

This is the first answer to the question I asked about the nature of God's grace in rescuing us from ourselves.

Can we see in God's dealings with men, a process that moves people towards a relationship with God?

The process of Deliverance

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Deliverance is the continuing process of Divine rescue from a self driven life in order to live in Christ and grow in maturity as devoted children of God. It can be summed up in five words: *Dissatisfaction – Desperation – Death - Deliverance – Devotion.*

Deliverance will never happen if we are looking to ourselves, (2 Cor 10:12) when we measure ourselves by ourselves and compare ourselves with others, if we do this we are without understanding. We can only understand when we become dissatisfied with ourselves when we compare ourselves to the life of Christ. To desire Christ and His life to be our life will prepare us for deliverance.

We need to be completely Dissatisfied

We begin with complete disappointment and dismissal of the direction of our efforts.

We need to become dissatisfied with our life and feel something like the Prodigal son. *'So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into*

his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.'

Luke 15:15-16

We need a realisation of personal weakness and inability to keep from sin. *'I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.'*

Rom 7:21-23

We need to come to the knowledge that we are unable to be good enough for ourselves, let alone God. *'For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.'*

Rom 7:19

We would benefit from even having Feelings of condemnation and absolute failure. *'If I am wicked, woe to me! I am sated with disgrace and conscious of my misery.'*

Job 10:15

We need to hear the condition Jesus needs for us to quench our thirst in Him. *"He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal."*

John 12:25

Jesus is not telling us to hate the life we have as being alive, He is telling us we need to hate our lower sinful human nature. He says we need to detest that nature that fails to give us peace with God.

We need real Desperation

We need an intense desire to know God's reality and be free from our inability to be the man God desires us to be. We may find ourselves saying: *'Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?'*

Rom 7:24

We need to desire the will of God to be our only choice. *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,"*

Matt 6:33

We must desire the treasure of God in Christ. *"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid*

again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Matt 13:44

We need to be desperate enough to pay any price to gain the treasure of God. *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."* Matt 13:45-46

We need to be hungering and thirsting after a life that is pleasing to God. *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."* Matt 5:6

We need to respond to the promise that Jesus can satisfy our hearts. *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."* John 7:37

We need to Die to self

The way up begins by going down. We need to willing self denial and Faith in God alone in absolute dependence.

We need to know that Jesus said death to self must come before we can receive life from God. *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and*

follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Matt 16:24-25

When we are ready to let go of excuses, we are ready to be dependent enough to hear Jesus call us to surrender and change our mind about who need to be in control of our life. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."*

John 12:24

We need to be willing to give up our past and our achievements that we may have life. *'More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,'*

Phil 3:8

We must lay aside everything in our lives that can hinder us gaining that which is most desirable. *'let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us.'*

Heb 12:1

We must begin by agreeing with God and trusting Him in all things – this is Faith. *'For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."* Rom 1:17

We need to believe God that our death to self will lead to a new life in Christ. *'It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him.'* 2 Tim 2:11

Then we can be Delivered to a new life

When we are dissatisfied enough to be desperate enough to die enough we can find the Deliverance of God. We need a new dawning in the light of Christ's life. We need to receive a new spiritual life from God. *'Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* John 3:35

Our new birth means we will need to live according to His life in us. We need to understand when God gives us a new life He gives us the ability to walk in His ways. *'I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to*

observe My ordinances.' (Ezek 36:27) *'If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.'*

Gal 5:25

We need to understand that our new life is dependent on remaining, or abiding in the life of Christ by relying on His life to work in us. *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me."*

John 15:4

We need to hear Jesus' promise we will know His love if we abide in Him. *"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love."*

John 15:9

We are called on to lay aside our old self (Eph 4:22-24) In order that we become mature in the likeness of God. *'So we may present every man complete in Christ.'*

Col 1:28

We are to put on the life of Christ. *'For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.'*

Gal 3:27

This new life only comes when we have died to our past in order to receive the life of Christ. *'I have been crucified with Christ; and*

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 up for me.' Gal 2:20

As we walk with God in the Spirit, He will reveal all we need to know in Christ. *"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."* John 16:14-15

This new life means we are to be led by the Spirit in order that we know in our heart that we are indeed children of God. *'For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'* Rom 8:14

Being led by the Spirit means we are placing ourselves under His control, when we do this we will be released from captivity to our past life in the flesh of sinful man. *'But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.'* Gal 5:16

When we do things God's way will know we one life with the Father and the Son as Jesus prayed for us who believe and obey Him.

"That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

John 17:21

We can then know real Devotion

Our devotion is how we live faithfully in fellowship with the Father and the Son. True devotion is when we love the Lord with all we are and demonstrate this in the way we love those who live around us.

Luke 10:27

In our devotion to Christ we will know the powerful love of God that will fill our hearts with the devotion of the Spirit of God. *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"*

John 7:38

With the Spirit we can be assured that we can be filled with the fullness of God love. *'and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.'*

Eph 3:19

Our devotion to Christ will have a practical result in the way we are committed to living as He lived and walking as He walked. *'The*

one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.'

1 John 2:6

Our devotion to Christ means we will enjoy intimate time with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ and all those who love Him. *'What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.'*

1 John 1:3

Our devotion means we will know the reality that we are free from our own weakness because our life is now secured with Christ in God. *'For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.'*

Col 3:3

As we grow in our ability to walk in the Spirit, this process of deliverance will occur over and over again at deepening levels of awareness.

As we grow in our commitment and our desire to live the life of Christ by His Spirit and His divine power, we will experience deeper levels of devotion and service in Him.

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

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