

Becoming Spiritual is Critical for the Believers Survival

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INTRO

Let me remind you why we have been talking about “becoming spiritual” ... We started back months ago when God gave me this foundational verse.

John 1:10-13 New King James Version

He was in the world, ... and the world was made through Him, ... and the world did not know Him. ... 11 He came to His own, ... and His own did not receive Him. ... 12 But as many as received Him, ... **to them He gave the right to become children of God**, ... to those who believe in His name: ... 13 who were born, - not of blood, - nor of the will of the flesh, - nor of the will of man, - - but of God.

VOICE

12 - - But for all who did receive and trust in Him, ... He gave them the right to be - **reborn as children of God**;

A concept that many people struggle with is this issue of being “reborn” – our being born-again ... A religious ideology has taught us that we are “simply a sinner that has been saved by grace” ... Or in other words – we are simply a cleaned-up sinner and we need to continue to walk in righteousness {or follow religious tradition and rituals} in order to stay right with God ... Our we can also say it this way - - God started it – and we must finish it by “walking out our own salvation.”

Galatians 3:3 New International Reader's Version

Are you so foolish? ... You began by the Holy Spirit. ... Are you now trying to finish God’s work in you - by your own strength?

So, becoming a “child of God” or being “reborn as a child of God” is a spiritual operation from start to finish ... The Spirit of God must be actively involved in this entire process ... But to be honest – we struggle with what this process should look like ... We struggle with understanding

how we as human beings – should walk out our own salvation ... Here Paul was addressing a religious ideology that we still face today ... We begin in the Spirit – but then kick into the flesh to work out our salvation in our own strength ... I remember when I got saved ... All on my own – just me and God ... After I was saved, I don't think I went to church for about three months ... I just read my Bible like crazy and talked with God.

Now don't take this wrong – but when I finally went to church – the religious indoctrination started ... I'm not saying that church or those people were bad ... They were just doing what they were taught ... And I fully got caught up in the religious ideology just like the Galatians ... I struggled with this for years ... What finally broke this in my life was this ... I finally ask God why I felt this need to fight with people over biblical doctrine? ... I mean at time these battles got ugly – they weren't just casual conversations ... This is what God said to me - - “You think being right scripturally – makes you right with ME” ... See – I started in the Spirit – but now I'm walking out my salvation through my human intellect.

Catch this by the Spirit ... This will go a long way in helping you to understand the process of walking out your own salvation in the spirit and not in the flesh ... Ready? ... This physical realm functions and operates completely differently than the spirit realm ... As human beings – our natural inclination is to blend the two realms together ... We think functioning like a human being and sprinkling a little bible and spiritual activity on the thing makes it spiritual ... Is this making sense? ... Let me state it this way ... Remember back in the day when we did the divine healing course by Curry Blake? ... One of the most profound thing Curry ever said was – “What ever you have been taught about divine healing – do the exact opposite.” ... Why? ... He understood man must make humanize spiritual things so he can comprehend them to make intellectual sense.

Proverbs 3:5 Easy-to-Read Version

Trust the Lord completely, - and don't depend on your own knowledge. ... (*trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself.*)

TRANS

So, becoming a true child of God ... Being reborn as a child of God must begin with:

Principle #1 Destroy all ideologies acquired through your fleshly programming

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 New Life Version

It is true; we live in a body of flesh. But we do not fight like people of the world. ... 4 We do not use those things to fight with that the world uses. ... We use the things God gives to fight with and they have power. ... Those things God gives to fight with destroy the strong-places of the devil. ... 5 We break down every thought and proud thing that puts itself up against the wisdom of God. We take hold of every thought and make it obey Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 New Living Translation

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ... 4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ... 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. ... We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 The Voice

For though we walk in the world, - we do not fight according to this world's rules of warfare. ... 4 The weapons of the war we're fighting are not of this world - but are powered by God and effective at tearing down the strongholds erected against His truth. ... 5 We are demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. ... We are taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to the Anointed One.

Principle #2 Understanding the Operations and Protocols of the Spirit Realm

We could spend the rest of our earthly life trying to gain revelational understanding on this issue ... But over the next few weeks I want to present some basic concepts of how the spirit realm functions and how to receive the results in our life concerning the promises of God ... Sound good?

The Ways of the Spirit are Completely different from the Ways of the Natural

Isaiah 55:8-9 The Voice

Eternal One: 8 My intentions are not always yours, - and I do not go about things as you do. ...
9 My thoughts and My ways are above and beyond you, - just as heaven is far from your reach here on earth.

John 8:23 The Voice

Jesus: 23 You originate from the earth below, and I have come from the heavens above. You are from this world, and I am not.

Please catch this by the spirit of God ... This is where we get so messed up as believers ... We think we are to function spiritually – in the same manner as we do naturally ... Or let me say it this way ... We think of “spiritual things” – in the same way we think about things in this natural world ... And this is not the case if you are going to effectively walk in the spirit – ie become a child of God ... You don’t walk in the spirit the same way you walk in the natural realm ... Unless you fully grasp this revelation – you will never effectively walk in the spirit nor become a true child of God ... I know I’m tweaking some of you ... But you are becoming tweaked because you are still filled with religious ideologies. ... For example – How many of you are still bound by some addictive behavior? ... Do you still struggle with your health? ... Do you still struggle financially? ... I’m not asking to heap any condemnation upon anyone ... I’m asking because the scriptures clearly address these issues – yet people are not experiencing freedom nor the blessings that the scriptures speak about – correct? ... These are only examples to prove my point ... If you were functioning spiritually – you would experience the results you see in the Word.

The point I really want to drive home this morning is this ... Again – to quote Curry Blake ... Whatever you have been taught concerning a specific truth – do the opposite

Acts 10:1 New Living Translation

In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment.

Acts 10:2-4 Expanded Bible

Cornelius was a ·religious [pious; godly] man. ... He and all ·the other people who lived in his house [his household] ·worshiped the true God [feared God; “God-fearers” were Gentiles who worshiped the one true God of Israel]. ... He gave much of his money to ·the poor [or the Jewish people; the people] and prayed to God often. ... 3 ·One afternoon about three o’clock [About the ninth hour of the day], Cornelius clearly saw a vision. ... An angel of God came to him and said, “Cornelius!” ... 4 Cornelius stared at the angel. ... He ·became afraid [was terrified] and said, “What do you want, ·Lord [or sir]?” ... The angel said, “·God has heard your prayers. ... He has seen that you give to the poor, and He remembers you [Your prayers and your alms have gone up to God as a memorial/memorial offering].

Acts 10:22 Good News Translation

22 “Captain Cornelius sent us,” they answered. “He is a good man who worships God and is highly respected by all the Jewish people. ... An angel of God told him to invite you to his house, so that he could hear what you have to say.”

Acts 10:25 Common English Bible

25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in order to honor him.

How did Cornelius attract God’s attention?

He Feared and Worshipped God

Hebrews 12:28-29 New Living Translation

28 Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ... 29 For our God is a devouring fire.

John 4:24 New Living Translation

For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

He was financially generous to God's people

Acts 10:2 Amplified Bible

A devout man and one who, along with all his household, feared God. ... **He made many charitable donations to the Jewish people**, and prayed to God always.

1 John 3:17 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

But if anyone has this world's goods (resources for sustaining life) and sees his brother and fellow believer in need, yet closes his heart of compassion against him, how can the love of God live and remain in him?

He Prayed Often

2 Timothy 1:3 New King James Version

I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayer's night and day,

1 Thessalonians 5:17 New Living Translation

Never stop praying.

He was a man of Honor

Acts 10:25 Common English Bible

As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in order to honor him.

Catch this by the Spirit Acts 10:4

The angel said, "God has heard your prayers. ... He has seen that you give to the poor, and He remembers you [Your prayers and your alms have gone up to God as a memorial/memorial offering].

Ephesians 5:1-3 New Living Translation

Imitate God, therefore, - in everything you do, - because you are his dear children. ... 2 Live a life filled with love, - following the example of Christ. ... He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, - - **a pleasing aroma to God**. ... 3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.

What "aroma" are you putting off in your worship – giving – and prayer?