

ABIDE

God created Man to dwell in His presence in the garden and to expand His Kingdom to the entire planet.

When Adam and Eve acted on Satan's lie, and disobeyed God, they fell from God's presence. They lost their unbroken fellowship with God.

Consequently, they ended up living without the Life of God, scratching out an existence by their own senses, which can only produce death.

Romans 8.6 explains that the mind focused and directed by our senses produces only death, and the mind focused and directed by the Holy Spirit produces life and peace.

Romans 6.16 declares that whoever you submit yourself to obey, that's whose servant you are.

Because Adam and Eve submitted to his deception, Satan was able to usurp Man's God given authority over the Earth and become the Ruler of this world. Luke 4.5+6

This world and all of it's systems, political, social, educational, entertainment, and even religion were created by fallen men under Satan's rule.

There are a whole bunch of religions, of all different varieties on this planet. Heck, there are even 2,700 different Christian denominations as well. All of which can be done by completely natural men without God.

No religious activity of any kind can eliminate the separation between the spiritually dead existence that Mankind inherited from Adam and Eve and His Spirit Life that God breathed into man in the beginning.

Man living apart from God by his own senses does not have the ability to bridge that gap, but Man's religious activity goes on whole heartedly regardless of it's ineffectiveness.

It reminds me of the time that the Israelites were battling the Philistines in 1 Samuel 4, and the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant, which was the presence of God among them.

After it was taken temple worship went on unabated without it, for twenty years. They knew how to faithfully continue the rituals of worship, all they lacked was God.

They were holding on to a form of religion, and denying its power. Just like 2 Timothy 3.5

The Gospel is God's supernatural ability to restore Mankind into the oneness with Himself that He created man to possess. It can't be done by man without Him.

God made a perfect sacrifice by putting Man in Christ, crucifying our old nature and raising us with Christ to walk in God's Life, restoring our original unbroken fellowship with God. You can read about it in Romans 6.

God's not asking for our religious effort to reform our fallen flesh. He's asking us to abandon our own efforts, and trust whole heartedly in His perfect sacrifice like little children.

Let me summarize a bit. God performed His supernatural work, that no one else can do and restored Man back into the unbroken fellowship with Himself that He originally created him.

What did Jesus direct us to do now?

Well, Jesus DID NOT SAY, now that your sins are forgiven, select the denomination that you prefer, find a church that you like, show up at their building a couple hours a week, and ask God to bless you and help you be more loving, more patient, and more kind. And if you're so inclined, you can invite other people to come to your church and do it with you.

Modern-day Christians have been doing this for generations and have grown very comfortable with this process even though it does not produce the results of the complete and total transformation into the image of Christ that God paid for.

So, what really happens when we accept His supernatural sacrifice? Here are just a few.

We are reborn and re-created into His Spirit Life. We are born of God's eternal supernatural nature as completely new creations. That's John 1.12, + 2 Corinthians 5.17

Christ gives us His Glory so that we become one, just like He and the Father are one. This gives us the same relationship with God that Jesus has. John 17.22

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God does not come with outward observation, but it's within you. The Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the Father also come to make their permanent dwelling place in us. Which makes the Kingdom of God dwell within us and we reside in it. John 14.16-23

Because we are in Christ, by His doing, He makes us complete in Him.

Colossians 2.9 amp reads,

In Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full *and* having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature].

So after doing all of this for us, what does He want us to do now? Let's look at a few more scriptures to answer that.

John 15.7-9 amp

If you abide in Me and My words abide in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified *and* honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples.

I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; abide in My love [and do not doubt My love for you].

1 John 4.16 amp

...God is love, and the one who abides in love, abides in God, and God abides continually in him. In this [union and fellowship with Him], love is completed *and* perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him]; because as He is, so are we in this world.

Romans 6.11 amp reads,

Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in in unbroken fellowship in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1.21 amp

Although you at one time were estranged *and* alienated from Him and were of hostile attitude of mind in your wicked activities, yet now has [Christ, the Messiah] reconciled [you to God] in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in [the Father's] presence.

[And this He will do] provided that you continue to STAY IN CHRIST.

The key word in all these scriptures is ABIDE.

God put us in Christ by His doing. He wants us to stay there, seated with Christ, live there and allow Him to thoroughly saturate us with His Holy Spirit so that we can fulfill God's original intention for creating man. To live in His presence continually and expand His Kingdom over the entire Earth and see all people become citizens of it.

His Kingdom is like leaven that saturates our entire spirit, soul and body.

Hebrews 1.3 testifies that Jesus is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

God predestined us from the very beginning to be conformed to Christ. He's done everything necessary for us to radiate His Glory, accurately represent His nature, and speak His word with power. Romans 8.29

He gave us His eternal life and made us completely one with Him, so as we abandon our own efforts and abide in Him, we will be the Ambassadors of His Kingdom and testimonies of His greatness in this world.

Paul prayed for believers to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation from God, so that they could comprehend this awesome calling, the incredible abundance available to us as our inheritance, and the incomparable power of God in us to make us His children, His sons, and His heirs with Christ.

We are IN this world, but definitely not OF this world.

Let's not forget who we are, and where we live.

God bless you.

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