It means completely, perfectly, and eternally

In Jesus' parable in Matt 13, He said that the kingdom of God is like leaven that a woman put in 3 measures of meal until the whole lump was leavened.

I believe that it's significant that He mentioned 3 measures of meal.

God intends for His kingdom to swallow up our entire life, spirit, soul, and body and take up residence there.

He intends to fulfill Paul's prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5.23. It reads,

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will do it.

And of course this supernatural transformation can only be accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

It can't be done by discipline, Bible study, or any other natural effort. It requires the surrender of our body, soul, and spirit to the Holy Spirit's supernatural ability.

It seems that a majority of modern Christians have accepted their salvation, which makes their spirit alive to God, but that's where they seem to stop.

They believe that they are saved and going to heaven, but deliverance from sin, Satan's influence, and the weaknesses, character flaws, opinions, and habits of their old nature doesn't seem to be their reality.

In today's Christianity it's quite common for many people to pray the sinner's prayer to have their sins forgiven but retain their old identity inherited from Adam and Eve.

Their walk with God becomes the fruitless effort of trying to wrestle their flesh into being more like Jesus, and trying to serve God with the very nature that He has delivered us from.

Let's look at some scriptures that show God's plan to create His complete salvation in His children.

The Apostle Paul outlines it for the Roman believers in chapter 12.

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as 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, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

This word "prove" was used to examine and verify the quality and authenticity of gold and silver. To eliminate any mixture of other inferior metals and make it pure gold.

God's intention wasn't to just forgive man, but to re-create him out of conformity to this spiritually dead world, back into God's image and likeness as members of His family. To conform him to the image of Christ, Who is the expression of God's Life in our world and bring many sons and daughters to life with that same supernatural nature.

When we repent and surrender our spirits, our souls and our bodies to the Holy Spirit's Lordship, He can transform us into the life that Jesus manifested on Earth. 2 Corinthians 3.17

In Isaiah 46.9, God states that He knows the end from the beginning and He has planned it and He will bring it to pass.

Malachi 3. shows God's plan for His sons in these end times.

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. “He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

In verse 5, He says, THEN (after this), I will be a swift witness for judgement against all evil. And He also said, because I don't change, you are not consumed.

By God's doing we were re-created as new creations and life-giving spirits, conformed to, and joint heirs with our older brother, Christ Jesus to reign in His Life in this world.

We were created to be walking testimonies of God's greatness. Visible representations of God's Life in His children. Like Jesus told Philip, if you've seen me, you've seen the Father

Speaking of Judgement, 2 Thessalonians 1.6-10 speaks of the final judgement and retribution that God will bring against those who oppose the Gospel and afflict His people.

Verses 10-12 declares the experience of His children on that day.

When He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at in all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

God's intention for saving us to the uttermost and conforming us to the image of His Son, are older brother Jesus, was so He would be glorified IN His children, and us IN Him.

God bless you.

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