

Christ Behaving

10-10-21

Philippians 1:11 (ESV)

(Be) filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Jesus is our righteousness and our righteous acts come through HIM. Our righteous acts is Christ behaving in us.

The Christian life is all about our relationship with Christ and embracing the power God has given us. From the moment we accept Jesus, God is teaching us to turn our affection to HIM and live in relationship with HIM in HIS power. This also means having the power to persevere in suffering through extreme difficulties for HIS sake and purpose. Living out this relationship requires us to be Filled with HIS presence.

Ephesians says, "Be Filled with the Holy Spirit." Being filled with Christ mean the same thing. **The word "Filled" means to be full to the exclusion of any other influence.** Being Filled with Christ will produce righteous acts that flow from within us. Thus, the fruit of Righteousness is Christ behaving in us. The Bible is encouraging us to be filled with Christ or let Christ behave in us unhindered. This righteousness "Comes through" or is "Produced by Jesus!" *Transformed lives are the demonstration that God works in believers.* **God has implanted within us HIS Spirit to produce righteous acts.** As Major Ian Thomas use to say, "Let God be God in the man."

By our decisions of our own volition, we cooperate with Jesus to grow day by day to behave more like Jesus.

Philippians 2:12 (ESV)

Work (out) your own salvation with fear and trembling.

The word “out” is not in the original. The word “work” means perform. Thus, this means make a decision and perform your salvation. In other words, do something. Not only are we to perform our salvation, but we are also to perform it with fear. A good way to understand Biblical fear is stated in Isaiah 7:25, “You will not come to the hills for fear of briars and thorns.” Fear of thorns! When we walk alone a path, thorn bushes do not jump out and grab us. They only hurt us if we fall or jump into the thorn bush. Therefore, Fear means as we walk along the path of life do not jump in thorn bushes. Therefore, as we perform our salvation, we should also be careful that we do not jump into thorn bushes. **As we are performing our salvation, God will be working within us.**

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

For it is God who works (put forth power) in you, both to will (give the desire) and to work for his good pleasure.

This verse is the Biblical definition of Grace. The literal Greek definition of Grace from the Strong’s concordance is the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life. This is also the perfect explanation of Christ behaving in us! In this verse the literal word “work” means “puts forth power” and the word “will” means “gives the desire”. Thus, the verse says, “It is God who (puts forth power) in us, to (give us the desire) to work for HIS good pleasure.” **Note, it is God who puts forth power and gives the desire. This also is a teaching about the Holy Spirit, even if the Spirit is not explicitly mentioned. The Spirit takes the initiative in imparting to us the desire to do the will of God “from our heart”.**

This information is absolutely essential for us to live out our Christian life. With the fullness of Christ, we are empowered to live in the midst of a twisted world.

Philippians 2:12–16a (ESV)

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding (forth) the word of life.

God knows full well that we live in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation. In fact God says, “We Shine” in this world! **We are not told to shine but are reminded that we already do shine. As Pastor Milliken would always tell me, “Your light shines brightest when it is the darkest.” God is clearly telling us in the midst of this crooked and twisted generation, we will shine as lights in the world. *As luminaries in a world of spiritual darkness, we are to “hold out the word of life.”* The word of life is, of course, the gospel of Jesus Christ, which brings eternal life.**

To the crooked and twisted generation, we have one message! The message Jesus gave us!

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Prophetic Prayer