

HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #V

A Series Of Studies In
The Reality Of Spiritual Life
Here And Now

1

“The Greatest Of These Is Love”

- ❖ Love is will to good for all concerned in our presence and action.
- ❖ Love first comes to us from God in Christ. Rom. 8:31-39, I John 4:19
- ❖ “Love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” I John 4:7
- ❖ Then we grow to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourself.

2

Living In Kingdom Reality

- ❖ Grace is God acting in our lives. We know this grace by venturing to act as God does.
- ❖ “Be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” Eph. 5:1-2
- ❖ Transformation of character and expressions of power go hand in hand. Fruit of the Spirit/ Gifts of the Spirit.

3

The Core Of Kingdom Life Is The Surrendered Will

- ❖ What I want is not what I live for.
- ❖ I do not deny what I want, but it does not rule me.
- ❖ Good, under God, rules me.
- ❖ “Do not let sin reign in your mortal body...but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” Rom. 6:12-14, see also Col 3:3.
- ❖ “I die daily.” I Cor. 15:31

4

Surrendered Will Worked Out

- ❖ “Surrendered will” does not mean “Will Power,” “Gritted Teeth.”
- ❖ The surrendered will turns all dimensions of the person—mind, body, etc.—to love of God and to love what God loves.
- ❖ Again: “Bless those who curse you,” as an example.
- ❖ Spiritual formation in Christlikeness is not just a matter of changing the will itself.

5

Now: Restoring The Soul

- ❖ The soul is the deepest part of you.
- ❖ It is a stream of life moving within you.
- ❖ Not under your direct control.
- ❖ It's primary function is to (1) Interface with reality, and (2) bring all dimensions of the self together to form one life.
- ❖ Broken life is expression of broken soul.

6

The “Lost Soul” Or “Dead Soul”

- ❖ When the will withdraws from God and focuses upon its self, the soul is deprived of sustenance in God.
- ❖ It becomes disoriented and cannot integrate the person with its world.
- ❖ The will becomes entangled with duplicity, deceit, falsehood, and carries all dimensions of the self with it.
- ❖ A lost person does not know where they are.

7

Sheep Without A Shepherd

- ❖ The tragic human picture:
 - Matt. 9:36, 11:28
- ❖ The promise of healing:
 - Isa. 61:1
 - Matt. 11:29-30

8

“Learn Of Me...Rest To Soul”

- ❖ Soul rest comes through apprenticeship to Jesus in kingdom living.
- ❖ The natural consequence of faith in Jesus as “The One.”
- ❖ In him the kingdom of the heavens is present and available to those who trust him.

9

To Take His Yoke

- ❖ To take his yoke means to join him in his work. To do what he says and does.
- ❖ That is a whole life learning process in which we learn to do everything we do on his behalf and with his strength. Col. 3:17
- ❖ It means to abandon OUTCOMES. We are not in charge of results.—”Humble yourself under the hand of God.” I Peter 5:5-7

10

Seeking The Kingdom

- ❖ Putting top priority on learning from Jesus is how we “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” and find everything else needed to be provided. Matt. 6:33
- ❖ To seek the kingdom means to look for what God is doing and join him in it.
- ❖ Parallel this to the “Psalm 1 man” and to Joshua 1:8

11

The Law Of The Lord Restores The Soul

- ❖ “The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.” Ps. 19:7
- ❖ The kingdom of God is God in action, what God is doing. The Law of the Lord tells us what God’s ways are. Law is a revelation of Kingdom.
- ❖ The Law is Grace, God giving us truth to live by.

12

The Law Precious And Tender

- ❖ Knowledge of how to live well is the most valuable thing and most beautiful.
Deut. 4:7-8; Ps. 119
- ❖ The tenderness of the Law:
 - Ex 23:19: “You shall not boil a kid in the milk of its mother.”
 - Deut. 24:21: Not gleaning after harvest.
 - Ruth 2:16: “Handfuls on purpose.”

13

How This Works

- ❖ Upon our confidence in Christ and sincere intention, we are able to walk in the ways and reality of the kingdom of God upheld by Grace (God acting in our lives)—The Son and the Spirit in our lives make it possible for “the requirements of the law to be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Rom. 8:4
- ❖ The broken depths of our soul are reintegrated in a life in union with God: the eternal kind of life.

14

Sanctification

- ❖ Sanctification fully realized means a life established in the ways of God – living from the reality of the kingdom.
- ❖ It means effortlessly abiding in (drawing our life from) the vine of which we are the branches. John 15
- ❖ It does not mean being weird or righteously mean or being proud of our humility.
- ❖ We are with Christ anywhere, anytime and anywho.

15

Easy Yoke, Light Burden!

- ❖ “His commandments are not burdensome.”
1 John 5:3.
- ❖ Why? Because we have been transformed in all dimensions of our self.
- ❖ We are not in charge of outcomes.
- ❖ We do not try to please people, but do good to them.

16

Not About Not Sinning

- ❖ As the Law restores our soul in our walk with Christ, less and less of life is a struggle with temptation. Pride-points but dung.
Phil 3:8 — Sins also.
- ❖ Sin is slop and seen for what it is.
- ❖ What it means to be dead to sin.
Rom 6:2, 7, 11 — Shooting out street lights.
- ❖ Grace is for life, not just for guilt. We need it for guilt to get us to life.

17

God's Intent For Us

- ❖ God's intent for each of us is that we should become the kind of person whom he can empower to do what we want.
- ❖ That is our future in this universe.
- ❖ “And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.” Rev. 22:5

18