

The Foundation - Living His Life

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In this time, many have lost sight of what God is doing in Christ Jesus. We *must* be brought back to our beginning place with Christ, to the foundation of our very salvation, to the basic walk of faith which is in relationship with the Lord. The reason we may have lost sight of what God is doing is that we have taken what God has revealed to us, and tried to understand it in a natural way. We have grasped it in our minds and have tried to know God's ways in our own way, rather than knowing God through faith, which experiences God in a daily walk.

We may have experienced God's grace and mercy, and partaken of His salvation, but God has called us to more than that--to a life in union with Himself. He wants us to walk in a place of fullness, coming to maturity by knowing and experiencing Him every day and in every hour of our lives. We need to realize what the foundational truth of the gospel really is. It is not just repentance, the beginning of salvation, the experience of one time. There is a basic and primary truth of the gospel that each of us must know in reality. If we do come to comprehend this truth, God in His mercy will then be able to bring us to that place where everything that He wants to accomplish will blossom forth in our lives.

Many of us have wrong concepts of what the Christian life really is. Our perception of every truth may not be wrong, but I refer only to that basic understanding of what the condition of salvation is. Some would have us believe that we can simply accept Christ, the act of a moment, and then go on to live in a state of trying to know God, trying to live better, and praying and reading the Bible. We are supposed to desire God to lead us, and we may actually experience His leading at different times.

But let me say that this alone is not the life of God that He sets forth in His Word. This alone is not what He came to do for and in us. If the situation described above is all that our personal concept of salvation is, it will be evident as our thinking expresses itself in our lives. A natural man is the product of his mind, and the mind that misses God's way, Christ, will always lead him astray.

In God's mercy, He is always longsuffering in His dealings with us, but there is only one way that we can please Him, and that is by faith. Some would think that we may just do "what we want to, when we want to," and ask God's blessing upon it. But that is not the gospel. These concepts must be cleared out before we can really see what we have in Christ Jesus. Natural concepts will lead us astray; reasoning and emotions can lead us astray. The devil's ways of misleading come in many different forms, and often it is the various workings of our minds that hinder us.

God wants to bring us back to the simplicity we had at the beginning of our walk in God. How simple it was! God doesn't want it to become complicated; we ourselves have complicated it. We may have let our desires control us, or made excuses--but beloved, there are no excuses in God. I mean that when God says that the life we now live is not our own, we must not add anything to that.

"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth...all things were created by Him, and for Him." (Gal. 1:16)

In the beginning, God created man for Himself. Don't pass over this fact lightly. This is a tremendous revelation because it was in God's heart from the beginning of time to create man expressly for fellowship with Himself. When man went astray, he missed the purpose of God. But when we are brought back into His plan, the truth of why we were made starts to break into our hearts again, and we begin to enjoy living the life of God, rather than our own. We must allow our new spiritual understanding (which comes by the revelation of the Spirit) to be worked out in our lives, or we may start to be affected again by the influences of this world, and not go on to mature. The life in the Spirit is not lived in natural understanding--we are utterly dependent upon God, and we can do nothing of ourselves.

When we find ourselves in this place of not having the answers within ourselves, we often are not willing to wait upon God. So we start to reason, we start to philosophize, we start to try to live the kind of life that would seem to be acceptable to God.

But we were freed from that realm when we came into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. We're no longer bound by the traditions of religion; we move into the life of God. No longer may we make our own decisions, no longer are there two wills. There is only one will, and that is the will of God. There is only one way to live this life, and that is by faith. We talk about faith, and everyone has a different idea of what faith is--but faith is that simple relationship with God. We must come back to that place where if we do not know what to do, we wait for the Lord to reveal to us what to do.

Jesus did not move unless the Father moved. "But we have to move," we think. "We have to do something for God, and we have to be satisfied in our feelings, in our emotions." Beloved, we do not. Our purpose is to please Him, not to satisfy ourselves. In pleasing Him, as everything is brought into submission to Him, we will begin to find fulfillment. Why? Because we've been made for Him.

We may struggle with many things, and we've got our terminology for these things--we struggle with sin, with thoughts, with the reasoning of our own thinking--things that we have manufactured. Yet God has made everything so simple: just respond to Him. When we return to that place that God originally designed us for, but which we don't come into except through the gospel of Christ, we come into a completely different realm from any man has ever walked in before. We were born into death: we have come into life.

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom. 8:2)

Every one of us has been taught to use every natural faculty that we have. When we come into Christ, it doesn't mean that we won't have these any longer. But we are controlled now by a higher principle--the principle of life. We are led by the Spirit. That's where it begins, and that's where it ends. There are no "in-betweens." There is no consideration of opinions, philosophies or logic, but only being led by the Spirit. We've moved into a "brand-new" creation.

No longer is *my* will anything to be considered, but only faith. Faith doesn't do *my* will. Jesus said, "I didn't come to do my will, but the will of my Father that sent me." Let us brush aside all those things that have cluttered up our minds, and the words and jargon we use, and come back to simplicity. Then we will move and mature in our spiritual senses. We will be exercised, and begin to see together; we will start to hear God. "Are we going to hear voices?" you may say. That is just another indication of

our tendency to cling to our own concepts, rather than allowing God to break through to us in a way that destroys our dependence on ourselves.

When we are moving on our own initiative, and not hearing from God, we become confused and fall back on our own efforts to work things out within ourselves, rather than allowing the Spirit of God to work in His power in the inner man. It is His changing power that will lead us on and bring light to our pathway.

Salvation does not mean that now we will have some peace in our souls, and continue to live the way we want to. Now He himself has become our peace. Unless He is your life, He's not going to be your peace. You will not have peace separate from Him, or anything else either .

These are dogmatic statements, but I ask you to consider them. Only as they are considered in the light of the Word will the truth be able to set you free. Otherwise you will continue to hang on to your old thinking. Hindrances in our lives are usually based upon one thing--our determination to serve God in *our own way*.

We find many different ways to excuse ourselves for what we are doing. But we forget that one day we're going to stand before God, and nobody else will be there to offer excuses to; you will stand before Him and give an account of the treasure that He has given you. So we need to come down to the simplicity of the working of the Spirit *now*, knowing the leading of the Spirit and the will of God. That means that I will have to begin to walk, to think, to obey as a child. Not being childish, but rather with the simple heart attitude that a submissive child has, instead of our meaningless philosophies or reasoning or opinions or whatever it may be. Truth! That's what we're looking for. "I am the way, the truth..." Only in Him.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

Are we living in the reality of what Paul lived in? "The life that I now live..." I'm not living my life any longer. It's *not* my life any longer; it's His life. When man moved out of the life of God, he moved out into the realm that all of us have known, the knowledge of good and evil. When he comes back in, God brings him into Christ. Man is now a new creature--with a "brand-new" center and direction. God is now going to lead us; He's going to bring us to maturity. We're sons.

How do I know I'm a son? Because the Spirit of adoption has come within, whereby we cry, "Abba, Father." Hallelujah! This place is so simple; don't try to complicate it. He has given us the power; now let us live by His power. It's only as we turn our backs on the power , as we try to work things out in our own strength, that we do not sense the presence of God. He's still there, He hasn't changed, He still loves us with an undying love that we cannot fathom; but He wants to reveal it to us, He wants to work it through us! It takes maturity for the love of God to spring forth, for you to love because God is loving through you. In this place we will see every circumstance we find ourselves in as an opportunity *to experience* God. Not moving without Him--moving because He's moving.

"But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Rom. 8:11)

The word to notice here is "quicken." God shall quicken, shall give life to "your mortal bodies." You say, "But I have life; I'm breathing." That is what most of us consider. We think, "Yes, of course I'm a sinner, but I'm alive, and now I just take Jesus..." But we don't realize that we were *dead*. Of course we know the theology that says so--but we need the *response*, now. We need the simplicity of a child's heart that Jesus spoke about. We must come as children. Not the religious way, but God's way--life.

If God is going to quicken, to give life to our mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in us, we can't bring along anything with us, from any source. Nothing's going to work here but God. You may say, "But what if God wants *me* to work?" God has already chosen to work in Christ Jesus. And He said, "Whosoever will, let him come." Are we willing to wait for the word of God?

Do we feel like Peter when he got out of the boat? Many times when we enter the realm of the Spirit, we begin, like Peter, to look around us at the circumstances. We begin again to depend on our natural reasoning, and the next thing we know we're sinking; we're turning around and grasping to get back into the boat, scrambling and splashing water, and we're afraid. Why should we be? Out on the water is where God wants us to walk--in the Spirit. This is the only place where the working of God takes place, the only place we can know victory over sin. It's the only place we can know the quickening power of the Holy Spirit.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Rom. 8:13)

This life does not allow the flesh to manifest itself; and you can't do that except by the Spirit. Do we have trouble with the deeds of the flesh? We shouldn't. If we are children, we are responding. He said that the Spirit will mortify the deeds of the flesh. *You* can't do it. I'm not speaking about positive thinking. This must be a reality, the working of the Spirit in each of our lives. There's no sense in going along endlessly thinking that something else will accomplish it. We may know how to talk well, we may know how to present a good appearance to the world, we may have our terminology perfected, but it won't make a bit of difference unless we are experiencing the reality.

God has not changed. He wants each one of us to get low enough so that He may exalt us. That place is being low enough in your own eyes so that you are no longer struggling. No longer trying to keep up, no longer trying to do things for God. Yes, we know better than this. But we find ourselves doing it anyway, don't we? We will, unless we are willing to admit where we are, and see what God has done for us. We will have to cut away some of those things that continue to hinder us, and God will give us the understanding of what to do, if we will listen to Him.

There's an expression in the 14th verse of Romans 8, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God*"--this is the criterion--"*they are the sons of God.*" Who are sons? Those that just go along? No, those that are led by the Spirit--that have new life springing forth, all from God. The Spirit of God came and quickened this mortal flesh. He gave you the ability now to *know* Him. You did not have that ability within yourself, but He has given you that ability.

We don't know God by our minds, although there are many mind religions in the world today. Men try to seek God with their minds in many different ways; they try to sense God in their imaginations. But there is only one reality and that is God himself, as we wait upon Him. Now we don't have to look for

Him somewhere outside ourselves. He has come to abide. For as many as will believe, He is the very source of life. Everything is being brought back into conformity to the image of Christ. God *will* be all in all.

We know this in theory--that Christ will be all in all--but we cannot comprehend that in our natural minds. We are going to experience it when we start to move in relationship with God by the Spirit.

Look at the 15th verse: "*For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear...*" What does this mean? We are now no longer under the penalty of death, no longer separated from God. We've been made alive, not brought into the bondage of "do's and don'ts." We are brought into the life of Christ.

Any of us may have our little lists of do's and don'ts. but completely apart from these, *those that are led by the Spirit will fulfill the righteous demands of the law*. We don't have to worry about lists of do's and don'ts. If we walk in the Spirit, if He is working in us as we are in union with Him, we'll fulfill all the righteousness that God demands from us, and it will not be our own doing.

See verse 26: "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities...*" God knows that we are weak. Don't dwell on it; dwell on Him. He *knows* our infirmities. The Spirit *helps* our infirmities. Continually, brother. "*For we know not what we should pray...*" We can't even pray aright! You cannot pray with your mind; you must pray with the unction of the Holy Spirit, with His anointing and leading. And there are times when we do not even comprehend with our minds how to pray--and there He is to help our weaknesses. With the manifestation of tongues, God has made provision whereby we can pray in every situation.

There is a place of prayer that is not even in the realm of words. It is a groaning somewhere down in our spirits--the Holy Spirit making intercession. Verse 27: "*He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*" Everything is centered on one thing, and that is the *will of God*. My will is now being exercised in His will.

Is this question running through your mind: "Am I a puppet?" *You have been made for God*. God didn't make the animals for Himself; He made you. As a puppet? No. He made you with a choice. As you start to experience Him, He fills you with His love. Right here and now we are being prepared for eternity. We could say that when we moved into the life of the Spirit of God, eternity moved into our consciousness. From this point on, we are being prepared for something that "*eye hath not seen, nor ear heard.*" (I Cor. 2:9) We cannot even conceive of such a thing in our natural minds--but He has prepared us for something that is eternal.

In this new life, we are no longer dependent upon ourselves. We are in this world, but not of this world. We are not lusting, not desiring for our own selves. Many of us can't comprehend this. The reason we can't is that we are trying to live the Christian life in our own natural strength and ability. We have a misunderstanding of this area, and think that if we don't "get up and do something," we'll end up sitting back, not making a living, and not getting anything done for God. Paul said, "*If any man will not work, do not let him eat.*" So there's no need to worry about that. But the reason we have so many failures when we get up and try to do something for God is that so many times we're living for ourselves, out of ourselves, rather than living for His purpose, out of Christ. This may be caused by the sin of unbelief; it may be that we have turned to our own understanding.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God..." (Matt. 6:33)

This is a very simple command--as to children. But in it there are no "if's" and no "but's." *Eternity* is at stake, beloved. Why try to make excuses? God has made it so simple; He's opened up the way to us! It's not complicated, it's *Jesus*. This place that I'm speaking about is so simple, even children can walk in it. We need to come back to seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. In seeking the kingdom first, our eyes are no longer focused upon the world, and our hearts are not affected by its influences.

Our desires and lusts for the world should have been crucified, if we've come to Christ. They should have been dealt with--but some of us don't know *how* to let God deal with these areas. We don't know that faith and response to God take care of them. If you continue to allow your heart to be drawn out by the world, if you continue to look, and not to let the Spirit of God mortify the deeds of the flesh, you have slipped right back underneath the Law, as the Galatians did. You're not free any more; you're bound. Then usually you blame someone else for "putting you under the Law"; but beloved, we put ourselves under the Law. Jesus Christ has freed us from the Law, and as long as you are walking in Christ, *no man* can put you under the Law. We are free! If only we could let that soak down into our spiritual thinking. It isn't what we can do; it is what He has done and what He can do by the Spirit in us.

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (Gal. 5:24)

"They that are Christ's..." those that belong to Him, those that have His life--*"have crucified the flesh with the affections [or passions], and lust."* I am no longer living for myself, no longer looking for recognition. The life of God is the life that's continually poured out; it doesn't look for its own desires to be fulfilled.

Galatians 6:8: *"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."* What does this say to us? Along with being led by the Spirit, we are to sow to the Spirit. If we sow to the Spirit it leads to what? We shall "of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

See verse 14 of the same chapter: *"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world."* It is by *Christ* that I have entered into life; it is by *Him* that the world is crucified to me and I to the world. We are trusting in Christ, trusting in His death! And *in Him* we have been crucified. This must be a reality if we are to go on to enjoy Him, to grow up and have meaning in our lives, to be what God wants us to be and experience what we've been made for.

Since we've been made for God, we will not find lasting fulfillment in anything else. Nothing else will satisfy your soul. That doesn't mean that you won't be active. But it is not the activity that will satisfy you. It is knowing Him. I won't say there are not times when He allows your efforts to bring results, and you may be getting satisfaction from these accomplishments. But He'll dry up your satisfaction; He'll dry up those "do's and don'ts" that you adhere to; He'll dry up those little "do good things" that you've been doing for *your* own satisfaction.

He'll bring you back to one place: you're going to be what He wants you to be. And when He gets you to not depend on yourself at all, and to find your joy only in Him, then He can trust you to do what He wants done for *His* purpose. Simple, isn't it? Maybe it doesn't sound so simple to you, but with the

power and the understanding of the Spirit, it's a walk of utter simplicity. Beloved, you can't live for yourself. We need to try our hearts with that statement.

Are you living His life?

Where do failures come? Not in Christ. Where do heartaches come? Not in Christ. They only come as you get out there on your own, only as you move separate from the will of God. The minute you move out, you're in bondage. You've moved back underneath the demands of the Law.

If you are not experiencing what God has for you, come to a stop now. Let all of your inner activity come to a standstill! And realize God. We have only a short time on this earth--whether you believe it or not. One thing should be in each of our hearts: we should be looking for His appearing. *Are you looking for His appearing?* The time is short for God to do His work in our lives. The problems that we have are only answered in Christ.

The apostle Paul spoke of *"the power that worketh in me mightily."* He is describing the inward power of the Holy Ghost. Let us encourage one another *"as we see the day approaching."* Our purposes must be founded in His will--not in what we think, not in what we hope--only in moving in faith and responding to God in the measure He calls us to walk in right now.

We don't know what lies ahead, but as John says, *"It does not yet appear what we shall be, but when we see Him, we shall be as He is."* That is, *if* we see Him. Let that bring not fear, but hope and strength by the Spirit.

When we come into the life of God, we move into a completely different realm, the realm of the Spirit. This is not some place of "floating around up in the clouds," but a place of walking with God right down here, allowing the life of Christ to flow through you to others. Spiritual life is simply doing the will of God. Not your will, but His will.

What I am saying may wreck a few of our plans, because many of us have planned on something else. We've planned on having God bless our efforts. But all I can say is, is God moving or are you moving? Unless God moves, you had better not move. This is not to put a yoke around your neck; I'm just saying that it is those that are led by the Spirit that are the sons.

We may talk about Christianity, talk about religion--but there won't be any religious people in heaven. The Word of God tells us that His sons are conformed to His image and led by the Spirit. *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."* God has never let anyone down. There are no failures in God. In our stupidity, so many times *we* fail. But faith will never fail. God never fails and love never fails. Today, may we take another step in the Spirit and by faith.