

The Full Gospel - A Soul Being Saved

This is week 2 of the series "The Full Gospel". The whole point of this series is that we, the church, for far too long have been told that Jesus saves and forgives and then we've been told that He's always with us yet we usually come to a point where the excitement wears off and we feel worn out and alone.

There is more to the gospel. The good news is that Jesus came to save and forgive, but even more, He came to restore life. There is a life that you and I were meant to have. One that revolved around God. One with a closeness to God that was unhindered and amazing.

So last week we looked at the saved spirit. A once and done thing. A completed work that takes place the instant that you are born again. That was justification where we receive and believe what Jesus did for us and we accept Him as Lord and Savior so the Father sees us just as we'd never sinned. Our spirit is perfected, reborn in the image of Jesus.

The next step is sanctification. This simply means to make holy, set apart, to free from sin.

Justification has to do with our position, child of God. Sanctification has to do with our character and conduct.

In justification we are declared righteous so that through sanctification we become righteous.

Justification is what Jesus did FOR us, sanctification is what Jesus does IN us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You are a spirit that has a soul and a body. If you have been born again, the spirit is saved. But the soul is BEING saved. It is NOT a completed work (until Jesus comes back)

James 1:21 (NKJV)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is **able** to save your souls.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Remember this soul was intended to receive information from the spirit. God speaks to the spirit.

The spirit is to be in charge and is to receive God's Word and pass it on to the soul and then the soul processes it or stores it...and be changed by it.

Have you ever been taught that sanctification was simply the Holy Spirit making us more like Jesus? I know I've said that before. That's true to a degree but I think we like to leave it there because it takes the pressure off of us and puts it on Him...

Here's the deal...YOU have to be committed to the process of transforming your soul.

This word transformed in 2 Cor 3:18 comes from the same root word that we get metamorphosis from. Changing from one state to another from the inside out.

Once you have a reborn spirit, you have everything inside of you to transform your soul. Like a caterpillar hanging in it's little silky cocoon goes through the process of becoming a butterfly. It has no need of outside intervention. Everything it needs is right inside. It just has to commit to the process of transformation. The DNA is there when the caterpillar is crawling around it's just a matter of time and submission to the process before it's changed.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NKJV)

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed **in** the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Do not be conformed...the root word for conformed is where we get word schematic. A schematic is a diagram or plan.

Don't let the world tell you your schematic, plan. Satan wants to influence from the outside in. He wants a bad relationship or decision to create a bad habit or mindset within. He wants the diagram of your past mistakes or from the world around you to be set in front of you to say "look" this is who you are.

But you are not to be conformed from the outside but transformed from the inside.

We have to make that soul submit to the spirit...the way God intended for it to be.

JESUS - last week I said that Jesus came to not just set the example of doing good things but to show us how to make the soul submit to the spirit. This was hard for some to grasp then and it's hard for many still today...

When you watch princess movies, don't you know the guy she is going to fall in love with as soon as he comes on the scene? It's not always the prince. Sometimes it's a nobody. But you can just tell...something about him is appealing, attractive...it's so obvious.

It's that guy who has good looks, charisma, confidence, the big ego...

Have you ever wondered why all the religious leaders were blinded to Jesus as the Son of God? They were looking for that princess movie kind of man. An earthly king with earthly royalty and authority, someone with pride, ridiculously good looking. This is what the people wanted. Soul-led people...

What the people got was a carpenter's son, who was born in an animal's feeding trough. One who was mocked and accused and beaten, yet didn't hardly say a word. Why?

He came to restore life. Remember that life from the garden. Where the spirit directly communicated with God and heard His Word and then fed it to the soul, and the soul served the spirit and the body served the soul?

Jesus came to reverse our course of a soul-led life. He didn't feed into the nature of the exalted soul. His plan was to crucify it!

Isaiah 53:2b (CSB)

He didn't have an impressive form
or majesty that we should look at him,
no appearance that we should desire him.

Jesus wasn't a feed the ego kind of guy. His mission was not to please and exalt the soul.

In fact He did only what the Father does. We see this over and over. Why did He spend so much time in prayer? He wanted to know the Father's will. He wanted to make that soul submit to the spirit.

There was a time that the Spirit let Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by satan. We see a couple of things here.

First satan tried to get Jesus to exalt His soul...something to puff Him up, do His own thing...forget the Father's will. Do this miracle of changing a stone to bread. You are hungry.

Exalt YOUR will. What does your body want? What's it telling your mind (I'm hungry). Appeal to your humanity... just exalt the soul above the spirit this one time...

If you don't know this about men...you can often get them to do something that they know they shouldn't do if you keep appealing to their ego (part of your soul). Especially in the teens through 30s.

You start with "Hey Johnny, try to do X", Johnny says "no"

Then you say "yeah, I didn't think you would do it," Johnny thinks about it, and says "nope"

Next you say " I bet you couldn't even do it anyway," Johnny says "watch me"

This is the kind of tactic satan used with Jesus...appeal to the soul, get Him to stumble and then be disqualified as our Redeemer.

But Jesus came as our substitute to reverse the actions of Adam

I know, you might be thinking...but Jesus is the Son of God! Of course He obeyed the spirit, He probably didn't have the temptation we do with the soul...

There was a time just before Jesus was given over to the Roman soldiers. He's in the garden of Gethsemane.

Mark 14:32-34 (NKJV)

Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. 34 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."

Jesus BEGAN to be troubled (to be struck with terror). It didn't have a hold on Him but terror showed up...He BEGAN to be deeply distressed (it was having some kind of affect on Him)

He said My **SOUL** is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. His soul (mind, will , emotions) were overcome with sorrow. These thoughts have overcome Him.

What thoughts? The thoughts of bearing the weight of the sin of the world... His soul was weak. His soul was tired. His soul needed help...so what does He do?

Mark 14:35-36 (NKJV)

He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. 36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me;nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

Jesus prayed...and that tired, weary soul, gave way to the spirit.

- The soul said "Father is there another way, can You take this from Me"
- The spirit said "Not my will but Your will be done"

Jesus came to obey the Father as our substitute. He followed and obeyed God's Word so that He could take that rebellious soul to the cross. It wasn't the body that had to die...it was the soul!

Jesus came to reverse our nature and original sin so the soul could be brought back under the control of the reborn spirit with a direct connection to God!

This was the plan...this is the good news...restoration of life!

The life of the spirit must be released through the soul and the body.

Fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...these come from the reborn spirit but they have to be released through a willing soul.

So how do we do it? How does this actually become a part of our lives?

Matthew 16:24-26 (NKJV)

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

What happens on a cross? Crucifixion...something is put to death, and also something is conquered.

Jesus said deny yourself. Sounds like a blast, huh? Tell yourself NO!

We do a lot of speaking against that devil (which is good) but we need to do more talking to our soul. "Mind, will, emotions...you submit to the reborn spirit, right now, in the name of Jesus!"

Deny yourself. But then you take up your cross. In the Greek this means to raise up, lift up your cross. When they raised it up, something was already nailed to it. Something was in the process of being put to death.

Something had been denied.

This is your part of sanctification. Recognizing what needs to die. How does your soul need to submit to your spirit that is led by the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit gives us revelation (we usually think of that as when we read the Word), revelation is just the act of revealing, taking the cover off, showing us something we were not aware of or didn't understand.

So He gives us revelation of our sin and then convicts us of our sin. To convict is to prove guilty. I've shown you, now I'm proving to your soul (through your spirit) that this thing needs to be dealt with. It needs to die.

What should follow is repentance. That changing of the mind. How does this happen? Submission to the spirit. Take that joker to the cross...

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What is God revealing to you?

What needs to be taken to the cross?

Every step is a step in the process of a soul being saved...