

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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Growing to Be One with God

Have you noticed that ever since you were born again – if you were – there has been consternation in your life from time to time? There is unrest. There is irritation. There is always something you are thinking about or meditating about, wondering how you should deal with it, if you are right with God about it. Yes, you have peace, that wonderful peace that passes understanding. You have the peace that you know that God is real and that in all things he works for good in those who have been called according to his purposes.

But still, there is that irritation, that continual need to work on something – some relationship, some understanding of scripture, some issue, something that is just not right and so in that area you don't feel relaxed and at ease at all. Probably there is more than one such area in your life, spiritual or physical or whatever.

What is going on? Why is it like this? Was it supposed to be like this? Why is this happening? Some of your friends who you think don't really know the Lord seem to be far more at ease, more into an easy peaceful life.

I'll tell you. It is like this because of Jesus' prayer to God in John 17. Why don't you take a few minutes and read that chapter and meditate on it a while. This is Jesus' prayer. There is much there, but there is one particular aspect of the prayer that relates directly to you and to what is going on in your life.

Jesus prays that God will make you one with him and his father just as he is one with God (John 17:20-21). That is an amazing request. Of course, it was heard and it is being honored. This was one part of the Trinity praying to another, the Son praying to the Father. Of course it is being honored.

And so every second of your life God is working to make you one with Jesus. Are you one with him now? I doubt it. I doubt there is anyone living on earth that has arrived at that position yet. We are all in different states of the journey there. And God is working. And so in all those nooks and crannies of our lives, those thoughts and beliefs and past and present issues, God is working to ferret out any and everything that keeps you from being one with him. And it is all so uncomfortable. And it just continues as you move ever closer to being one with Jesus, really being exactly like Jesus even in your life on this earth.

Amazing isn't it. All those superficial comments you heard growing up and in the past

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about what it is like to believe in Jesus and how easy life will be once you accept Christ – I'm sure way before now you have realized all that was wrong and misleading and poppycock. It was espoused by people who clearly did not really know the Lord or what it means to be born again and one with Christ. But you have been and are finding out.

Just open up – make yourself open to God and all he wants to do in your life. Be sensitive to what he is doing. Listen. Watch. And go wherever he is taking you. Whenever God opens up some aspect of your life – tiny or big – and guides you to see it as it really is, to see yourself as you really are – there is pain involved. It hurts and is uncomfortable to see who we are and where we are in comparison to God's overall objective for us. But it takes truth and recognizing all that for us to move forward. I've said it before and I'll say it again. We are so far removed from God. We do not know all

he is doing or all he is after. The closer we get to him, the more we grow as believers and in revealed and intellectual knowledge, the more we realize we don't know fully where he is heading or what he is doing.

So we have to trust him. To have faith in him. Life is all about knowing Jesus and having faith in him and his word, in all the words of God. Hebrews 11:6 makes this abundantly clear. You should read that too. And stay away from trite elementary school comments about Jesus and God and the Bible. There is so much more to God than we can ever imagine.

The Lord is coming soon, and he will be looking for his Church, that group of people who truly believe in him, who know him. You want to be there, you want to be ready. In the coming days as this all unfolds, just watch with eyes of faith and take whatever actions you are led by the Holy Spirit to take. And trust in the Lord.

Knowing the Lord

There are some Bible verses that are just so uplifting. You can say them out loud and suddenly feel much better, lifted up, on top of the world. Say them when you get up in the morning or start out, and you know you are going to have a good day.

**This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- Psalm 118:24, RSV

**I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,**

who made heaven and earth.
- Psalm 121:1-2, RSV

**I was glad when they said to me, "Let us
go to the house of the Lord!"**
- Psalm 122:1, RSV

These are three such verses. Wonderful verses. They focus on the Lord. He made the day. He is the source of our joy. And most certainly he is our help.

Today where do we have to go to meet the Lord, to receive his help, to speak with him, to be guided and comforted and encouraged, to be in his presence? To the hills somewhere? To some building or house?

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The answer of course is nowhere. God meets you wherever you are. He is here on earth right now in the person of the Holy Spirit. And you can just reach out and pray and seek God anytime, anywhere. Some sit and worship under trees on the plains in Africa, others in China do so in private away from the threatening public authorities, and still others in all sorts of places – on a boat or in a house or while walking in the woods.

Knowing God and being with God and being taught and trained and uplifted by God has nothing to do with buildings and places. It has to do with your knowing the Lord. It is all about you and Jesus, about your being born of water and the Spirit, in his own words. It is about your proclaiming he is Lord of your life and believing in your heart God raised him from the dead, as Paul said.

Knowing God, faith in the Lord, is all a one-on-one thing. It is you and Jesus. Your mom and dad can't get you to God or to heaven. Neither can your children or friends or pastor or whoever. Only one can. Jesus.

It is not about religion, that man-created confection of laws and rules and regulations and behavior. It is not about denominations either. It is about Jesus and you.

Soon that Jesus is coming to call out his CHURCH, that collection of people who truly know him.

It is all about your relation to Jesus. There truly is not a whole lot of time left to be making decisions on that front. If you have not yet done so, please seek him, pray to him in his name, ask him to come into your life. Seek forgiveness for whatever you understand you need to be forgiven. Ask him to be Lord of your life. Ask him to teach you more about himself.

This after all is the day the Lord has made. Let's you and I rejoice in it, because we know him. Because we are in his CHURCH. Because we will be with him and his father forever.

Just What is Going on in Our World Today?

Things are getting very active as regards the last of the last days. My thought in coming months is to be ever more specific on the subject of what is going on right now in this world in which we live. You see, all those Biblical prophecies have to play out in actual behavior and steps and beings, and they are. We will look at all that in future publications of the ministry, including the email *Watchman Warnings* some of you receive.

Back in American history preachers pointed out how issues of the day fit or did not fit with scripture. They spoke out on issues and took stands. I was recently in a church built in 1736. On the wall I saw a marble plaque containing a bold statement signed by church leaders about what was happening in the colonies as the revolutionary war approached, a statement pointing out the signers supported the leader of the British government but demanded changes in Britain's behavior toward the colonies. That church

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took a stand! The point is that in no way is God's word to be removed from the governance of the people.

Those who know God and scripture are in the best position to discern what is right and wrong, and what course the nation should take. Those who do not know God and scripture have no way to know the best course for a government or nation. Why do the decisions of so many today seem so confused and lost? II Corinthians 4:4 covers that.

A FINAL NOTE

This ministry is a ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a real ministry. We preach good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, and give sight to the blind. We tell people the Lord is coming soon. We don't shrink from the truths applicable to our day just because they are not politically correct or may offend friends, neighbors, and leaders of society. In all things we endeavor to fulfill God's calls on me which began years ago when he so dramatically came into my life.

In doing all this we greatly need and are blessed by your contributions. It takes funds to publish newsletters and to produce teaching CDs and to produce television programs and secure broadcast time and to have a web site and to hold meetings. Please help us as you are led, as you purpose in your heart. And as always we thank all those already contributing and praying for us. You are making it all happen. You are helping get Christ's CHURCH ready for his coming.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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