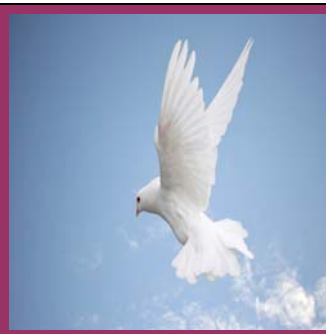
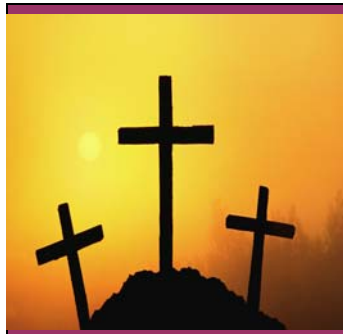


RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

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Rom. 6:14 – *For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*



HOLINESS

God's desire for each of us is to be holy. And the holiness of which God is speaking comes by the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot become holy in our own strength. Only God is perfectly holy. **And in order for us, then, to become holy, the holiness of God must be imparted to us; or to be more precise, imparted through us.** Once again, this process speaks of us becoming nothing so that the holiness of God can do its work in and through us.

In order to be holy, you must be separated from the world; not separated physically, but separated spiritually. You cannot have fellowship with the world. The Scripture is clear on that matter. James 4:4-*You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.* Can the Scripture be any more clear? You cannot continue to be entangled by the world. Entanglement speaks of unbelief. **Entanglement occurs because there are other gods that are more important to you than the**

Kings of Kings. Make God your all and the entangled will become untangled.

If we had a real clue of just how devious the devil was, we would run from him with every ounce of strength in us. But we do not! We walk through the world, over which he has temporary governance, and allow all of the glitter of his golden hemorrhoids to minister death to our eyes.

1 John 2:15-*They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.* You cannot love both God and the world. You cannot serve both God and Mammon. **Mammon is representative of the lust of the flesh; the lust of things other than God. Mammon is a demonic power; a demonic strongman.** You do not want to be playing around with Mammon. He will win you over every time. He is not stronger than God but he is stronger than you. Do you love God? Then you cannot also love the world. The Scripture is clear on this matter, as well.

NO CONDEMNATION

Rom. 8: 1-2 - *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.* Why do we battle with condemnation? It is because the devil still has a certain hold on us. When we become separated from the world; when we allow the Holy Spirit to disentangle us from the spirit of the world, there will be no condemnation. The enemy will have no foothold through which to bring his condemnation on us. Of course, the Scripture teaches us that there is no condemnation at all times. This is correct. **What is being said here is that we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, reach that place, spiritually, wherein we do not have to continually battle with condemnation.**

John 14:30-31-*"I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me."*

This, of course, is Jesus speaking. Can that be true of us, too? Absolutely! The

ruler of this world has no hold on us. How can that be? It can be because we become nothing and the full power of God operates through us. And the devil has no hold on Jesus. He has no hold on God. He, therefore, also has no hold on us. **We must remember that though Satan has power, he has no authority to use that power over any Christian.** The full power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit assures us that “your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness (Rom. 8:10).” What does the Scripture say? “Through Christ Jesus, the law of the spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2).” It is the Holy Spirit, through the full baptism, that sets us free from the law of sin and death. Jesus did the work at the cross. That is why Paul says “through Jesus Christ.” **But it is the Holy Spirit, working in us, that makes this truth experiential.**

The law of sin and death may still be in you because the flesh is still alive, but the “law” of sin and death is dead. Sin and death no longer have power. When Jesus died on the cross, the power of sin was broken. Sin lost its power. And it lost its power in you, as well. **The Holy Spirit, operating through you, keeps the law of sin dead and preserves, nurtures, strengthens and empowers the law of the**

Spirit of life in you so that you become a spiritual being, meet for the Master’s use.

If we could only get hold of the truth that God wants us to reach this place of spiritual maturity more than we want to reach it, it would relieve us of much spiritual stress. Not only does God want this for us; He is the one who will take us to that spiritual place, of which we now only have a slight glimpse.

SIN HAS NO MASTERY

Rom. 6:14-*For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.* Sin has no dominion over you. **Sin lost its mastery over you at the cross. Jesus destroyed the works of the devil at the cross.** It is the Holy Spirit, through the baptism of power, that allows you to see the manifestation of this truth experientially in your own life. As the Scripture teaches, you never have to sin again. Sin has no mastery over you. At a point in time, sin had control unto death. Sin reigned unto death. But Jesus reigned over sin and death; and we reign with Him in life. We are joint-heirs with Him. We sit in the heavenly places with Him. Sin and death, therefore, have no

mastery over us because they have no mastery over Jesus.

By the power of the cross, we are being restored to the place, spiritually, that Adam held before he fell. Let me explain this even more fully. Our spiritual fellowship with God can be as full as it was with Adam. We are being restored to the place where we, too, can fellowship, in the cool of the evening, with the eternal Creator. But there is much more. **Because of the baptism of the full power of the Holy Spirit, we can also walk and experience spiritual life on a plane that Adam could not.** Redemption is better than the original creation. God knew exactly what He was doing. Not only can and will our spiritual life be restored, our physical bodies are to be restored, as well. Death is not to have control over us. Rather, because we have, by the grace of God, been restored, God has absolute control over death – we have yielded our will to Him. Death, then, can only come at the time of God’s perfect plan. Not before; not after.

And what about healing? **Jesus healed everyone who came to Him precisely because God’s perfect plan does not include sickness and disease.** Sickness and disease come straight from the pit of hell. Isaiah tells us that Jesus overcame them; He put them to death by that which He obediently suffered. And all who came to

Jesus, in faith, were healed. It is to be no different today. Why, then, do we not see it more often? It is because we do not fully believe it.

GOD'S PERFECT PLAN

Matt. 25:34-*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'"*

Before the creation of the world, God set everything into motion. There was a place prepared for us, a kingdom prepared for us, before Adam fell. In fact, it was prepared for us before Adam was even created. God knew all things ... that's all things! God did not make a mistake. He was not fooled or set upon by the devil. **We are not the terrible result of the fall of our forefather Adam who willingly, against the plan of God, made life miserable for us.** God already knew! He knew exactly what He was doing. It was in His perfect plan. And God had a plan that was even better than if Adam would not have sinned. Really? Is that possible? Yes. What kind of God would have been blindsided by the devil in the Garden of Eden and had His perfect plan destroyed? Not the God that we serve. Not a chance! **God knew exactly what was occurring and**

Satan played right into His hands.

Rev. 13:8-... *the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.* Jesus was the Lamb who was slain; He was the ultimate sacrifice: He was the perfection of the law; He was the means to redemption and restoration for all mankind. When did all this occur? From the creation of the world!

As Christians, we tend to think that God had this perfect plan and we screwed it all up. And so now we have to crawl back to God, on our hands and knees, and hope that we can get to a place spiritually where, at least, we can get a glimpse of his majesty.

That's horse baloney! God is exacting His perfect plan right now. Granted, there are many that Satan has deceived and is taking to hell with him. That is not part of God's perfect desire, but His plan is going forward as He designed it before the world was created.

Stop feeling sorry for yourself, Christian. Get hold of God and allow God to get hold of you. You have absolutely no idea of the magnificent things that God has for you and the magnificent places God wants to take you.

God did not, has not, and will not make any mistakes. **In the measure in which**

you believe and enter into the fullness of God's word, you are "born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God (1 Pet. 1:23)." "You are the temple of the Holy Spirit ... whom you have received from God. You are not your own; you were bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)." "You are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17)." "You are seated with Him in the Heavenly realms in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6)."

You are all of these things because God says you are. Not because you deserve it. Not because of the things that you have done or not done. Not because of anything other than the magnificent free grace of our almighty, loving God.

And, as said, the measure in which you believe and enter in determines how much of this wonderful truth will become experiential in your life.

God wants us to get hold of another powerful truth. The full power of creation exists in you. The full power that brought about every miraculous act from the creation to the founding of the Church, and beyond, exists in you. Why does God allow that kind of power to live within you? It is because His desire is to do through you that which He did through Jesus and that which He has done through radical disciples ever since.

God is not afraid to keep that kind of power in you. It is His power. He never relinquishes it. He does share it. And He has absolute control over it. And God doesn't come with that kind of power until we yield to the same degree. At that point, He knows that He can trust us. Why? Because we are nothing. We will not abuse His power.

This is a truth that is hard to get hold of because we tend to think of ourselves as unworthy. And rightly so. We are unworthy. But our unworthiness does not diminish God's love, nor does it thwart God's perfect plan.

Oh, dear Christian, allow God to do that which He wants to do in you. It will change your life beyond expectation. It is God who lives within you. Within you is the power to be greater than Moses, Elijah or Paul. Allow God to do with you that which pleases Him. And yes, if you yield completely and totally, there is no limitation to what He will do.

Only believe!

It is not you who live, but Christ Jesus who lives in you (Gal. 2:20). You are hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).

The baptism of the full power of the Holy Spirit is essential to us because it is God, coming in the fullness of His spiritual power, to

materialize in our lives those truths of which we have, by faith, entered into so that, by His grace, we can prove to the world the perfection of His will. And what is the perfection of His will? Holiness! His holiness operating through our vessels.

Only believe!

Please join us at the Radical Discipleship meetings every other Monday at New Life Foursquare Church, 5913 Jefferson Pike, Frederick. We meet next on August 25, 2008.

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BE RADICAL FOR GOD!!