

Ring of Fire Ministries

March 2023 Prison Outreach Newsletter

He makes all things beautiful in His time... Including you!

Seeking wholeness in a place that demands perfection.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify^{us} you completely; and **may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*. 1

Thessalonians 5:23-24

When Jesus says, “Come as you are,” He didn’t mean we are to stay just as we are. He is not looking for us to be perfect, but He most assuredly is looking for us to be moldable in His perfect hands, through living a surrendered life that embraces His instruction, leading and guiding every moment of everyday. What is beautiful about Him and the invitation He has set before us, is that all are welcome to His loving arms, but very few are willing to invite Him inside to their hearts, to be changed from the inside, out. I don’t know about you, but I gave up trying to be “Perfect” according to human standards a long time ago. Jesus’s requirement for perfection looks way different than man’s or woman’s, for that matter. When He says we are to be “Perfect” He really means... Surrendered to Him, seeking a life laid down before Him, as we invite Him to be that change agent in our lives.

Wholeness found in Jesus, means **complete** – in lack of nothing, because He is your everything. Paul told us, “To be content in plenty and in want,” meaning when Jesus comes inside our hearts and is our One desire – we may have good days and bad days, ups and downs, hurt and disappointment, but because He is our focal point for life, we are not moved or totally depleted to the point of giving up and giving in – we are blameless.

I chose wholeness to talk about with you today, because when we are not whole in Him, we will make some really bad life choices that can haunt us the rest of our lives. Never forget... When you choose the action, you choose the consequence – for the good or the bad. Each one of us has a not so good track record when we were not following our Lord Jesus. And yet, He in a blink of a seeking heart, makes all things new when we humble ourselves, saying in truth, “Change me Lord.” It can get a little confusing when you do lay your life down and give Him your heart and yet, you are still imprisoned and surrounded by walls you cannot escape. It takes times to trust Jesus with yourself and it takes time until you learn to not want your way and will to be done anymore, only His. In my own life, I have found myself at times pulled away, sat down and secluded for very important reflection and life skills I needed to not corrupt myself any longer, not too different than you. I cannot say those times are easy, because they aren’t... But they sure are good. They are good because when the ability for the bad to touch you is removed, purification comes and we are strengthened to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, becoming more and more like His image, holding within us the characteristics of Jesus, Himself.

It is during this set apart sanctification that we are made whole, just as it is written, “In spirit, soul and body – blameless.” Again, emptiness causes us to walk a path of destruction, to others and to ourselves. Wholeness insures to keep us on the straight and narrow way to righteousness. And eventually, we not only lose all desire to sin, we begin to actually go and sin no more in the area that once had us entangled. It’s a process... Sanctification is not reserved for just a day, it’s a lifelong way of living as a follower of Jesus.

Please consider yourself as a lump of clay and Jesus being the One Who is molding you into His image. The clay cannot mold itself, it is just a willing lump to be changed into something beautiful – the same is true for

you! It is just that easy and it is just that hard... Because our flesh has a tendency to resist the goodness of the Lord and have its own way. But once you are truly born again, you no longer seek to please and feed the flesh, but seek instead to please the Lord Jesus. And I promise you something, if you truly in the heart seek to please Him – you will. Again, He is not seeking perfection, but wholeness – a heart that is after His heart – to be loved, forgiven, washed clean, made whole and changed from the inside out.

Jesus taught the disciples, what He called, “The Perfect Prayer.” Some of you may know this as The Lord’s Prayer. I realize people may tell you to pray this or pray that... And for me, quite often the purest form of prayer is not said with words, but rather tears. The reason tears of a crying heart seeking Jesus is so pure is because it is in our brokenness we come before Him in truth, without facades and get real with Him and how much we need Him. Did you know He is the One Person Who never tires of being needed? You cannot and will not wear Him out by calling upon Him and talking to Him all the time. I am so very thankful for that!

Let’s pray... Just as Jesus taught ~

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Did you know Jesus prayed this prayer too? When of the heart you pray this prayer, you are praying with Jesus to our Father in Heaven, as one, in the Spirit and whole.... It’s perfect, complete, unifying you and binding you to Him, now and eternally. It is because of Jesus being blameless, we can be blameless too.

Until next time, it is my prayer that you continue to seek Jesus with all your heart and that you remain humbled and surrendered in patience while He builds within you fortitude to be a wholly surrendered Child of God.

In His Love Always,

Angela

PLEASE NOTE – It is an honor for us at ROF Ministries to assist you on your journey with Jesus. If you need study materials or Bibles for yourself or others, please do not hesitate to contact us. Also, please feel free to share our address with your fellow inmates who desire to grow in their walk with the Lord. As a reminder – we are not a dating site, nor do we provide any legal or financial assistance outside of contributing to your Spiritual growth with the Lord. Thank you!