

RE-CREATION NOT REHABILITATION

The Gospel of the Kingdom is really quite simple.

Jesus came preaching, "repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4.17

It's simple, but it's totally supernatural and God is the only one who can do it.

Today, there are a lot of different attitudes, wrong concepts, and egregious deceptions of how to become a strong, mature, powerful Christian and experience God's eternal life. Some try many things to feel it, some do everything they can to try to earn it, and some are content to wait til they die so that they can receive it.

Let's look at the scriptures to see how God intended for us to receive His eternal life.

Jesus declared in John 17.3 that eternal life is knowing the one and only true God and the one who He has sent.

And 1 John 5.11 states that this is God's testimony;

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Please note, that this scripture says He has given us His eternal life. It's past tense. It's not something that we are supposed to spend a lifetime struggling to obtain.

Many people today, ask God to forgive their sins, quit going to the bars at every opportunity, and immerse themselves in a lifetime of church activities.

But it seems pretty amazing that in so many cases, after forty or fifty years of faithful church attendance, and years of endless Bible study, and relentless efforts to amend our sinful nature, that so few people in the body of Christ can manifest the authority, the power, and the eternal life that God has committed to His church.

So what's the problem? Let's look at the scriptures.

God declared in Hosea 4.6 that;

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

And Jesus told His Father, I thank you that you've hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to babies. Luke 10.21

God wasn't saying that my people aren't educated enough, that they don't read their Bibles enough, or go to church every time the doors are open.

He was saying that they lack the revelation knowledge of what I've already done for them.

Let's look at a couple of these current deceptions.

One of them goes like this;

possessing God's eternal life is going to take a very long time and you will always be a sinner until Christ comes again. This may sound humble and even spiritual, but it is not the reality of the Gospel.

Let's take another look at the scriptures.

1 Corinthians 1.30 states that;

By His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption....

And a few verses from Romans 6.

Verse 1

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in 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.

Verse 6

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

Verse 10

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

In God's mind, Christ not only died for our sins, we actually died with Him and were raised with Him to walk in God's eternal life.

It appears from these scriptures that receiving and walking in God's eternal life is not the result of endless church activity and continually struggling to be something that we aren't, but by receiving the supernatural re-creation of our lives that only God can do, as our reality.

God's not looking for us to create a better version of our old sinful nature, that we inherited from Adam and Eve, by our own efforts.

He's asking us to accept by faith, as our reality, His supernatural work to recreate us back into what we were originally created to be - sons and daughters of God, members of His family, heirs and joint heirs with Christ sharing His inheritance.

The Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus preached is not the rehabilitation of our old sinful life. It's the supernatural re-creation into His life.

Jesus did not say on the cross, now that I've forgiven your sins, your rehabilitation process can begin. He said "It is finished."

Jesus offered Himself as our perfect sacrifice one time, and obtained for us, eternal redemption, eternal inheritance, complete sanctification, and total perfection for those who are sanctified. Heb 9.12 +15 and 10.10 + 1

Let's look at another one of those deceptions about God's eternal life.

You have to work very hard to accomplish it.

Many have been taught that if they will just pray harder, read longer, repent more sincerely, and continually discipline their flesh to be more like Christ, they might finally measure up.

Jesus said in John 6.63;

It's the Spirit who gives life, your flesh profits absolutely nothing. The words that I've spoken to you are Spirit and they are life.

He's not asking us to make this transformation happen. He's asking us to allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds, to think differently about the things that God has done for us, and accept them as our new reality, like little kids, because He has already done it for us.

Everything we receive as a Christian is by inheritance, not by our own effort.

He has qualified us to receive them now, by making us His children, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ sharing His inheritance with Him. Colossians 1.12, Romans 8.15

God has already accomplished these things for us. When Christ was raised from the dead, we were in Him and were raised with Him to share His life.

Jesus gave us His Holy Spirit so that we would fully know who we were re-created to be in Christ. 1 Corinthians 2.12

Let me conclude with one final thought.

The Bible is not a book of promises that we wish and hope will someday come to pass. They are statements of reality that God has already spoken, already done, and already committed His Holy Spirit to make our reality.

And one final scripture.

As many as be the promises of God, they are all yes in Christ. 2 Corinthians 1.20

The Father has put us IN CHRIST so that these promises will be our reality and we can possess His supernatural nature now. 2 Peter 1.2-4

Let's not accept any substitutes.

God bless you.

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