

The spiritual has precedence over the earthly

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." John 6:63

We don't live for the bread made by human hands alone. Jesus Christ is the bread of life. We want bread but we don't want to give up the satisfaction of our flesh for spiritual life. We are always looking for what satisfies our bodies. We look to God to satisfy our human desire. We interpret the bible in a way that does nothing for our spiritual and eternal life.

Jesus Christ came to satisfy our spirit. Not the spirit of the world, but the spirit that depends on God alone. To call Jesus Lord means we have forsaken the world and our flesh by denying ourselves and taken up our cross to follow Him. It means we are not of the world but our home is in heaven. It means we rely totally on God in all things, because He is using all things so we can be transformed into the image of Christ.

If we have the idea that the Christian life is to be all peace and joy, then we have distorted the word of God. We are assured that we will suffer, that we will be poor of spirit, and that we will mourn. We will hunger and thirst. We may have to endure hardship. We will have to deny ourselves. We will battle with the principalities and powers. We will have to put to death that which is earthly in us. We will be misunderstood. We will be persecuted for Christ.

Romans 8: 32-39 tells us that we will experience all that unbelievers suffer because we live in the same world, but nothing can separate us from the love of God. The spiritual life must take precedence over the earthly. *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "... "He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all."* John 3:6, 31

Spiritual life is from God

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"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

Rom 11:36

The spiritual life must be worked out in the earthly. The spiritual life must have precedence over the earthly. When the earthly has priority over the spiritual, God is relegated to be the servant of man. The kingdom of heaven must resign over the kingdom of the world.

"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:5-8

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Phil 3:20

For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

Heb 13:14

For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.....for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:7-8,17

But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Rom 8:25

and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Rom 8:27-29

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you,

both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing. Phil 2:12-14

The life of the earthly is a pseudo life that is not genuine life according to the fullness of God; by itself it is spurious, a sham. When our earthly desires have the priority, the principal value is, I, me and mine.

We have a responsibility for our earthly duties, but they must always be governed by the spiritual will of God. The spiritual is our rock, the earthly is sand.

We do all things for the glory of God. We live first for the body of Christ, the church. Our body life in Christ takes priority over every responsibility we have on earth.

Human family, marriage, children, house, employment, possessions, entertainment, hobbies, recreation; everything is to be under the power of the Spirit of God for the glory of God.

Wherever and whenever the world and the flesh dominate, regardless of in what sphere, it has become an idol replacing God as our all in all.

The spiritual is real life, Jesus Christ is spiritual life

"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever." John 6:56-58

Believing is coming and eating Jesus the living sacrifice.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe." John 6:35-36

"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. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5

"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."
John 6:40

Abide in Jesus who we cannot see, for He is our life. His glory is seen by faith. The visible is only a shadow of the glory of God.

The world and all that is in it has fallen from the fullness of the glory of God.

True reality is God's reality

The true reality lies behind what is seen. For God has hidden His glory from the world for a time determined by Him.

Whatever beauty we see in creation is only a shadow of the true glory of God. Whatever good we see in people is only a shadow of the glory of the goodness of God. Whatever destruction we see in the world is only a shadow of the full judgment of God to come. Whatever evil we see is only a shadow of the evil that will be known by unbelievers in its fullness when the presence of God is finally removed from the people who do not honour His Son as Lord and God.

It is not possible to even begin to see what is true of the beautiful reality of God while living in the world without faith in His Son Jesus Christ. Even the people who have faith in Christ cannot escape the shadows of the world, for they can only see the Glory of God in part.

The people of faith in Christ are being enlightened through a process of receiving the sight that overcomes the shadows of the world in their own lives and the world by seeing the Glory of God through the work of the Spirit of God in the life of the Son of God.

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
John.1.14

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."
2 Cor 3:18

"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:12-14

Every person on earth is blinded by the attraction to the world to some degree or another.

What we see we treasure, and our hearts desire what we see

Those who do not believe in Christ can only believe in the world they see. Their treasure and desires are for things of the world, and therefore things that are vastly inferior to the glory of God.

Those who believe in Christ treasure him and obey Him because they have received light enough to see the glory of God in Christ.

But they have not been able to achieve His glory because God has ordained that all who believe must go through the process of being transformed from one degree of glory to another by the renewing of their minds.

To expect anyone to always do the good the God of glory would do is without understanding. To expect perfection from those who believe in Christ, regardless of how much knowledge they have of the bible, is also without understanding. No one knows it all concerning themselves or God. No Christian knows themselves as God knows them in their unfinished state, so all Christians need to love one another as God's personal possession, with all loving patience and kindness, otherwise they might show themselves not to be indwelt by the Spirit of the God of glory who is glorifying every believer. No one will see the fullness of the glory of Christ until He comes again to restore the glory of God to the whole of creation, for those who believe, and to bring judgment on those who will not honour His glory.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the

unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Cor 4:3-4

to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ Acts 26:18

For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 2 Cor 4:6

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 3:3

And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind. John 9:39

but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 2 Cor 3:16

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, Eph 1:18

for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light. Eph 5:8

The Earthly and the Heavenly

“You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.” John 8:15

“You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.” John 8:23

“While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” John 9:5

“the one who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life.” John 12:25

“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” John 12:31

“For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; also, the one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.”

John 12:35-36

“I have come as Light into the world, so that no one who believes in Me will remain in darkness.”

John 12:46

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.”

John 14:15-18

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

John 15:18-19

“I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

John 16:28

“These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

“I have revealed Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have followed Your word. Now they have come to know that everything which You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but on the behalf of those whom You have given Me, because they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. I am no longer going to be in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, so that they may be one just as We are.”

John 17:6-11

“But now I am coming to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. Just as You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

John 17:13-19

“The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me.”

John 17:22-23

“Righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me;”

John 17:25

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.”

John 18:36-37

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

1John.2.15-17

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

Phil.3.20-21

Where is our mind habitually set? The mind set on the flesh is death. The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:6