

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.

YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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"THE SIMPLICITY OF INTIMACY WITH JESUS CHRIST"

Before I share the message that I believe FATHER has given me, it is important to take a look at the definition of "simplicity" and "intimacy".

First let's look at "simplicity". Webster defines "simplicity" as "a lack of complication". The word "intimacy" is defined as meaning "a very close association or familiarity of a very personal or private nature".

I know this message will be regarded by some as an oversimplification of a very complex problem. After all, who can deny the institutional Church today is filled with strife, division, sexual perversion, greed, lust, sickness and disease, disbelief, and a complete lack of any fear of the living God. Form now clearly prevails over power in the vast majority of Christian fellowships. To think otherwise is to deny reality and guarantee one's future with more of the same – only much worse! Sadly, the majority will go the way of the flesh, and therefore fulfill the Word of God as written in Matthew 24: 1 through 51, Timothy 3: 1 through 13, 2nd Thessalonians 2: 1 through 12, and Matthew 7: 21 through 23. This does not have to be the case for you or for me.

Our FATHER, in every generation, has had a remnant, as He has a remnant, today. His true remnant has always been marked with hearts that are completely, totally, and absolutely loyal to Him. They have no other loyalty before Him, and they are most often found outside of organized religion. This has been true from the beginning, during the days when our Lord walked the earth, and it is true today.

Just because we tack the name of JESUS over the door and carry a Bible to a meeting does not assure us of being qualified to be counted among those whom He calls "His chosen ones". Many are called, but few are chosen. Listen to the very simple and easily understood words of JESUS-

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

(Matthew 22:14)

What is it about those words spoken by God, Himself, that we find so hard to believe? JESUS spoke frequently about the many and the few, the many who would not make it into His eternal Kingdom, and the few who would. Listen –

"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

(Matthew 7:14)

In Luke, chapter 13, verses 22 through 30, JESUS gives a chilling warning for all who would listen. His warning was directed to those who claim to know Him, but in fact, do not. Then, in Matthew, chapter 7, verses 21 through 23, our Lord warned that there would be many on "that" day who called Him Lord while they were on the earth, and had even been involved in Christian ministry, but who were sent to Hell. Not a few, but many! Oh saints, give heed to the words of JESUS, above all other words. Listen to His voice and follow Him. The most spiritually dangerous thing you can do is to listen to the voice of a man, and follow that man, rather than listening to and following JESUS. Following a man, even though he may claim that he speaks for God, can lead one straight to the pit of Hell. The true man of God would never encourage you to follow him or his ministry. He would never encourage you to follow his denomination, his Church, or his vision. No! The true man of God would never encourage you to follow anyone except JESUS CHRIST, and JESUS CHRIST, alone! We make a fatal mistake if we say all who claim the name of JESUS are part of His body and therefore our eternal brothers and sisters. It is just not so! At least, according to God's word, it is not so!

To those who claim the name of JESUS, but set aside His word, in favor of man's word, and man's traditions, JESUS has this to say –

**"Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:
These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and
honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.**

And in vain, they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

(Matthew 15: 7, 8, & 9)

Unfortunately, we are now living in a day where untold numbers of souls have been sold a doctrine of "cheap grace", and have been recruited into a community of spiritual blindness which causes the mouth to say one thing while the heart says something else. The very words of JESUS are set aside in favor of the words of some preacher, pastor, priest, or Pope. This open mocking of God's word is the end result of a generation of so-called believers who have no more fear of God than of their mailman. May God have mercy on us!

If in fact, dear saints, you are a "born again" believer in JESUS CHRIST, and if He is alive in you, then I challenge you to separate yourself totally unto Him. Remember Matthew 15: 7 through 9. Just mouthing the words means nothing, unless the heart is in agreement. The chosen ones have a heart that beats, "Yes and Amen" with His heart – with His word!

"As you therefore have received Christ JESUS the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as

you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

(Colossians 2: 6 – 10)

We – you and I – are complete in Him! Webster defines "complete" as follows: "Having all parts or elements." In Christ we lack nothing! In Christ we have all He is, and He promised His Spirit would take all that was His and declare it to each of us. (See John 16:15) Whatever our need is – He meets that need. He is the great I AM. The Spirit of God says to you and to me – "I AM your peace! I AM your joy! I AM your prosperity! I AM your physical well being! I AM your soundness of mind! I AM your deliverance! I AM your length of days! I AM your salvation! Without ME, you are nothing and you can do nothing!"

One of our greatest problems today is that we spend most of our life chasing spiritual rabbits, rather than pursuing intimacy with JESUS. Many of us are so busy trying to be good Church members that we have failed to develop an intimate relationship with the only Person who can meet our needs. Some of us spend a lifetime as Christians, running from conference to conference, from book to book, tape to tape, and Church to Church in pursuit of the blessings of God, and never – I say never – develop an intimate relationship with JESUS CHRIST. Many of us are so busy for JESUS, so busy trying to build or preserve a Church, so busy serving as an officer of a Church, that we grow old, lay down on our death beds, and finally realize that in all of our efforts, we never came into a walk of nothing more than the "simplicity of intimacy with JESUS". I am fully persuaded that most Christians today do not love Him with all of their hearts, minds, and souls. Most of us will die without fulfilling the great commandment of God as delivered by JESUS, Himself, in Matthew 22: 37 & 38:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great Commandment."

It is heartbreaking that most Christian men today will devote more time and effort to their hobbies and worldly pleasures, and to try to build a business, than to developing an intimate walk with JESUS. Men, listen to me. You cannot, you cannot walk in the reality of intimacy with JESUS, and at the same time be devoted to the world and it's systems. Do not be deceived. God will not alter His word for you. (See Psalm 89:34) That goes for religion as well. JESUS CHRIST does not need one thing from us. Not one Thing! Whether we are dead or alive, whether we give or do not give, whether we teach, or preach, or do not teach, or do not preach, be assured that God's kingdom and government on this earth will get along quite well without us, as hard as that may be to believe. I am afraid that many individuals and Churches today have a terribly inflated opinion of

themselves. I can assure you that God is not impressed with all of our efforts on His behalf. You may claim to be a born again believer, faithfully give your money to the Church, serve as a deacon, teacher, or preacher. You may spend forty years on the mission field, or visit the prisons every week. You may feed the hungry and hand out Bible tracts at the race track, but in all of your religious efforts, if you fail, in the end, to develop a love for and intimacy with JESUS that supersedes all else, you have failed Him, and deprived Him of the one and only thing He desires from you and from me – intimacy. It is just that simple. Working for JESUS is not the same as being intimate with JESUS. Being religious is not the same as being intimate with JESUS. Attending a Church service, singing, dancing, and shouting, is not the same as being intimate with JESUS, and saying that you love JESUS is not the same as being intimate with JESUS. Being intimate with JESUS is simply being "one" with Him.

**"At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."
(JESUS speaks in John 14:20)**

When God took on the form of a man (JESUS CHRIST) and entered into the human race He had created, He brought with Him a message so out of this world that it would take His own Spirit to convince us of it's truth; CHRIST in the FATHER and you in CHRIST and CHRIST in you. Saints, this is called "being one with God"!

When our Lord cried out "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit. It is finished",

**"Then behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, - - -"
(Matthew 27:51)**

The veil that separated man from intimacy with God was taken away forever and forever. Now, every born again, spirit filled son and daughter could become intimately "one" with Him. Glory to God! His sons and daughters could now literally walk with Him and talk with Him. We could now serve as Priests unto Him – fellowship with Him – sit at His feet for the better thing, His word, as He led us into all truth. (See John 16:13) Now it could be said, not figuratively, but literally –

**"In Him we live and move and have our being - - - for we are also His offspring."
(Acts 17:28)**

FATHER then declared that each of us would become a temple for Christ, Himself, to dwell in.

**"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"
(1 Corinthians 6:19)**

FATHER created us with one primary desire in His heart, that He would enjoy our fellowship, our intimacy – One on one. All that He desires is that we come to Him as a little child comes to his or her daddy because they simply love him. Of course, we know He is very jealous for us, (See Exodus 20:5 & 34:14) and our intimacy with Him. Put simply, our FATHER desires each of His sons and daughters be filled with Himself, in the Person of His Spirit, and then to walk in Him. (See Galatians 5:16) There are also conditions which we must meet to experience the reality of walking in Him. First, we must be in agreement with Him –

"Can two walk together, unless they be agreed?"

(Amos 3:3)

Secondly, we must love Him above all else in this life –

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

(Deuteronomy 6:5)

Third, we must choose, as an act of our own free will, whom we will obey, God or man –

"We ought to obey God rather than men."

(Acts 5:29)

"Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar."

(Romans 3:4)

These conditions have become stumbling blocks for most Christians today, as we will learn when we continue - - - -

GOD BLESS

Tom