

HE BECAME TO US

When I was a young Christian, I heard people in the church say that we could be changed and have an entirely new life because of Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross.

But, I used to ask myself, how does the lynching and murder of a Jewish carpenter in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago, have anything to do with a ball playing white boy in San Diego in 1962.

My natural mind had no concept of how that was even possible.

I had no comprehension of the mindboggling effect that Christ's supernatural death and resurrection made available to me.

I was taught that because Jesus died for my sins I could pray the sinner's prayer and ask Him to forgive my sins so that I could go to heaven when I died.

Then, I was supposed to straighten up my disobedient life and act right.

My problem was that, I heard people preach so many times about the supernatural, and miraculous transformation that Christ's death and resurrection made available to me, but my walk with God seemed to be all about what people told me that I was supposed to study, what I was supposed to correct, and what I was supposed to do. It didn't seem supernatural at all.

The church that I went to believed, that "there is no salvation without sanctification." In layman's terms, "if we don't see very much change in your behavior, we're going to doubt that you really got saved."

It seemed that we were supposed to try to be righteous, while constantly professing that "we are sinners and always will be."

They seemed to put more faith in the failure and weakness of our fallen human nature than in the transformation that Christ's perfect sacrifice made available for us.

So what did Christ's death on the cross and resurrection actually do for us? Let's look at some statements of reality from God.

Though you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, yet He has NOW reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach...Col 1.21

When I read, "He has now made us holy and blameless beyond reproach", it didn't sound much like, "you'll always be a sinner."

Here's another one.

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, GÔD DID: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8.1

From this scripture, it doesn't seem that being set free from the law of sin and death comes by Bible study, discipline, or behavior modification. God did this for us before we even asked.

Christ's sacrifice of Himself on the cross, supernaturally purchased for us; Eternal redemption, an Eternal inheritance, Complete sanctification, and Total perfection, according to, Hebrews 9.12+15, and 10.10+14

These scriptures show just how supernatural the Gospel really is. God is the only one who can do these things for us. And there is no religion required.

But, these things will forever remain lofty concepts and unattainable ideals until we experience them as the reality of our lives and be able to manifest them to the world around us.

Since this is God's plan for us, and He's the only one who can do it, let's look at His plan to make that happen.

But by His doing, you are IN CHRIST, who BECAME TO US, wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...1 Corinthians 1.30

Our wisdom isn't a lifelong effort to study the Bible. It's Christ!

Our righteousness isn't our modified behavior. It's Christ.

Our sanctification isn't our constant dedicating and re-dedicating of our ourselves to Christian service. It's Christ.

Christ became ALL of these things to us by God's doing.

By God putting us IN CHRIST, He radically transformed our reality in this world.

Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come! 2 Corinthians 5.17 amp

We share everything that Christ possesses as joint heirs with Him by God's supernatural work.

Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you. John 16.15amp

So how do we get free from our self loving, self serving, and self preserving nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve, and possess His Eternal life?

We don't have the ability to do it. Lets see how God did it.

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6.3

God was not trying to improve our life. His plan was to crucify it with Christ and then whatever happened to Christ also happened to us. We were raised with Christ by God's doing to walk in the newness of His life.

Here is the result of God's effort.

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5.21

In these scriptures God shows us His supernatural work to crucify our old fallen nature with Christ and give us His eternal life so that we can now live the life that He originally created for us, instead of the one we inherited from Adam and Eve because of the fall.

Many Christians today receive Christ's words as religious teachings that they use to try to wrestle their flesh into being more like Christ. They try to utilize prayer, fasting, Bible study, and church attendance to obtain victory over their flesh, not realizing that those things are designed to give us the revelation of God's perfect work on our behalf, and that we already have that victory in Christ.

Please note, that all of these scriptures are past tense. God already spoke them, He already did them, and He has already committed His Holy Spirit to make them our reality.

Jesus said, it's the Spirit who gives life. Your flesh profits absolutely nothing. John 6.63

Without this revelation, we tend to continually petition God as though we're orphan children, instead of receiving our inheritance as redeemed sons, heirs, and joint heirs of everything that Christ possesses in God. Everything that He has given to us abundantly so that we have plenty to impart to everyone on this planet.

We start from the wrong place. We pray TO God as helpless sons of Adam, instead of accepting our oneness with Him, receiving His heart for this world, and praying WITH Him to fulfill His desire for the entire world.

We need to start from the place of victory that our death and resurrection with Christ made available to us.

I'll conclude with this exhortation from the Apostle Paul to the Colossian believers.
Feel free to insert your name here.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For Jim Fuller has died and Jim Fuller's life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is Jim Fuller's life, is revealed, then Jim Fuller also will be revealed with Him in glory. Colossians 3.1

God did all of these things for you. Receive them with a childlike faith that says, " thank you Daddy!"

Our walk with God is a response to His unchanging love for us. Don't accept religion as a substitute for His relentless love for you.

We love him, because He first loved us. 1 John 4.19

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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