

WHAT COMPELS US

Let me start by asking a question. "As Christians, what makes us do the things that we do?" Let's look at some scriptures to try to answer this question.

In John 1.1 it reads,

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 NOT EVEN ONE THING CAME INTO BEING that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind.

God's word is not a teaching. It's the expression of God's life through the person, Jesus Christ. And God didn't want to confine His expression in this world to only His firstborn Son. He determined from the beginning of time, that all of His children would manifest His eternal life and His Kingdom because of their oneness with Him.

God never intended for us to do things because of a rote compliance to Bible verses. We were created to do them because of a relationship with Him.

Romans 8.29 states that God did everything necessary for that to happen in our lives. He determined in advance that we would be conformed to the life of His firstborn Son, Jesus. God's plan is supernatural. He's the only one in the universe who can do it.

In John 17.22 Jesus told the Father,

"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 and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Romans 6.10 from the amplified version reveals that,

For the death that He died, He died to sin [ending its power and paying the sinner's debt] once and for all; and the life that He lives, He lives to [glorify] God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]. Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin [and your relationship to it broken], but alive to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus.

God wanted everyone in this world to absolutely know that He loves them just like He loves Jesus. His supernatural sacrifice of Jesus made it possible for us to accept this oneness and express His life to every person on this planet.

Jesus clarified this process for His disciples. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. John 15.7

The Apostle Paul elaborated how to walk in this reality.

He said, for this reason we also, since the day we heard *about it*, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might

Paul says an awful lot in these few scriptures. Let me share a story with you from the Old Testament that really illustrates this concept before I share a little bit more about it

It's in 1 Chronicles 11.

Samuel had already anointed David to be King over Israel, but he had not yet taken the throne. Now there was a group of men who made a covenant with David, who remained faithful to him, to make him king, in accordance with the word of the LORD through Samuel the prophet. They became known as David's Mighty Men.

This chapter goes on, that the Philistines had captured the city of Bethlehem. David was resting in his camp and sighed, "oh that I had a drink of water from the well in Bethlehem." Three of his mighty men grabbed their swords fought through the enemy lines, all the way to Bethlehem and brought David a drink from that well in Bethlehem.

David did not command them to do it, he didn't even say that he was looking for volunteers. He just wished that he had a drink from that well. That was enough for these men to risk everything to please him, because of their covenant with King David.

Getting back to Paul's description of walking worthy of our calling.

David's mighty men were a pretty good example of trying to please God in every respect. And Jesus made it very clear that apart from Him we wouldn't be able to produce any fruit.

The third part about growing in the knowledge of God was very real to Paul.

He rejected everything of his former life so that he would be found IN HIM and KNOW HIM. He desired this oneness with Christ above every other thing so that he could live his life in the power of His resurrection.

Paul renounced everything that he had done his whole life, and then immediately changed and did everything that he did to build the church, and help spread the Gospel worldwide. He didn't do it because he got a new set of commandments on the road to Damascus. His new spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ compelled him.

1 Corinthians 6.17 states that the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

1 Corinthians 12.4 declares that

there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Luke 6.45 states that out of the abundance of our heart our mouth speaks. It's not just our words that come out.

Without this oneness with God that only He can create, prayer, giving, witnessing, preaching the word often become commands or obligations that natural men attempt with their best human effort to try and comply with certain Bible verses, instead of the product of a love relationship with the Living God

Jesus said, my words are spirit and they are life. The efforts of your flesh profit absolutely nothing.

The Pharisees made a lifelong commitment to follow every commandment written in the covenant. To make sure that they were doing the most important ones, they asked Jesus which is the most important commandment.

Jesus elevated their focus from rote obedience to Biblical commands to love relationship with God.

He told them;

“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ “This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

The gospel is not the religious effort of men. It's a supernatural relationship with the Living God created by a blood Covenant, which was ratified by Christ's death on the cross.

A blood Covenant signifies that everything one party has and everything that they are is available to the other party.

At the last supper Jesus offered His disciples a blood covenant, which they accepted by drinking the wine and eating the bread. As a result of this covenant, they were redeemed into the family of God.

The scriptures say that, to as many as did receive *and* welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—Who owe their birth neither to bloods nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse] nor to the will of man [that of a natural father], but to God. [They are born of God!] John 1.12 amp

When Jesus met Mary in the garden after the resurrection, He told her to go to My brethren and tell them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.

They were no longer His disciples. They had become His brothers. They became sons, heirs, joint heirs with Christ of everything that He has and everything that He is. Romans 8.16 and John 16.14

We love Him because He first loved us.

He is the Living Word and the life and the light of men.

In our walk before men on this planet, we need to manifest HIM, not IT.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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