

John Newlin Ministries - realizing the power of a life in Christ -



In two dramatic events, God stepped into a man's life and changed it forever. The first in 1983 involved a miraculous encounter with an angel when he and his family were saved from certain death. A few years later on the New Jersey Turnpike, God came into his car in a stunning "Damascus road" meeting. The Holy Spirit had come in force! I am that man, and this ministry is one of the fruits of the relationship that began then.

JUST WHO IS THIS JESUS?

Iraq, Iran, terrorists, soaring fuel costs – what is going on? Lots to think about today for anyone familiar with Bible prophecy. And a perfect time to focus on the question in red above.

The real Jesus. The living Jesus. The Jesus that took all of us on his back so that we could again have a relationship with God and someday go home to be with him. Without Jesus we are indeed lost. Even with Jesus I expect most Christians would admit a sense of emptiness in their daily lives here on earth. There is a reason. Some years ago I wrote a poem about this very subject, and it was published by the Nazarenes.

WE ARE NEVER HOME

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We are never home.
Not now. Not here.
No matter how we try.
We cannot get there.

The moments of joy
Family and friends bring
Cannot dispel
The longing of our hearts.

Harsh though the words,
God's children are
Strangers in a foreign land,
Aliens on planet earth.

This is not our world.
But we will soon be home,
That we know.
Our hope is secure.

Yes, this current world is not our home. We believers really are strangers in a world controlled by the evil one, by Satan. If you didn't believe that before 2001, I'll bet you do now - 911, the Indian Ocean Tsunami, Katrina, terrorists, Iraq, Iran with its horrifying leader, and so much more. When Jesus came 2000 years ago, he was invading territory under the control of the supreme evil being. Americans are finally coming face to face with that level of evil now, and most don't know what to do.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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What is God after? A relationship. What kind of work are believers supposed to be engaged in? Jesus gave the answer - to believe in the one God sent, i.e., Jesus (Jn 6:29). What is the definition of eternal life? Jesus answered that too - to know God and the one He has sent, Jesus (Jn 17:3).

Well, then, what are we supposed to be doing here? Making disciples of all nations, that's one command at the end of Matthew for all of us. That's disciples, not just converts. A short prayer of acceptance followed by years of sitting in a church pew is not what Jesus had in mind. Disciples - growing in the faith, learning about the kingdom, learning how to live in Jesus, that's more like it.

Oh, there's another answer to what we are supposed to be doing. Jesus gives it in John 14:12-14. We're supposed to be doing the same things He did, in fact even greater things than he. Jesus said that, not me. He said we would do even greater things than he because he was going to be with the father. What kind of things did Jesus do? Heal the sick, yes. Cast out demons, yes. Raise the dead, yes. Cleanse the lepers, yes. Walk on water, yes. Change the weather, yes. Make wine out of water, yes. Preach the kingdom of God, yes.

He says we will (not can but "will," it is a command) do the same things, and even greater things. Have you been doing these, in his name? I'll look at my own life since I came to truly know Jesus: Heal the sick, yes. Cast out demons, yes. Preach the kingdom of God, yes. Raise the dead - haven't personally done that, but I expect to. Jesus said I would. And you can bet I was out on the deck praying against hurricane Ophelia last fall. I know some of you were too. I think that is why it was held offshore so many days and then finally skirted the coast in southeastern North Carolina with little damage. We were taking authority in Jesus against it.

Just who are you in Christ, anyway? Do you have a life of power or not? Jesus said "it is finished" as his last words on the cross. He didn't mean I'm about to die; he meant I've done all that is necessary to reconcile humanity to God. That's didn't just include forgiveness of sins. That included everything bad that had come about by the original sin and all the subsequent sins of fallen humanity.

WHO ARE WE IN JESUS?

This subject would take more than a page or two. But here are a few. In Jesus, we:

- Are joint heirs with Christ (Gal 4:7)
- Are priests ourselves (1 Pe 2:9)
- Are people who will do greater things than Jesus (Jn 14:12-14). We said this already, but it is worth repeating.
- Are recipients of the gifts of the spirit (1 Co 12) - well, this brings up the issue of your being filled with the Holy Spirit. I'll save that for a future letter. It's a requirement to operate in the power that Jesus has for us.
- Are Christ's ambassadors to the world (II Co 5:20)
- Are a new creation (II Co 5:17)
- Are the righteousness of God (II Co 5:21)
- Are rich and not poor (II Co 8:9)
- Are free from the curse of the law (Gal 3:13)
- Are the body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23)

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- Are healed and made whole (Is 53:5 and 1 Pe 2:24)
- Are able to do everything through him who strengthens us (Php 4:13)
- Take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ (II Co 10:5)
- Are Jesus' sheep (Jn 10:2ff)
- Know Jesus' voice (Jn 10:14)
- Are free from the law of sin and death (Ro 8:2)
- Have peace with God (Ro 5:1)
- Are justified through faith (Ro 5:1)
- Are saved by grace (Eph 2:5; 2:8)
- Are like Jesus in this world (1 Jn 4:17)
- Are soldiers of Christ Jesus (2 Ti 2:3)
- Are creators ourselves (Ro 4:17; Mk 11:22-24)
- Are Christ's army and government (Rev 17:14; Zch 14:5; Rev 19:14)
- Cannot be separated from the love of God (Ro 8:38-39)
- Are raised up and seated in the heavenly realms with Jesus, even now (Eph 2:6)
- Have Jesus living in us, and the father and the son (Rev 3:20; Jn 15:5-6; Jn 14:23)
- Have had the Holy Spirit sent to us (Jn 14:16, 26; Jn 16:8)
- Share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light (Col 1:12)
- Are recipients of the blessing given Abraham (Gal 3:14)
- Are victors and not losers!!!!!! (I added this, just in case the secular media, entertainment industry, politicians, government, and more are all making you feel otherwise.)

There is more, but that's a pretty good list! If you say those out loud, you'll feel like running and shouting! If you don't, you'd better ask yourself why.

Colossians (1:15-23a) is a great summary of who Jesus is:

[JESUS] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; ... whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...(KJV)

I added the final underscoring. Remember, the "church" referred to here is the body of all true believers. It's not a denomination or a building made out of materials.

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In a future newsletter I'll get into the power of the gifts of the spirit. Jesus told about the Holy Spirit and how He was sending him to us in John 14 and 16. Then in Acts and right up to today we see the wonderful impact of the presence and power of the Spirit – in way, way too small a number of people who call themselves believers.

We are quite apparently nearing the very end of this age. Don't let a moment go by without making sure you know this Jesus personally and know as much about him and about God's kingdom and system of government (it's all in the Bible) as possible. And remember, we are all priests. Tell others.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS!

Yes, we do. We pray for our partners and over all prayer requests. And we really need your prayers. Being in the ministry puts us on the A list for the evil one. But in Christ we are more than enough for him. We are conquerors (could have put that on the list too!). We greatly appreciate your prayers for us and our ministry, as well as for our families and friends. Prayers for protection and provision, for guidance and wisdom and whatever God brings to your mind. Currently we are going through quite an agonizing time seeking just what should be the next steps in the ministry. That may be in the Wilmington area or elsewhere, and it may involve more travel, the very expensive prospect of regular television programs on commercial or Christian television, and more.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

We can't go anywhere or do anything without senders. Those of you who contribute funds and/or time and who pray for us are partners indeed with this ministry.

Some of you have also made the wonderful commitment to be regular monthly contributing partners. That is a great, great help in planning activities. I would ask all of you who are not in that category to consider becoming a monthly partner, giving whatever God guides you to on a monthly basis. There is a space on the enclosed slip to indicate that. Of course, we also appreciate those of you who choose to give in individual gifts from time to time. They too are greatly needed. As the ministry grows we will be able to go forward with more of the activities we discuss from time to time in person or in writing.

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KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!

Without him you have no hope and are most to be pitied. Your future has nothing to do with what a good person you are. It has everything to do with whether you truly know Jesus and what you have done with your life since you came to know him.

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