

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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Faith is the Substance....

And so is fear...

The Law of the Lord is perfect^a therefore the law that governs faith is perfect. It is so perfect, that whatever faith is focused on ... it ... will ... produce. No matter what it is focused on; because faith is governed by a law. The laws of God cannot be broken; which is why it is imperative that we understand the laws of God and learn to cooperate with them. Now before we talk more about "faith" let's grasp just how perfect are the laws of God, so that we may respect them. Let's look at the Law of Gravity; one of my favorite references to laws. And one that is easily identifiable by many; and many can relate to its effects. We must all agree that the Law of Gravity was not ordained by man. It is a God-ordained, physical law. This law serves the physical realm, or universe. Being a law of God, it is in a sense "perfect." The Law of Gravity operates accordingly whether we interact with it through knowledge or through ignorance (or an absence of knowledge). And we do not have to understand its ordinances, in order for it to work. I think that we would all agree that we'd be better served to learn how to cooperate with this law. Such can be said

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The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

Thanksgiving is Coming But What if I Don't Feel Like Giving Thanks?

As Christians we know we are to have a heart of gratitude to God for his many blessings. But, aren't there times when we wonder, "What has God done for me lately?" It's fairly easy to look around and see that many people are struggling right now. With the presidential elections looming, and an economic meltdown; not to mention layoffs and foreclosures steadily on the increase, many people may not *feel* particularly thankful. Christians and non-Christians alike are trying to get a handle on what may be on the economic and political horizon.

Still, God requires us to be thankful.

I Thessalonians 5:18 tells us that in everything we are to give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning us (KJV by reference).

Romans 8:28 says, all things work together for our good (KJV by reference).

With this in mind, believers are reminded that even in tough times, God will use circumstances to bring about HIS will in our lives. Now, *there's* a good reason to be thankful. No matter what we see, hear, or experience God is using all of these events to work His will.

Along with that, we know God loves us with an everlasting love. And, he does not allow the enemy to simply run rough-shot in our lives. Instead, God guides our circumstances and He guides us through every situation that comes our way. By doing so, He provides us with an opportunity to grow, become more like Christ, and he always causes us to triumph (II Corinthians 2:14, KJV by reference)!

With this in mind, let's reflect on how God has brought us through seemingly negative situations in the past. This should inspire our hearts to look forward to the future with a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving!

May the peace of God rule in your hearts until we chat again.



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DIAMONDS



My Prayer

Lord,

Your servant blesses You for these 40+ years.
The first 40+ I ran; the next 40+ You run.

In the name that is above all names, *Jesus*

sMHG



about the law that governs “faith.”

“Faith” is translated from the Greek word *pistis* and can be translated as “conviction;” which represents a “firm belief” in something. Faith represents our “firm belief” or our “conviction” about something; whether positive (or negative). We understand “faith” to be our firm belief about the things we want to have happen. The converse is also true; “fear” is our firm belief about things we don’t want to happen.

For the sake of this discourse, we’re not talking about an emotional expression of “fear.” We’re talking about both “faith” and “fear” as expressions of our decision-making faculty. By this definition, “faith” and “fear” can be construed as the opposite sides of the same coin. The virtue of “faith” or “fear” is determined by its application or objective. Both “faith” and “fear” operate by the same law. That being that whatever “faith” or “fear” is focused on, it produces.

When we understand this, we can see why the Lord admonishes us to “fear not.” Because He knows the laws that He has put in operation concerning them.

On the one hand, the scriptures teach that “faith is the substance of things hoped^c...” I submit to you that, “fear is also the substance of things *not* hoped for.” Ask Job, who says that “the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me ... and the thing that I was afraid of is come.^d”

Why are we talking about this?

Because often we trick ourselves into fearing that we do not have enough “faith” to believe what God has promised. Not realizing that when we refuse to believe the promises of God; it is not due to a lack of “faith” it is due to a misappropriation of “faith.” They are both acts of “faith” focused in opposite directions; both of which will manifest, accordingly. Again, both “faith” and “fear” operate according to the same law. They both produce the object of their focus. Can’t we now see why the Lord says that “whatsoever is not of faith is sin^e?” And we see why He says, that “without faith it is impossible to please God^f.” It is because “fear,” in this case being the opposite of “faith” is idolatry. It is a faith in something other than God and His promises.

Please don’t misunderstand. This quality of “producing desired results” does not happen by magic.

It does not happen that we believe something (or fear something) and *voile* it manifests. Both “faith” and “fear” being themselves products of our decision-making faculty; operate by the same laws. They both produce the prerequisite beliefs, thoughts, and behaviors that then produce their desired (or feared) results (whether we want those results or not).

Again, faith is the substance of things hoped for or FEARED; and the very evidence of them both. Please see how very real faith is. The law that governs faith is SO true and strong, that it accomplishes, not just the good but the unpleasant too!! If you truly believe it, you WILL have it. Whether you believe a thing through “faith” or through “fear.”

As is your faith (or fear), so is your substance and so is your experience. Learn the words of God and the promises of God; and believe them. After all, it’s all “faith;” let’s redirect its focus. <KJV>

JoAnn C. White, sMHG

All scriptures references are from the KJV.

^aPs. 19:7

^bMatt. 9:29

^cHeb. 11:1

^dJob 3:25

^eRom. 14:23

^fHeb. 11:6

JEWELS



Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness upon you.

Hosea 10:23 KJV



Christ-likeness IS Relationship

(Part 2)

By David L. White

All scripture is paraphrased from KJV unless stated otherwise.

In part one of this series we spoke about Christ being the whole of our relationship with God; the Way, the Truth, and the Life of that relationship.

We will explore in this article that it doesn't stop there. Christ is not **only** the Way, Truth, and Life of relationship with The Father. Christ is the way, truth, and life of all relationship. How we ought to relate to our spouse is found in Christ; as well as how we ought to relate to our children. How we relate to our friends (and enemies, for that matter) is found in Christ; as well as how we relate to those in authority over us.

As we have only so much of the life of Jesus documented we must look at Jesus in a broader sense. John 1:1 says *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* We have to see Jesus as being the whole of the Word of God. When we look at all that the Word of God tells us to be; we literally get a description of Jesus Christ.

That being the case, hereafter I will refer to the collective Word of God as “Jesus” without specific regard to which writer penned the words.

Jesus tells husbands to love their wives and to cherish them like He himself loves His own bride (the church). He tells wives to reverence and be subject to their husband. He tells them to dwell with each other according to knowledge. He tells children to obey their parents in the Lord; and to honor their father and mother. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, do good to them which hate us, bless them that curse us, pray for them that wrongly use us. Jesus tells servants (employees) to be subject to their masters (employers); not just the good ones but the evil ones also.

Jesus is telling us, through His scriptures, “who He is.” He is telling us who we are to be. As we become like Christ all of our relationships, every single one, will be put into proper perspective. As we look at relationships through the lens of Jesus Christ; they begin to look the way they should. We can't see things from His perspective until we (in a sense) walk in His shoes; walk according to His Spirit, bear His fruit.

Take into consideration that this is not an article written for the sake of writing an article. Take each of the relationships represented, go through the Word of God, see how it says to treat that relationship, and test out the truth of it for yourself. Where you do not line up, rely on the grace of God, and fix it.

Please don't read the Bible like it's just a story book that you put away when done. Read it like an instruction manual for something that needs to be built. Read the description, look at the picture, and go make sure yours looks like the picture. Have you ever tried to put something together without reading the instructions? Well...you see my point. Sometimes you've come away with extra pieces, or not enough pieces, or the product doesn't stand up straight; you get the idea. Make sure you look more and more like Christ every day. Go back make sure you have all the pieces lined up and all the screws tightened.

You may have a chance to take down and rebuild that product. But we only get one chance to be conformed into the image of Christ.

The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Reference Scriptures

To Husbands/Wives (Eph. 5:24-25; 1 Pet. 3:6-7)
 Children/Parents (Eph. 6:1-4)
 Enemies (Luke 6:27-28)
 Servants/Masters-Employees/Employers (1 Pet. 2:18; Eph. 6:9)



A Journey to Intimacy

What could be Righteous about Being Wronged?

The Journey Continues - Actual Event

One morning while driving to work, as I was entering the on ramp to the expressway merge lane, in my rearview mirror I saw a car rushing up behind me. I noticed that he had closed-in from about 10 car lengths away to about 5 in just a few seconds; it was obvious that he was moving quickly. Now according to my calculations, if he continued at that same rate of speed, he and I would, at the same time, reach the point where our driving lanes would merge into one lane. Since it appeared to me that he was not going to slow down, I straddled both lanes and he slowed down. Once safely on the highway, I slowed down so that he could go ahead. He did, and the day went on, I assume “well for both of us.”

That same night, I had a dream; it was a conglomeration of seemingly various scenes. As I awoke the final scene of the dream stayed with me. The Lord then revealed something that frankly caused a paradigm shift for me. I'd like to share that with you. It may or may not have the same affect on you.

Before I share the dream I will share a prayer I have prayed over this gift. This is the prayer:

Father, Holy and Righteous, Worthy of Honor and Glory; if what I will share, is truly Your revelation to us then let it be remembered or recalled after 30 days, by everyone who reads this article. On the other hand, if there is no honor in it for You; let it be promptly forgotten after it is read. (No matter how it makes us feel while we're reading.) In Jesus' name, Amen

Now I will ask something of you (the reader). If after 30 days from the reading of this article; you still remember or recall it, ask the Lord to “open your eyes to its truth in your life.”

In either case, thank you for reading the article.

Dream

Now here is the scene from the dream and the subsequent revelation:

...I was standing in a single file line of people (there were people in front and behind me). As the line lead through a narrow opening, I noticed out of my peripheral view a woman/girl walking up along side, intending to step in line ahead of me. Now, the woman's behavior didn't evoke an emotional uprising. I did, however, think, "You can wait your turn just like we must wait our turn." So I moved to close the gap so that she couldn't slide in front of me in line. Now, mind you, I have no idea what this line was for; nor did I know where it was leading. Later in the dream we were out of the line and I passed this same woman. There was no anger or discord felt between us it was as if the event in line had never even happened.

As I woke up from the dream the Lord said a most interesting thing to me. He said, "You should have let her get in front of you in line."

This gave me a moment of "quizzical" pause. Okay...okay, it gave me a *couple* of moments pause ... literally!! There may have even been a bit of a frown on my face.

At that time, I didn't quite grasp the depths of what the Lord had said. Meanwhile my mind pondered contrasting thoughts.

Thoughts such as:

- "She could have waited."
- "Her gesture was disrespectful; I wasn't interested in being disrespected."
- "That would have been just plain, wrong."

The Lord was very patient (spelled l-o-n-g-s-u-f-f-e-r-i-n-g) with me as I entertained (briefly) these thoughts that I'm sure resulted, in part, from my upbringing and my socialization.

Afterwards, the Lord said or showed me the following:

- 1) God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise (1 Cor. 1:27)
- 2) If you are buffeted (or disrespected) for your own faults and take it lightly, so what. But if

when you have done no wrong; you are persecuted (disrespected or mistreated) and take it lightly ... the glory of God rests upon you. (1 Pet. 2:20 KJV)

- 3) Having done no wrong, Jesus submitted himself to the abuse of the courts & the death of the cross.
- 4) Why do you not suffer yourselves to be defrauded? (1 Cor. 6:7 KJV)
- 5) The meek ... shall inherit the earth. (Matt. 5:5 KJV)

As I heard this, I recalled something from my youth. I learned to drive in Missouri. At that time, in the Missouri Driver's Guide, regarding the rules of the road there was this phrase. "Don't insist on the Right of Way, it could cost you your life." I then recalled the scripture that says "He who seeks to save his life ... will lose it."

I then begin to understand what the Lord was saying to me. It was this:

**Don't work to protect your own reputation, your honor or yourself.
Work to protect My Honor.**

I did not realize how hard we work to "protect our reputation and honor." But we care nothing for God's honor, His name, His reputation and His Glory.

I do not intend to fully exhaust the import of this revelation in this article. I seek only to share what I've learned and will be applying in my life. If you recall this after 30 days, then settle the matter before God, for your life. The fruit of it will be seen differently in each of our lives. But it will be fruit with eternal reward

In closing, I can now appreciate the conversation between Moses and God in the mountain. God was angry with Israel for their idolatry and wanted to destroy them. He promised to create a new nation of people through Moses. (Exod. 32:9-14) Moses had a few choices. He could have said, "Yes, God you're right. Let's start all over, back to the drawing board." Might that not have been some kind of "bragging rights" for God to create a whole new nation of people with Moses as their patriarch? Instead Moses argued on behalf of God's reputation and His honor before the Egyptians. ◇ K&N ◇

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