

How You Can Function Now

It is not possible to count the number of times Christians have said, "Well, that was Jesus!" This is said when someone challenges another's faith. "You can do that if Jesus did." "Well, that was Jesus!" The point is exactly that it is Jesus. Because it was Jesus in you. This is not, of course, what we will call an across-the-board grant. We should especially say that Jesus did not do whatever he wanted to do. Jesus did the will of the Father. You can also do the will of the Father. Let's take an example. The day that Jesus healed the man at the pool Bethesda (John 5) we are told that there was a great multitude of sick people there waiting for the troubling of the waters. But Jesus, so far as we know, only healed one person there. We do not know why he did not heal them all. In another place we are told that he healed all the sick. Perhaps he was just waiting to be asked. Very often we do not have because we do not ask. But we do know that He always did the will of his Father. This we also can do. How? How do we do the will of the Father? We do it in exactly the same way as he did. The Bible says "He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. (I Cor 6:17) When we become a Christian, our human spirit merges with the Holy Spirit himself. We will represent this from now on with the word S/spirit. We listen to our S/spirit and act accordingly. You might ask, "If this is true why doesn't every Christian do it? Why don't the Christians that I know do it? Why don't they do miraculous things? Why don't I? There are several obstacles which get in our way.

For one thing we do not know the secret of the S/spirit. We do not know this because we have not been taught it. And behind that we do not understand the humanity of Jesus so we cannot identify with him as we should. For another thing we do not understand about the giftings given to Christ and the church. We think to have a gifting means that we can do anything at any time. Jesus had every gifting but he did only what the Father told him to do. We are to do like he did.

If we understand the humanity of Jesus, we will know several things. We will know that he did not act independently but only as the Father told him. We will know that the things that he knew and the things that he did he knew and did by the power of the Holy Spirit which was in him as a man and not because he was and is God. This is sometimes hard to grasp but it is very important. Jesus did not have an "edge" on you because he was God. He functioned by the same Holy Spirit that you do. He came to show us how to function as his larger body. Now, he did have an edge on you because he was without sin. But he has provided a way for you to recover from this which we call One Thing That Helps - Outrageous Grace. Jesus also had to be without sin in order to be Savior. He is the only one who can be Savior. But we can act in his place.

So, after we understand how he was just like us, operating by the leading and power of the same Holy Spirit, we also understand that even if we are not yet sinless, not yet fully grown spiritually, we can still operate like Jesus because he and the Father knew all this long before we came along and they made provision that we should not have to live under a cloud of guilt and ineffectiveness just because we are still "in process". If God had to wait until we were really ready, he could never use anyone and the work of the church, the body of Christ, would never get done.

Then all that is left is to learn about your S/spirit. You are like Jesus; he was like you. The “wall” of guilt is removed. You no longer have to hide from God. But in order to function as Jesus did, you must know how to hear your S/spirit. The Holy Spirit will train your mind to be able to listen. Start by asking questions of your S/spirit. You can do this at any time because he is always with you. Ask questions that can be answered simply, with a “yes” or a “no”. Often the answer is not a verbal one; it is just an impression. Start asking about things that are not important. That way you will not be anxious about the answers. Anxiety will cause a lot of inner “noise” and make you unable to understand the answers. A “yes” might just be a nod, as when a parent is training a child. All the child has to do is look at the parent or listen for her and the slightest sound or look or gesture will communicate the needed guidance or, sometimes discipline. After you can understand yes and no, you can go on to other things. On days when you are having a hard time hearing, you can go back to the yes and no method. As you learn to hear the unimportant things, you can then learn to know more important things because your confidence will be strong.

Your S/spirit is a wonderful guide because it is really a part of you and it is really God also. Since God’s Spirit is so big, he will dominate. Therefore your S/spirit will not be wrong. You can understand it in a wrong way with your mind because your mind is still growing, but your S/spirit will not be wrong.