

LIFE-GIVING SCRIPTURES

This month, I want to share some Scriptures that have been speaking deeply to me. I may add a note or two, but will not expand them into a teaching. Perhaps you will be led to circle one or two and spend time meditating on them. (Chew on them like a cow chews its cud.) These are rich, deep, wonderful words from our Father, and I believe He wants to speak to our hearts.

THE BEATITUDES

I have been saying, and have heard other teachers say, that Christ-likeness, to which we all aspire, is represented by the "fruit of the Spirit:" Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. This is true, but I believe Jesus amplified this list magnificently in the first part of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:3-12. This section has been called, "The Beatitudes," and it contains some of the most profound words ever spoken on planet earth. Someone has called them, The Be-happy Attitudes, and they are Jesus' prescription for a joyful, significant life. And they are preposterous! They turn all our values upside down. And they are impossible! We can't live like this! (Or can we, with His help?) We don't even want to live like this! (Or do we, in our heart of hearts?) And they are not easy to understand. Some of them are open to all sorts of interpretations. Here they are, from the Amplified Bible, and to avoid repetition, I have deleted the introduction to each Beatitude except for the first and second ones:

1. Vs. 3 - "**Blessed** (happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous - with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) **are the poor in spirit** (the humble, who rate themselves insignificant), **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**"
2. Vs. 4 - "**Blessed and enviably happy** (with a happiness produced by the experience of God's favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace) **are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**"
3. Vs. 5 - "**Blessed are the meek** (the mild, patient, long-suffering), **for they shall inherit the earth.**"
4. Vs. 6 - "**Blessed and fortunate and happy and spiritually prosperous are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness** (uprightness and right standing with God), **for they shall be completely satisfied.**"
5. Vs. 7 - "**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!**"
6. Vs. 8 - "**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!**"
7. Vs. 9 - "**Blessed are the makers and maintainers of peace, for they shall be called the sons of God!**"
8. Vs. 10 - "**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake** (for being and doing right), **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!**"
9. Vs. 11 - "**Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account. Be glad and supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great, for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.**"

A STARK CONTRAST

In Second Corinthians 6:14-18(AMP), I was startled by the stark contrast in God's mind and evaluation between believers and unbelievers. I have highlighted these comparisons by marking them "A" and "B." This is almost unbelievable, yet there it is in God's own book! Just think about it, reflect on it, meditate on it:

"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (do not make mismatched alliances with them or come under a different yoke with them, inconsistent with your faith). For what partnership have (A) right living and right standing with God with (B) iniquity and lawlessness" Or how can (A) light have fellowship with (B)darkness? What harmony can there be between (A)Christ and (B)Belial (the devil)? Or what has a (A)believer in common with an (B) unbeliever? What

agreement can there be between a (A) temple of God and (B) idols? For we are the temple of the living God; even as God said, (A) I will dwell in and with and among them and will walk in and with and among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. So, come out from among (unbelievers), and separate (sever) yourselves from them, says the Lord, and (B) touch not any unclean thing; then I will receive you kindly and treat you with favor, and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Then the following verse, 7:1, simply instructs us to be who we are: "Therefore, since these great promises are ours, beloved, let us (A) cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles body and spirit, and bring our (B) consecration to completeness in the reverential fear of God."

A REVELATION OF THE DEVIL AT WORK IN ALL UNBELIEVERS, AND OF THE GRACE OF GOD TOWARD ALL BELIEVERS!

In reading the second chapter of Ephesians (AMP), I came to a full stop and read it and reread it, and have come back to it on many days, to absorb the implication of what God reveals to us. I have shortened some of the verses.

(From Ephesians 2): "And you He made alive when you were dead (slain) by your trespasses and sins, in which at one time you walked (habitually). You were following the course and fashion of this world (were under the sway of the tendency of this present age), following the prince of the power of the air. You were obedient to and under the control of the demon spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience (the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God.)

Among these we all once lived and conducted ourselves in the passion of our flesh, obeying the impulses of the flesh and the corrupt, sensual thoughts of our minds. We were then by nature children of God's wrath and heirs of His indignation, like the rest of mankind.

But God, so rich in His mercy, to satisfy the intense love with which He loves us, made us alive and in union with Christ Himself, for it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation.)"

QUOTES

From Larry Randolph, in The Coming Shift:

- I have found that comfortable people seldom change. It's just too painful. They change only when the pain of their present condition is greater than the pain it takes to change. For this reason, God is often reluctant to deliver us from hurtful situations, and will often allow us to simmer in our discomfort until we are forced to cry out for transformation.
- Jesus demonstrated that the anointing is not attracted to anxiety produced by busyness and religious performance, but to a calm and peaceful spirit. To maintain this level of serenity, the Lord often withdrew from the multitudes to a secret place of rest, where He spent time alone with His Father.
- Every major promotion in my life has come from personal obedience, not performance.
- Men who are driven by their need to be "somebody" become one of the most dangerous threats to the advancement of God's kingdom. Is my goal to be known by men, or to know Him?
- I began to cry out, "Please, Lord, deliver me from the sin of self-importance."

From Frances Hunter:

- Any incurable disease is a demonic spirit. Cancer is a demonic spirit. To minister to the person, curse the seed and the root of cancer. You will not perceive anything happening, but trust God to do the work.

From Charles Finney:

- Truth without prayer just hardens hearts. Note Acts 6:4, where the early apostles said, "We will

give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word," (not to teaching and preaching).

From Joy Dawson:

- Joy told the story of a young girl in the 3rd grade who was a committed Christian in a land hostile to the faith. She was persecuted terribly in her home. Her uncle called her on a cell phone and threatened to kill her. She left home and hid with Christian friends for a time, and when she returned home her mother told her not to worry, that the police had just arrested her uncle for gambling and he was in jail. The young girl sold her most valuable possession and took the money to bail her uncle out of jail. When he was released, he came to the little girl with tears and asked her forgiveness. She shared Christ with him, and he became a Christian.

From Bill Johnson:

- The people were baptized into Moses in the sea; they were baptized into Christ in the river.

ENVITRO FERTILIZATION

When I heard about this process several years ago, I wondered what the spiritual implications might be for children conceived and carried to term in such a way, but I never thought more about it. A recent ministry experience really got my attention. Our team was ministering to a lady with many problems. One situation involved an envitro fertilization when she was almost 40 years old. She and her last husband were unable to have a child, so she received an implanted egg, which was fertilized with the sperm of another man. She said that during her pregnancy she started experiencing an inner, tormenting itching. The doctors said that was her imagination and dismissed her appeal for help. During the pregnancy she developed liver problems and diabetes, blood clots, and an enlarged heart. All of these problems went away after she had the baby. She talked to another woman who had envitro fertilization and who experienced many of the same problems during pregnancy as she did, and especially the terrible inner itching.

I certainly don't intend to speak guilt onto anyone who has had this process done in the past, but all of us might do some serious thinking and praying about this subject.

MINISTRY

- Am presenting my inner healing seminar at our Vineyard, with the best attendance in a long time. PTL! It is a lot of fun. Last night we ministered to a man who had suffered debilitating back pain for 10 years, and he was instantly healed. Wow! God is still doing the stuff!
- Am preparing for another prison ministry trip to Canyon City. Appreciate your prayers. These are fabulous opportunities to preach/heal/deliver, which is the full meaning of "Salvation."
- Am also preparing for a trip on Sep. 23, to Requena, Peru, on the Amazon, to share in teaching about 1,500 pastors and leaders. PTL! These little excursions cost about \$4,000, and without the generous help of my "ministry partners," as they say on TBN, I couldn't do it. No way. (Hint, hint!) Ha!