

The Law of Spirit & Life – Part 3

Jesus has bought and paid for our glorious redemption through His death, burial and resurrection. Now there is a new way to live out the Christian life- by His grace and our faith.

A Clear and Present Danger

- Believe it or not, but human nature is inherently religious
 - o Rooted in pride- it's based on what we can do for God
 - o The story of Cain and Abel illustrates this perfectly: Genesis 4:1-7
 - Cain offered the fruit of his own hands
 - Abel obeyed God and offered a blood sacrifice to atone for sin
 - Cain's sacrifice was rejected and Abel's was accepted- he did it God's way

Now that you are saved or have been saved for a long time, the danger for us as Christians is to try and live out the Christian experience in our own strength- the best we know how.

Question: Does it matter how we serve and follow after Jesus?

- Christianity does not subscribe to the Burger King consumer model
 - o "You can have it your way!"

John 4:24 KJV

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

- Religion is man's attempt to approach God on his own terms
- God's Grace is Jesus becoming a bridge by which we can pass from death to life

Galatians 3:1-5

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, **are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?** Have you suffered so much for nothing — if it really was for nothing? Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Question: Why is it more comfortable for us to live for God by our own strength/traditions?

- Mark 7:7, “They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

1 Corinthians 1:17, “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.”

- What we all crave for, is the reality of experiencing the supernatural Christian life
- As Paul said Philippians 3:10, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.”

By Grace through Faith

Please Read: Romans 8:1-4

- Let’s examine briefly together- “The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus”
- It is by this spiritual principle that God the Father wants us to live by, to serve Him
- We first came in contact with these principles when we first got saved

Ephesians 2:8, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

By His “Grace” and through our “Faith” we are saved, healed, delivered and live out the rest of our Christian life on this earth until Jesus comes- does not stop when we first get saved!

- Definition of Grace: “The Power of God at work in us who believe”
 - God’s grace in His Word is released by our Faith through the power of the Spirit

Acts 20:32, “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Ephesians 3:7, “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.”

John 1:16-17, “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

“All things that pertain to life and godliness” according to 2 Peter 1:3-4 are in His promises!

The Word of Faith

- We have established that God's grace is in God's Word- just waiting for us to receive
- Million dollar question is how do we get God's grace, power and promises in our lives
 - o By Faith! **Please Read: Hebrews 4:1-11**

Hebrews 4:2 NKJV, "...but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."

When Jesus was discoursing on the parable of the sower, notice what He said about hearing:

Mark 4:24 AMP, "And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you — and more [besides] will be given to you who hear. "

- Bottom line, our Christian experience explodes or implodes based on our faith
- The Grace of God coming into our lives is based on our faith to receive

Mark 6:5-6, "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith."

Here is how it works

Step 1:

Whatever you need to receive or do in life, find a promise or Scripture from God on the matter

1 John 5:14-15, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him."

- Faith begins where the will of God is known- if God promises it, He wants you to have it!
 - o There is no sometimes "Yes or No" with God- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 1:18-20**

Step 2:

Meditate (to speak out loud) the promise of God continually- causes faith to come Ro. 10:17

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Question: How often do you confess God's Word out loud over the circumstances of life?

Please Read: Deuteronomy 30:11-14

- The grace or ability to obey and receive from God's Word- is in the Scripture itself
- The Seed is the Word of God according to Luke 8:11
- Jesus said His Word is "Spirit and Life" in John 6:63

The Word contains all the power we need; it's our faith that acts as the catalyst that releases it

Please Read: Romans 10:1-10

- Paul was quoting Moses about the "Word of Faith"- First in our mouth than our heart

Deuteronomy 30:14

No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

Romans 10:8, "But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming."

Step 3:

Believe that Word of Promise in your heart and then you will receive- **Please Read:** Ro 4:16-25

- "Mental Assent" is a counterfeit to faith in the heart- head knowledge only
 - o This is a big "Why" reason people don't receive- think they are in faith
- It takes time, weeks months or even years as in Abraham's case took 25 years to believe
- Once the Word of Faith gets in our heart, then we become "Fully Persuaded"
- At this point faith in our heart becomes the spirit of faith that moves mountains

2 Corinthians 4:13, "It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak."

Please Read: Mark 11:12-14, 20-26 & Luke 17:1-6

Mark 9:23, "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'"

Question: "All things" are possible to them who believe; what does it mean to believe?