

Living The Gospel

- The greatest truth of the Gospel is that the Creator lives IN us!
- Him living IN us is the way He shows us Himself as ALMIGHTY GOD!
(Ez. 36:23:27)
23 "And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.
24 "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.
25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.
26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.
- It's all because of and about Him!
- I. The Creator living in the created! (II Cor. 4:1-6, 7)
4:1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.
2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.
6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

A. Notice that in Ezekiel and Corinthians, His indwelling presence is to change our behavior!

1. Have we diluted the Gospel?
2. Do we really accept the “power” of God unto salvation?
3. Acknowledge the indwelling Creator!

B. Notice the progression of the change!

1. **II Cor. 3:18** – Being transformed
18 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 by the Spirit of the Lord.
2. **II Cor. 4:1** – Don’t lose heart in the process
4:1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.
3. **II Cor. 4:2** – Take a stand!
2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
4. **II Cor. 4:5** – It’s not about my abilities!
5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.
5. **II Cor. 4:6** – All of the creative power of God has gone into my salvation and ability to change!
6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

C. It all is in an “earthen vessel”...ME! (**II Cor. 4:7**)

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

1. This “conforming to His image” is not for the faint of heart! (**II Cor. 4:8-10**)
8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

2. The Lord is very intent and serious about this!
3. This passage is not about persecution, but rather being like Jesus!

II. We are His Temple! (I Cor. 3:16), (6:19-20)

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

A. As with the Old Covenant, the Temple was the dwelling place of God, in the New Covenant we are!

B. There must be a separation! (II Cor. 6:11-18)

11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.

12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.

13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

1. God shares His purpose...living in us!
2. Genuine intimacy is the point!
3. Come out!! In our behavior...not running from or avoiding the people in the world.

C. A "snap-shot" of our redemption! (Rev. 5:8-10)

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

1. We have been changed!
2. The Creator has possessed us!
3. "Kings and Priests..."
4. This refers to "sovereign and sacred" rule!

D. This should change the very foundation of our approach to life!