



Flying Upside Down





The Main Main Thing (1 Cor 2)

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, ⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power ⁵ so that your faith would not [c]rest on the wisdom of men, *but on the **power** of God.*



What's Up With Paul?

- Why was Paul done with cleverness of speech or wisdom-style preaching?
- Because the focus of preaching typically leads to “do better/try harder,” even when preaching about grace and the life in the Spirit and surrendering to Him, preaching is often an effort in the flesh that appeals to the flesh:i,e **“you’re not doing it right, do it better!”**
- It makes sense to the flesh, but it is the exact opposite of life in the Spirit



Faith=Flying Upside Down

- The Christian life is the complete opposite of what the world thinks it is – i.e., working to make ourselves worthy to get more blessings
- BUT instead, We are invited to step into something that is **already prepared for us and doesn't need anything from us except receive and rely on His power to work His will in us** and draw us into unity with Him –
- Eternal life is knowing God and Jesus in the closest and most intimate way, because HE wants to and HE causes it to come to pass



Surrender to God's Life

- Paul says he was completely done with preaching clever, persuasive sermons to convince people he was right and they needed to agree with him and change their ways.
- He decided he was only going to announce the foundational good news of the sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus and then rely on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to begin to move to touch people with His grace and mercy because all the work is already finished!!



GOOD NEWS!!!!

- You are dead and HE IS ALIVE in you, you are already forgiven and already accepted and already declared to be the righteousness of God because your faith in Christ Jesus has caused this to be **permanently true of you**
- Stop trying to make yourself acceptable to Him, and begin to joyfully embrace the undeniable FACT that you are already fully embraced and accepted by Him!
- Glorify Him and ENJOY Him forever!!!



How Does This Work IRL??

- Acts 2:42-47 ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and [a]to prayer.
- ⁴³ [b]Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and **many wonders and [c]signs were taking place** through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed [d]were together and had all things in common;



Begins With LIFE TOGETHER

⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, **as anyone might have need.** ⁴⁶ **Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread [e] from house to house, they were taking their [f] meals together with gladness and [g] sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding [h] to their number day by day those who were being saved.**



Focused on His Presence

Acts 13 - Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **While they were ministering to the Lord** and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."



Picture of Real Worship

- Romans 12 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
- ² And do not be conformed to this [c]world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may [d]prove what the will of God is, that which is good and [e]acceptable and perfect.



And Here's a P.S. in Hebrews

- **Hebrews 13:15** Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that [**d**]give thanks to His name. ¹⁶ And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- This is what life in Jesus is all about, the **ONLY** thing it is about.
- Everything else flows from this!!



Recipe for REJOICING

- Our life in Him now is to simply fall at his feet and worship Him and minister to Him in complete gratitude and joy and surrender –
- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, IN ME as it is in heaven
- And in the midst of that, the Holy Spirit begins to move and reveals to us what God is saying and God is doing!!!!



Grace to the HUMBLE

- The only condition to activate those resources and live fully in and by them is that – just like Jesus –
- I must only do what I see the Father doing (John 5:19) and
- I must only say what I hear the Father saying (John 12:49-50)
- I must decrease and he must increase. (John 3:30)



Everything is About to Flip

- Gathering as the family of God is not supposed to be a “do better try harder training school” or a pep rally for Jesus – we are called to minister to Him, worship Him, glorify Him, honor Him, surrender to His presence and power and grace and mercy over and over again, declare our trust and dependence on Him,
- And He will touch us and deliver us of whatever darkness or impurity we still harbor in our hearts so we can be even more free and more like Jesus and go even deeper in our worship



Good News, YOU ARE

- deeply loved by God, *Ephesians 3: 16-19*
- fully accepted by God *Colossians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21*
- completely and permanently forgiven by God, *John 1:29; John 3:16-18; John 19:30*
- lavishly blessed by God, *Ephesians 1:3-8*
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY *Zephaniah 3:17, Nehemiah 8:10, Hebrews 12:2*