The Light in the Darkness



How To Be The Light Of The World

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LORD, WHY WAS I CREATED ?

Relationship is very important to our Heavenly Father. Our first clue might me that God Himself exists as 3 in 1 as our Heavenly father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is no accident that the scriptures begin and end with pictures of relationship in action. In Genesis, we find a picture of God walking in the garden talking with His children, and in Revelation we find a picture of Jesus knocking on the door of our hearts, inviting his friends to come in so that he can come and share an intimate meal with them. It turns out that there are only two reasons why God created His children.

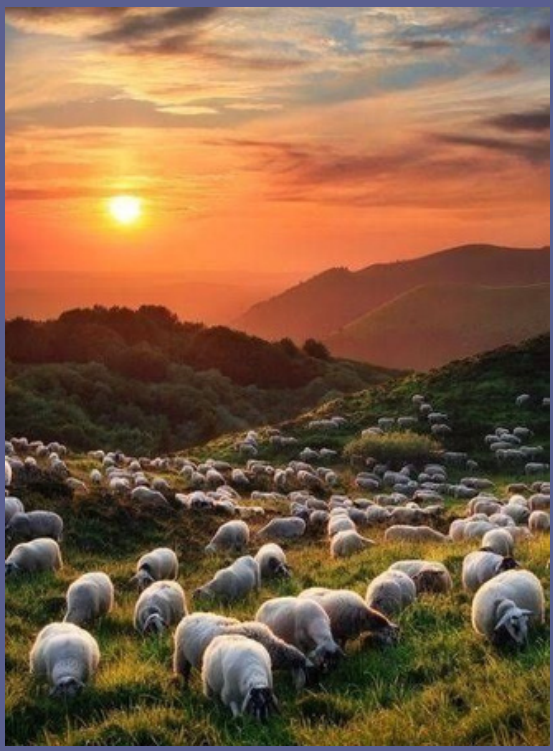
There were only two purposes for creation !

The first, is that His children would bring Glory to God. The second purpose that God created mankind was so that we would spend eternity with Him. It is here that we discover a secret in the making. Both of these purposes can only ever exist together, as one. We can only ever learn what it means 'to Bring Glory to God' by first learning how to be in close relationship with Him.

That is to be the focus of this teaching.

My Sheep Know My Voice

Since the very beginning, God has demonstrated His desire to be in relationship with His children. From Genesis to Revelation we find this theme throughout so that we cannot mistake the heart of God for His creation. God loves His kids and His great desire is to be in relationship with us.



Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things that you do not know. (Jer 33:3)

Because of sin, our ability to share in God's original plan was interrupted, but, because of Jesus death on the cross, our ability to have relationship with God was once again restored.

Jesus is often found in scripture eating with his friends. This speaks to the fact that when Jesus tells us that he wants to come and eat with us, he is actually inviting us into close relationship with him.



God wants us to be passionate for Him. We get a glimpse of this through the prophet Samuel who is so passionate for his God that he even sleeps in the presence of the ark of the Covenant. In the Psalms, we hear King David speak of spending time with God in the small hours of the morning just to be able to come and be alone in His presence. It is this kind of passion that our Lord seeks but it turns out, this kind of passion is not easy to find.

From the beginning, in the book of Genesis, we see the Lord walking and talking in the garden with His children but because of the sin of mankind, Adam and Eve had to be expelled from the garden. Then the Lord needed to provide a way for His relationship with humanity to be restored and so He chose to give up the life of His only son so that He offered as the perfect sacrifice for sin. From that moment forward God has continued to call His children to return to Him, to worship Him and to spend time with Him.

Relationship with Him has always been God's number one priority. It was His great purpose in creation to make us in His own likeness. His plan has always been that we should spend all of eternity with Him in heaven. Is it any wonder that God has filled His people with a desire to seek Him?

Visit any Christian book store and you will find shelf after shelf filled with books written on the subject of hearing the voice of God. Believers are eager to learn how to hear the voice of God. It says in scripture,

His sheep follow him because they rocognzie his voice. (John 10:4)

Why is it we might ask, that so many of the faithful say they do not know how to hear the voice of God ?

One reason may be that we are not willing to take the time to come to know him. To know God is to love God and to love Him is to spend time with Him. One of the most often misquoted scriptures is found in Jeremiah where the Lord declares that those who seek Him will find Him, however a closer look reveals that this is only a half truth for the verse continues ...

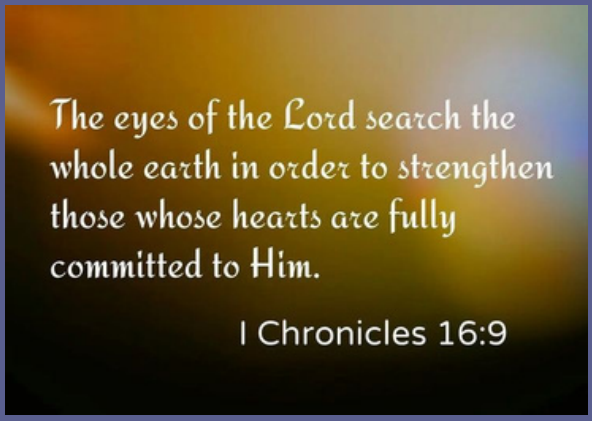
We find Him when we seek Him with all of our hearts. Jer 29:13

To know God requires that we seek Him with everything we have and in this world of instant everything, it seems that what is being asked may for too m any, be a price too high to pay. That would explain why it is that the Lord has to look all around world to find those who are 'fully committed to Him'. It turns out that believers such as these are hard to find.

The eyes of the Lord range throughout the world looking to encourage those who are fully committed to Him. (2 Chron 16:9)

Pastors are often only willing to teach the things that people want to hear. The difficult truth however, is that there is a cost associated with truly coming to know God. We will need to be willing to sacrifice daily as we prioritize putting the Lord first our lives.

We ought not to miss the fact that for those who are willing to pay the price, these will also be the ones the Lord will choose to lift up, to strengthen and encourage.



One of the reasons that seeking after the Lord can feel so challenging may be that we have an enemy that is determined to do all he can to lure us away from our relationship with God. He does this by tempting us with the things of this world. Scripture reminds us that :

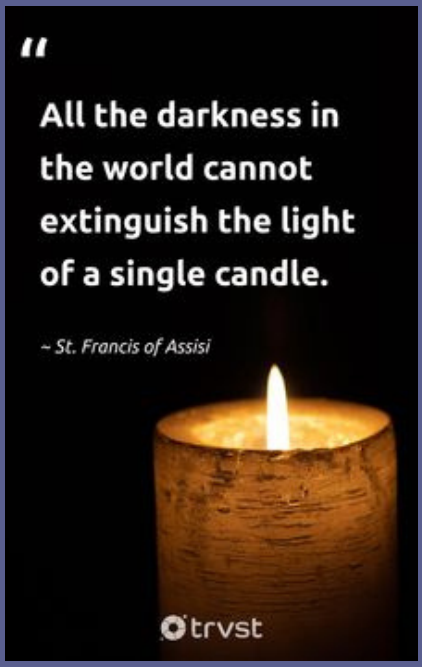
The devil is the Prince of this world (John 14:3)

As the Prince of this world, our enemy is continually looking to find ways to keep us from being in relationship with our creator. This is one of the principal reasons that Jesus came to the world. It was

To destroy the works of Satan (1 John 3:8)

In addition, Jesus sent us the Spirit of God as our 'helper' so that he could encourage us to put our full attention toward building our relationship with God. However we must be willing to choose to do our part and we are being asked to recognize that the Lord is not looking for a casual kind of relationship. He is asking us to be all in.

In His word, God provides us with pictures of people who were filled with passion for Him. Men like Samuel and David and Jesus. Samuel would sleep in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant. David learned to rise in the small hours to worship God, and Jesus would remove himself to lonely far away places just so that he could spend time with his Heavenly Father.
These men found fuel for their lives life as they spent time in the presence of God. Today there exists a dark and heavy spiritual blanket of darkness that is covering our world. The Lord has declared in His word that in these last days, it will only be as His light shines through His people, that we will be able to overcome such a smothering darkness.



The light shines in the darkness and the darkness had no ability to overtake it. (John 1:5)

Understanding that we are called to be the light of the world, we need to learn how to become those who know how to properly reflect God's light. In His word we read that faith comes by hearing the word of God and sometimes the best way for us to share His word is through our stories. It is no accident that God chose

Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God. (Rom 10:17)

to fill his word with stories. Lots and lots of stories. The Old Testament is filled from cover to cover with stories and as we look closely at the life and ministry of Jesus we discover that his primary means of sharing truth was by sharing stories.

Stories help us to apply truth that has been buried within. Stories stay with us. We remember stories because they impact us emotionally at a level far deeper than dry facts ever will. When we read or hear a bible story, the Lord is able to meet up with us personally and so we must learn to share our spiritual encounters with God. Our personal connection with God as we share them with others provide us with stories to tell that can truly touch hearts and lives.

As we share our stories with others we come alive inside. It has been said that to bring glory to God is to

be fully alive. As life in the Spirit flows out of us, passion rises, we come alive and our light begins to shine. People are motivated to take action when they hear a story, unfortunately, too often we miss the opportunity. We need to learn to share our God moments so that our light shines more brightly. It has been said that it is better to disciple one person into the faith that we own, than it is to lead ninety nine to pray a prayer of salvation, and then leave them standing at the altar. As we share our stories we are discipling the body of Christ. To share the stories of our God moments is to share real life together. Our World today is in a very dark place and it's getting darker with each passing day. The Lord has declared in his word that it will only be as His light shines through us as His children that the darkness can be defeated.



The bible tells us we are created to bring Glory to God but too many believers have no idea what these words mean.



There is a secret that the Lord has hidden deep within His word. Scripture declares that we have been created to bring glory to God but the secret is that until we build real relationship with Him, bringing glory to Him will cremain beyond our reach.

We are to seek the Lord with all of our heart. (Jer 29:13)

Just like Jesus, we must choose to take time aside to be with Him in the quiet places away from the business of the world. Just like Samuel, we may need to ask for help from the Spirit of God to find the discipline necessary until spending quality time with our God becomes a part of who we are so that meeting with the Lord becomes a part of the daily rhythm of our lives and a part of our spiritual d.n.a. As we give ourselves to this discipline, there will come a time when we will no

longer be able to imagine living any other way. As others see God's light reflecting in us, the effect will be that the Spirit of God will move in their lives too, often in ways that we will never see or ever know.

As we learn to fan the flame of the Spirit that is in us, His light will begin to shine ever more brightly so that even unwittingly, we will begin to bring Glory to God in all we do. By seeking Him with all our hearts, God's Spirit fills us with His life and His passion. This was the food that Jesus spoke of when he said to his disciples,

I have food to eat that you know nothing about (John 4: 23)

We have discovered that God's purpose in creation was to bring Him glory. We have learned that as we learn to live our lives purposefully building relationship with God that a passion in us that we have not known before will begin to rise. As it does our light begins to shine and the result can only be that we bring glory to God as we are become the people of God that He has created us to be.

By living in close and right relationship with God and by sharing the stories of our lives with the passion that is in us, we fulfill our purpose for being as we bring Glory to God. **This was God's purpose for creation from the beginning.**

We have been talking about spending time with God so that daily we will fan the flame of the Spirit that is in us, in all we do. We must continue fanning that flame by being intentional about spending time in the presence of God. If we do not spend time with our Lord we will begin to starve the flame of the oxygen it needs to remain bright and soon our light will go out.

As the flame of God's Spirit in us begins to rise, we discover such that there is a passion in our lives for the things of God that is new every morning. We begin to recognize that our appetite for the things of this world soon begins to fade.

As we spend time with the Lord and He intersects with us in the days of our lives, in real time, we have more stories to tell as scripture comes alive like never before. Our Lord Jesus has indeed come in to eat with us and we with him. We are full of life. (*enthusiasm in the Greek is from two words, en/theos, which means 'God in us'*)

We began by declaring that it is not possible to bring Glory to God without first having a real and vital relationship with Him. *As we share the passion that is newly being born in us, we are become the Light of the World so that bring Glory to God in all that we do.*

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Ron King Ministires is
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is to disciple the body of Christ
to do their own work of ministry
so that as they do,
they will continue to build up
the body of Christ.

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