

Hearing God & Living to His Spirit

Finding Peace, Removing Fear and Anxiety

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The ministry of the Holy Spirit is probably the most neglected area of the Christian walk. We taste and see from time to time but to live in the Spirit seems very inconsistent for most. It is like letting the peace of God rule in our heart is a ***very fleeting experience***. It doesn't take much for us to lose our peace and it doesn't take much for us to lose our spiritual walk. This should not be the case.

This is all changing and I think mainly because we have finally been alerted to the most diverting practice that has kept us from being steady in both of these areas (the peace of God and walking in the Spirit). **That diverting practice has been our continual entanglement with the law.**

We are just grasping how pervasive the law is in our life. Twenty-four seven the law in its perfection has been bringing back to us what we have sown, what others have sown, and witnessing to our heart the constant refrain—guilty. All of our days we have struggled and labored to measure up, to find peace enough to feel good, to justify or excuse our lack of right standing before God. Condemnation, guilt, shame, reproach, fear, anxiety, regret, insecurity, and never feeling truly accepted or acceptable, all of these things loudly indicate our issuing with the law's judgments against us. Our own heart has never found peace except for short periods of time, from the constant barrage of accusations, prosecutions, and cross examinations to our own

unworthiness. We have interpreted this whole business as being God's anger, disappointment, and frustration with us. **We have figured that God will never be satisfied with us so we'll just do our best.** Yet, we all know that doing our best is never good enough. Then the enemy of our souls has jumped on board convincing us that God will never accept us (except barely in Christ), never truly love us, bringing recrimination and self rejection along with it.

We have been taught that Jesus has saved us from all our sins **as we confess them**; however, as we live our Christian life we've been returning to the law to keep it in various ways. As we do this we have come back under its dominion and judgment again and again. **The strategy of trying to keep the law in anyway and then believe that God's grace will cover the rest has left us with mixed results.** We have never fully been able to see ourselves as accepted in the beloved because we all know we don't love God like He loves us. We all know that we don't love our neighbor as our self. We all know that we are not as committed to the things of God as God is to us. In trying to do our best in keeping the Ten Commandments and/or the first and second greatest commandments, we rarely feel that we've done enough or our part. Condemnation reigns from sun up to sun down **because we just don't know how we stand** with God based on our doing the best we can. All of this has caused us to lose confidence in our prayers and in our relationship to God.

The scripture clearly teaches us that Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law but we have felt that as redeemed people **it is our duty** then to keep the law as best we can. This has been our great mistake because although it is taught by Paul,

Peter, and John in the apostle's letters, to live in grace and cast away the law, we have not heard it nor understood it. This grave mistake has cost us countless days, weeks, months, and years, of needless grief and burden. Even though we have heard this simple message:

Ga 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law**.

The message has been mixed with the law again and again. We know what Jesus taught from the gospels and have applied His teachings to our Christian walk. When we do this we have mixed the law with grace because Jesus taught both. It was the apostles who separated the law from grace and cast it away. Jesus taught both because he had to. He had to expand upon the law and bring its meaning to full light because the religious leaders had made the law manageable. They had created the illusion that the law could be followed and kept. Jesus corrected this and brought the full weight of the law upon them. For example Jesus said,

(Mt 12:36) "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."

Who can withstand such a judgment? Jesus also expanded the law this way:

Matt. 5: 27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

28 **"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Jesus taught the law in many cases **but in all of them it was to present the law in its fullest sense so that everyone truly understood what we are dealing with.** We are never going to justify ourselves before God. There is no hope in keeping the law for its purpose was to expose all as guilty of sin and bring all of us to the realization that we absolutely need a savior. Jesus then also taught grace and presented God's intention for our salvation. These verses express it:

John 1:16 And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, **but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

The law was given by Moses so show that all of us cannot be justified by any effort of our own. When we understand the law in its fullness we'll realize the impossibility of keeping it. Therefore, grace and truth came by Jesus Christ who has redeemed us from the curse of the law. Jesus fulfilled the law and its judgments against us taking upon Himself all sin in the atonement on the cross. When we come to Jesus we no longer live to the law and what held us...

Ro 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were **held by**, so that we **should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**

We no longer live in the oldness of the letter which refers to the law because it was a ministry of death and condemnation:

2Co 3: 7 **But if the ministry of death**, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away,
8 **how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?**
9 **For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.**

We Live to Newness of Life!

We live to Christ, we live to newness of life, and we live to the ministry of righteousness walking in the Spirit. We live to the gift of grace and the gift of righteousness:

Ro 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the **gift of righteousness will reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.)

This is all wonderful news however we have not understood it. We have often been taught and returned to living under the law again. We have mistakenly believed that since we are born again that God has set us free from ***disobeying the law so that we could keep the law in His grace***. In other words, we have been forgiven of our sins in breaking the law but now being born again and given the Holy Spirit we are to finally keep the law as best we can. What does the word of God actually teach? It teaches us to cast away the law and live to newness of life in Christ Jesus (Gal. 4:30)!

Stop Judging According to the Flesh!

This means stop judging according to the flesh, stop subjecting ourselves to the condemnation of the law, stop living life as mere men. Stop being carnal and sense driven; stop trying to please God from our own efforts. Stop trying to measure up to standards that we can never keep. Stop allowing the law to judge you. Stop the court, the prosecution, and the judgments of others and of self; all sin is atoned for past, present and future and begin **to live to the gift of no condemnation in Christ.**

We are to accept forgiveness and just as important to embrace the gift of righteousness in Christ which has made ***us acceptable forever*** (Heb. 10:14). We are now in a position of righteousness (that we could never earn) because of what our savior has done for us. **It pleases the Lord for us to accept our acceptance and live to the new life given through the Holy Spirit.** It pleases the Lord for us to realize that the old law, the old man (our sin nature) is no longer to have dominion over us. We believe this by faith and as we act upon it as if it were dead and done, we please the Lord and live to the empowerment of the Spirit. **It is a decision we make and choice we keep to no longer let our heart be troubled by sin in us.** We choose every day to live to the new life within us instead of giving ascendancy to the flesh. We have lived our lives mostly under the dominance of the law, the senses, the curse, and the fall. We have been sin conscious and judged all things according to the flesh, according to the wisdom of this world—stop!

What Christ has done and given us is grace and truth. In Him we are a new creation all things have passed away; behold all things are new (II Cor. 5:17). This new life means we no longer accept our guilt because He has paid our debt. We no longer accept condemnation because we are no longer under the judgment of the law. We no longer judge others or even our self because we are no longer of this realm **but live and judge all things according to the Spirit.** This is huge. We stop using the

wisdom of this world to dominate our thinking and use the wisdom of God born within us in Jesus.

We Are in A New Place!

We are in a new place from the place of having all things be upon us, having the responsibility of life to justify or excuse ourselves, **we are now in Him who has justified us before Almighty God.** The gift of righteousness means we are no longer at war with God. We are no longer being examined by God. **We are to believe and live to grace and truth that we stand in righteousness before Him in completeness.** This is what Jesus did and as we live to this truth we'll stop judging all things by the flesh and worldly wisdom to see all things according to the Spirit.

I have been repeating this mantra because it is hard to grasp this truth as a carnal Christian—we must hear it again and again. That means as one who is still flesh driven, sin conscious, and believes the law is to be kept. This is hard to grasp that our liberty in Christ means that **grace upon grace** has been poured out through the love of God into our heart (Rom. 5:5). However, although it is hard, **the word of God penetrates deeper still** to bring to light and reveal the truth to our hearts. This is a revelation truth that the Spirit accomplishes in our life as we meditate upon the Word of truth.

What does it mean to live to newness of life?

It means living and abiding in the Spirit, hearing God, recognizing His constant presence, drinking in His acceptance, living to the power of grace, walking in the power of God...seeing God's love, dwelling in God's peace, experiencing God's constant leading...it is a love relationship; instead of relating to the law twenty-four seven, we relate to God in complete righteousness twenty-four seven.

It is as if there are two channels in our life one is dominated by the flesh, worldly wisdom, and operates under the law **as mere men**. The other channel is dominated by the Spirit, God's wisdom, and operates in love and over the law **as Children of the Most High**. We have control of the remote so to speak and decide which channel we are watching, focused on, and living to. The old man and sin nature is real and we often treat it as dominant in our lives this needs to stop happening. How does it happen? It happens by believing the right things that God has accomplished in Christ and then in us when we were born again.

Ro 6:14 For **sin shall not have dominion over you, for you** are not under law but under grace.

We allow sin to have dominion over us because **we still sin and when we do we think we are still under it and subject to the law**. As strange as this sounds to our flesh, even though we sin **we are to embrace grace despite the sin**, and consider it dead to us. It may still be in us and in the room but we do not live to it, acknowledge it or stay subject to it. **We live to grace that is greater than our sin and believe what Jesus has done. Grace leads us to dominion over sin as we live to newness of life**. We stop recriminating ourselves for our sin failures and we don't hold others under judgment either. We empty the room of all judgment, worry, fear, and anxiety that places the burden on us to act, fix, or solve problems. We accept that truth that God will take care of our cares as we let the need to hold to account **be the Lord's business**. Let not your heart be troubled means **stop wrestling with the law** and flesh and blood and fight the good fight of faith to remain grace filled. God is able to do abundantly beyond all that I can think, dream or ask according to the power

that works in me (Eph. 3:20)! If I will remain faith filled, **spirit minded**, judging according to the Spirit, giving my life's cares to the Lord; **I will remain in His peace** and give liberty to God to work in my life (and the affairs of my life).

I am then opening the right doors to God's Spirit realm within me. I am positioning myself to be spirit led, opening my eyes to see spiritually, and my ears to hear God. This is because I am no longer blinded by wrestling with the law in self recriminations and judging others according to the flesh. In ceasing to live to the flesh and removing a room filled with wrong activity, worries, and anxieties, I am left with what would seem a void. Yet as I am staying focused on God's peace I am opening **the revelation power of God's communication**. Before, the interference of the constant court sessions of accusations, prosecutions, and judgments prevented me from seeing and hearing clearly. Now through the Holy Spirit that was given to me when I became born again I am ready to hear and see God in my heart and life clearer than ever before.

I am therefore opening my heart and mind to a whole New world of life in the Spirit!

Why do I have the right to hear God? It is because God has removed all sin from me and put it upon the Lord. How can I have this gift of righteousness when I do not deserve it? It is because Jesus became sin on my behalf when He didn't deserve it. A divine switch has occurred and has completely satisfied God's wrath against all sin. **God has found His rest and pleasure in saving me. God's love is fulfilled when I receive His love and walk in His gift of righteousness.** He doesn't hold it over me in order to

manipulate me or blackmail me to live to Him by constantly reminding me of my failure in sin; but freely offers us new life in Christ apart from our works. We are fully supplied by His grace; when God sees me now He sees me through His Son. He is not examining me to condemn me as did the law because the law has been fulfilled. He is convicting me of His righteousness and to act upon His promises as any Son would. My sin consciousness is what holds me in sin. When I accept my acceptance by faith in His grace I am pleasing the Lord! When Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more!” that was said to all who believe. The gift of no condemnation then sets us free and empowers us to live in newness of life above all sin.

I Can Enter

I can enter in to new life because I have been set free to accept my acceptance in Jesus. I can now remove the torment of fear and unworthiness, of not being good enough, of not loving God or others as myself, **because it's not on me anymore**. I can stop the court of inner strife and conflict and accept myself as God's beloved. The war is over now I let the war stop. I end it because He told me “let not your heart be troubled...anymore.” I can trust that all my sins, including the ones I haven't committed yet are all anticipated and covered. It is life insurance God style against all sin. It's covered now accept what He's done for me and in me through the beauty of the Lord. God has done it, He has finished it and I am free now and for always.

As I believe Him, walk in His love, let all the inner battle go, I find Him, I know Him, I hear Him...

Twenty-four seven, I have a new righteousness that never fades (even though I miss it in the flesh), I have completeness in Him in my spirit...as I understand and I do not neglect so great a salvation but enter in...I have access, all the guns have ceased, my name is recognized, I'm permitted in...the door remains open for me, I have full access, entrance to God! Yet this entrance is within me! I am not re-inviting the Lord to come into my life; I am focusing on the life of God already present through being born again.

I enter into this newness of life through believing Him, believing the right things and by staying on the spiritual channel within me...and because I see Him, because I experience such great grace, I return to love Him with the Love He loves me. I want to abide, I want to stay, I want to remain accepted; His presence is pure, holy, liberating, cleansing, loving, kind, peaceful, and joyful.

What do I hear? I hear acceptance, I hear love, I hear peace, I hear no fear...I find joy welling up within, I hear His care for me, trust in His goodness, trust in His care, I hear, "I am your God; you were made for me...I will take care of all things, you look to me. See me, see life, see forgiveness, see my face and favor...see my grace abundantly poured out for you...rejoice in new life, rejoice in my Spirit and be fully free of all guilt and shame...I have completely saved and cleansed you of all rebellion, of all self centeredness; accept my life is in you!

I worship as I realize what a Holy God has done to bring me near. I worship what I once was alienated from in my trespasses and sins. I worship because I get to see the Holy One, the creator, the perfect and only God...the perfect One...whose

love is never ending...who seeks my life, my love, my response...who is this everlasting being who has come to me, who made me, He is the great I Am, the beginning and the end; in which all good things reside who richness and purity are beyond my comprehension—worship in adoration.

The Conclusion

In this newness of life His word penetrates like never before; it brings health and healing to my soul, I find rest, peace, release from all anguish and fear...in His presence there is beauty and joy...I can know Him. I can experience joy...I am rich; my soul prospers in His life in me.

His wisdom opens up my mind, my eyes to see what He sees, I was blind but now I see. I see Him like never before His word explodes in my spirit, I love His word, I love His ways and truth...I drink in grace upon grace...His revelation of Jesus is awesome. I find my rest and security in His love. I am like Him how can that be? I have a new place and position far above all things, all sin, all law; I am a Son of God, made in His likeness to enjoy the creator for all eternity. I am made His life by His work...I am the work of His hands...

What do I hear? I hear the still small voice that never fades, never is shaken, and is more secure than any other voice...a voice within that makes me at peace. My heart is settled by the Word of God as the love of God is recognized as poured out in it. I find my peace in the shadow of His wings, knowing that I am not alone—never. There is a green light of freedom and peace to lead me, to keep me, to be my defense...there is the red light of warning stirring me away from wrong decisions and steps...I find

my way in the comfort of His Spirit and the assurance of His provision...I stay away from the discomfort of acting according to the flesh and the judgment of this world.

The Spirit speaks to me in flowing revelations of God's approval—which is peace upon peace. I find my quietness of soul knowing there is nothing between my Lord and I...and I know the disquieting presence of pursuing those things that are not the Lord...

I am led....I am His...I have His peace...I am Helped!

Joh 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.**

Joh 16:13 "However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, He **will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, **but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

Other Booklets:

Guard Your Heart (Let Not your heart be troubled..)

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

Holiness & Righteousness Have Been Made Unto Us

I Have Helped You (Overcoming a Broken heart)

Under Grace Not Law

Newness of Life (What does it look like...)

What Does the Law Look Like (So we can cast it away)