

Prayer and Fasting for June 2015

Joy of Holiness

Well, Holiness. What does it mean to be holy? When I was a boy I believed I had to behave a certain way. And this is true. But we cannot be holy no matter how hard we try without first relying on grace. Grace is always the first step. The fact that you have received Christ is an act of grace. You would not come to the Cross if you did not receive grace to do so. Then Saving Grace makes you truly holy in God's sight. It was your personal choice to do so, but God in His foreknowledge knew you would and God gave you grace to do so.

Romans 14:17 tells us that Kingdom living is of peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17

¹⁷ for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, *Shalom* and **joy** in the *Ruach HaKodesh*.
Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

The eating and drinking is in context here in regard to foods that were considered unclean in the Old Testament. Paul is not saying do not follow the dietary law but that we should not judge people based on their dietary habits. Whether someone follows the law in this respect or not is not a matter for division and argumentation.

Paul reminds us and this is his key point - that bickering over issues and not having tender fellowship with one another (JOY in and by each other's company) is what is to be avoided.

Psalm 45:7 States:

Thou **lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness**: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the **oil of gladness** above thy fellows.

KJV

How do we love righteousness? How do we hate wickedness? We deemed those we considered worse than ourselves wicked, but before the Grace of Salvation I enjoyed my personal wickedness and I would not come to the light lest my dark deeds be exposed as we read in John chapter three. So where I use to run to sin now I run away instead.

Though before I had some knowledge of what was right and wrong due to God's moral code being clearly seen ... as we read in Romans 1: 18-20 we read ..

Romans 1: 18-20

18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; **19**Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. **20**For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even his eternal power and Godhead*; so that they are without excuse: **21**Because that, when they knew God, **they glorified him not as God**, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, **23**And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.

And in Psalm 1:19 we read ...

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
2Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
3They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
4Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
5It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
6It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

The **entropic principle** is a theory that shows us the entire universe, the stars and the galaxy are specific to mankind's existence as an intelligent creature on earth. It is as if man was placed specifically here on earth in a precise location in the universe with a precise universe just so that he could explore and come to know where and who he is and where he came from.

But through the Grace of God and His saving Grace poured out for us on the Cross, sin was judged and condemned on the Cross and we escape free from death and destruction. So the place of suffering of Christ is the place of destruction for satan and liberation for mankind. We are set free like Barnabas while the innocent Lamb is sacrificed for our sin. And we become children of the living God.

Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

How does one become born again?

(Just ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and to come into your life. Accept His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the grave as His personal gift to you. You will have that choice to do so in a moment if you have never asked Jesus into your life.)

We learn to hate wickedness and it becomes repulsive due to the work of the Holy Spirit indwelling me. So now we have a conscience of those around us. Men and women who need salvation. We feel sorry for those who tempt us. We ourselves must live in a way as to not tempt those who have not received Christ as well as those who have.

Just recently I have come across someone who is filled with vile affections and statements concerning women. His mind is in a pigs pen. But he does not know that. He finds comfort there in this mess. He believes as all **who have not come** to the saving grace of Jesus Christ that the way to have happiness in this life is to do what feels good – fill the lust of the flesh. But what feels good **BEFORE** your eyes are open by the truth manifested in our salvation by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - may keep you in a prison of your own making. And we are told in scripture that the eyes of the unregenerate cannot see the truth in the Word of God. WE read in ...

2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, **who is the exact likeness of God.** (If we have seen Christ, we have seen the father.)

NLT

None the less, God is not without witness. He is God and his creatures, the human race, know that there is a God who governs the universe due to what has been revealed in nature.

When the Gospel is preached, either hearts receive or turn away somewhat hardened. So I ask all who hear this message not to turn hard. If you are not ready to accept the message of the Gospel don't turn away so quickly. If you do, this is the reason why, we read in John chapter 3 verses 18-20 ...

John 3: 18 -20

18“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.

19And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. **20**All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. **21**But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

NLT

And concerning the Prophecy of our Lord in the book of Luke chapter 4 verse 18 ...

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and **recovering of sight to the blind**, to set at liberty them that are bruised

Jesus comes to us to give us good vision. We first must receive Him, Then our vision begins to improve.

Jesus *replied* in the Gospel of John chapter 3 verses 3 – 7 ...

John 3: 3-7

3Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

4"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

5Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. **6**Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. **7**So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

NLT

Once we have good vision – born again, we see well enough to discern that the prison doors have been opened and we can get up and walk out. We most likely not even have known that we are in a prison not alone that we should get up and walk out.

But it is up to us to do the walking and not turn back to our old ways. We begin the journey by accepting Christ – stepping forward at a church meeting or raising our hands or just simply uttering the prayer (this prayer – Lord Jesus, please forgive me my sins. I know you lived, died and rose again conquering death and sin so that I can have eternal life. Please forgive and I accept your sacrifice for my life) on this link. <http://Jesus-abc.com/php/heaven.php> Just accept Christ as your Lord if you have never done so.

Now in 1 Corinthians 2: 7-13 we read ...

1 Corinthians 2: 7-13

⁷ On the contrary, we are communicating a secret wisdom from God which has been hidden until now but which, before history began, God had decreed would bring us glory. ⁸ Not one of this world's leaders has understood it; because if they had, they would not have executed the Lord from whom this glory flows. ⁹ But, as the *Tanakh* says,

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard and no one's heart has imagined all the things that God has prepared for those who love him."

¹⁰ It is to us, however, that God has revealed these things. How? Through the Spirit. For the Spirit probes all things, even the profoundest depths of God.¹¹ For who knows the inner workings of a person except the person's own spirit inside him?

So too no one knows the inner workings of God except God's Spirit.¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God, so that we might understand the things God has so freely given us.¹³ These are the things we are talking about when we avoid the manner of speaking that human wisdom would dictate and instead use a manner of speaking taught by the Spirit, by which we explain things of the Spirit to people who have the Spirit.

CBJ (Complete Jewish Bible)

So, Holy living. It starts with The Holy One. And we have Joy unspeakable – Joy that words cannot truly express. The Oil of Gladness spoken of in our Messianic Prophecy concerning Christ in the Psalms and repeated for us by Paul in the Book of Hebrews.

The whole purpose of God in giving us Jesus, His only begotten Son, is to give us Life more abundantly and to protect us from total damnation in hell. Jesus came to save us from hell and that is why He is called Savior.

We are saved by the work of Christ.

1 Peter 1:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

Amen.

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1 Peter 1:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

1 Peter 1:8 King James Version (KJV)

⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: