

REDEEMED

I'd like to share a few things with you about myself this morning.

I did not study math or science at all while I was in college. I didn't even walk by a science class. Yes, I know you're saying to yourselves, how can these things possibly be?

But since my major in college was baseball, it really didn't hinder me all that much.

Because they had electronic scoreboards to keep track of the runs scored. And I didn't have to understand the science of what makes a curve ball break, I just had to try to hit it as often as I could.

But I have learned one scientific thing from all my days on this planet. It's this:

Things that happen over and over and over again in every circumstance and every situation without fail, with no exceptions, they call it a law.

A perfect example would be the law of gravity. You can drop a quarter in California, in Cold Spring Texas, or Calcutta India, and it will fall to the ground every time without fail. But,

If I put my hand under it while it's falling, the law of gravity is overruled by the life that's in me.

Another great example of overruling that law is that airplanes that weigh many tons overrule the law of gravity every day and fly all over the world, by utilizing another law. The law of lift allows them to overrule the law of gravity hundreds and hundreds of times a day. One law overrules another law.

So why would I make a video to talk about quarters, airplanes, and the law of gravity?

Well....

Look around. Look at our world today. What we see going on in our world today, God calls it the law of sin and death.

Let me read a scripture. It reads

Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man, and death as the result of sin, so death spread to all men, [no one being able to stop it or to escape its power] because all men sinned..... that's Romans 5.12

Every one of us inherited this life under the law of sin and death as our experience in this world. That means Everybody! No exceptions!

But God had no intention of allowing this to be the final state of His supreme creation of man.

Let me read a scripture that shows God's plan to remedy this situation.

It's Romans 8.1.

Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.

FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] HAS FREED ME FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

THIS IS A SPIRITUAL LAW OVERULING A NATURAL LAW.

So, how'd that happen? Let's read on.

FOR GOD HAS DONE what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh which is the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit].

Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [HE SUBDUED IT, HE OVERCAME IT, AND DEPRIVED IT OF IT'S POWER OVER ALL WHO ACCEPT THAT SACRIFICE].

Why would God do that for us?

So that THE RIGHTEOUS AND JUST REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULLY MET IN US who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit].

Now, it appears from this scripture that man's best effort, intellectual, religious or otherwise could never overrule this law of sin and death. Because man IS the problem. GOD HAD TO DO IT!

And for us to accomplish everything that God ever wanted, in other words, to fulfill the law, wasn't gonna come by man's best effort either!

It only comes by walking in the Spirit.

I grew up in California. Back in the 60's and 70's it seemed like only the mystics, and the prophets, and the weird, spooky people were the only ones who knew anything about the spirit realm. The rest of us just went to church, read our Bibles and lived pretty normal lives.

But how do we walk in the spirit? I'm glad you asked.

One thing I've learned in my 60 years as a Christian is that when God wants to teach us something He doesn't give us a pamphlet or a book and say, "Hey you study this." He sends the Holy Spirit to reveal it to us right where we live, right in the middle of our own circumstances.

I remember years ago, asking the Holy Spirit to show me how to walk in the Spirit. He said that He would show me and I got really excited!

Let me share with you how he taught me about walking in the spirit.

About 25 years ago, my daughter was about 4 years old. My wife was out of the house. She'd gone to a meeting somewhere and my daughter and I were home alone.

I asked my daughter, Amy, would you like some ice cream? She said, "yes Daddy!" I said let's go to the store and get some.

Amy ran out to my car. My car had those door handles that you had to lift up to open the door. She wasn't tall enough to lift the handle high enough to get the door open.

So, I opened it for her, helped her into her car seat, strapped her in and headed off to the store. When we got to the store, I put her in the shopping basket and pushed her back to the ice cream section.

She picked the color she wanted, I paid for it, and we headed back home. When we got home, I put a bib on her, and put her in her chair. When she finished, I cleaned her up, put her pajamas on and put her to bed.

Then, I grabbed my Bible, my pen, my notebook and said, "Holy Spirit, I'm ready for you to teach me now."

He said, I just did. I said, I don't understand?

He said, that's exactly what I'm teaching you.

He said,

Look at your daughter. She can't even open the door by herself. She can't get buckled in, drive the car, find the store, doesn't have any money, or anything. She's just a little 4 year old kid.

I said, OK, I get it, but I thought you were gonna teach me how to walk in the Spirit.

He said, I am teaching it to you.

I said, please explain it so that even I can get it. He said,

All of that happened, because she was with you. All she had to do was say, yes Daddy, and hold your hand. You made it all happen for her, because she's your daughter and you love her.

He went on and said, that everything we receive in the Kingdom of God comes by inheritance, because God is your Father and He made us His children and members of His family.

God loves His children and has promised by covenant, to be everything they need, and to accomplish everything He wants to accomplish in them and through their lives.

It's been His plan from the very beginning and He's the only one who can do it. He's the only one who can overrule the law of sin and death.

THE GOSPEL IS NOT A RELIGION.

IT'S A RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FATHER, BECAUSE JESUS MADE US ONE WITH HIM AS A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY.

How many of you have kids? Do they make you happy and laugh sometimes?

Do they sometimes irritate you and make you angry? They sure do!

But at the end of the day, they are still yours!

Have any of you ever seen the movie Man on Fire with Denzel Washington? It's about a wealthy Mexican family who hires Denzel as a body guard to prevent their daughter from being kidnapped. When the girl is kidnapped he goes on a rampage to find her. When he finds the guy who kidnapped her, he asks what will it take to get her back? The guy says, your life for hers. He says OK.

God came after us because He loves us just like that.

Do you know what the word redeemed means? It's the release of a captive person by full payment of a ransom.

Jesus gave His life as our ransom so that we could be redeemed back into God's family and live the life that He originally created for us.

Let me be honest with you,

If you listen to religious people talk, their focus seems to be all about sin, major failures, addictions, human weaknesses and whose doctrine is right.

But when you know the heart of the Father, you see that it's ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT GETTING HIS CHILDREN BACK INTO HIS FAMILY AND MAKING THEM COMPLETELY ONE WITH HIM.

HE'S DONE EVERYTHING HE CAN TO OVERRULE THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH AND MAKE THAT HAPPEN FOR US.

WE JUST NEED TO SAY, "THANK YOU DADDY" AND RECEIVE IT LIKE LITTLE KIDS.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller