

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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BEING 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 working 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. 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.

In John 17:21, Jesus prays that God will make you one with him and his father just as he is one with his father.

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. 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 about what it is like to believe in Jesus and how easy life will be once you accept Christ and such – I'm sure way before now you have realized all that was wrong and misleading and poppycock. It was espoused by people who almost surely didn't understand 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

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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.

There is so much more to God than we can ever imagine. 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. No we don't. We only know what he has let us know.

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.

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. He is your hope. And the only way. The absolutely only way.

WHEN YOU SAY THE WORD GOD

When you say the word God, do you realize who you are talking about?

God – the person who made all of this. Everything. And everyone too. God.

I hear people all the time being so flippant about God, about Jesus, about the Holy Spirit. Flippant. And I hear so many people everywhere use the words God and Jesus as a way of general exclamation. "Oh my god!" seems to be a popular term for people surprised by anything, or to use the modern text term, "omg".

But you know, God is God, Jesus is Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit. God, and these three manifestations of God, is so far above and beyond us that we scarcely can comprehend much of who He is. God has revealed himself to us in his book the Bible, and he has sent us Jesus, and he has sent believers the Holy Spirit. He has given us clues to his personality in many places, and we see in the Bible and in our personal lives how he has acted in specific instances, but in reality just how much do we really know about him? How could we know?

How can we understand someone who can make a planet, or a star, or a person? Someone who can stop and start time, or for whom time has no meaning. Someone who created life. Someone who has a staff of angels.

It is so preposterous, and so disrespectful, to hear people refer cavalierly to God. He is God! He is keeping you alive. Without him, you would be done for. The Bible actually says that Jesus is holding all this together, this "world" in which we live. He is the reason you are able to take each breath.

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REMEMBER THIS ABOUT LIFE

It's not about you. It's not about me. It's about God and his will and his plans. That's the point. The purpose.

Learn all you can about God and his will and his plans. And all you can about his will and plans for you.

Pray along those lines, along the lines of his fulfilling his will for you and your doing your part in that.

The Lord's Prayer makes the point if we will just pay attention:

“your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.”

It's all about God and his will and his plans.

PROGRESS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

A few days ago I saw a television commercial featuring young adults considering their future lives. They were asked how or what they could do to influence the future positively. Their answers were like this: Make a new technical advance in computers. Have a programming breakthrough. Create a new high tech app. And so on.

All the suggestions had to do with technical advances, product innovations. Certainly such steps make the physical part of life easier and more interesting.

But I want you to think for a moment. Now, yes, I know this was a commercial. Still, did you notice none of the answers, and there were many more given, had to do with improving the human condition, helping more people know Christ or grow as Christians, helping people in their relations with others, helping people escape from the disastrous victim mentality held by many, helping people have peace in their homes.

Certainly in the last two hundred years or so there has been incredible technical and scientific progress and innovation. But I ask you, in the last two thousand years, what progress has there been in the human condition – specifically, in the relationship of human beings to each other and to God? If you leave out of the discussion Jesus' original coming to earth, all he did, and the implications of all that, I challenge you to think of anything.

Daniel 12 describes the signs and conditions of the last days. Great growth in knowledge is one of those. We have that – great growth in technical and scientific knowledge today. Not in any other way.

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PLEASE NOTE:

- This newsletter may and should be copied, printed, or forwarded by email to others so long as it is copied, printed, or forwarded in its entirety with the appropriate attributions included. We in fact encourage you to do so and especially to give printed copies to those who you know would benefit and do not have access to computers. So many people today know nothing about the Lord, nothing about his imminent return or about the Holy Spirit or about divine healing or about who they are in Jesus and so many other key things. **How will they ever hear and know unless you help them?**
- And please consider contributing to the ministry. We can only operate as we have the funds to pay our expenses. I do at times wonder how so many of those who receive the newsletter and other publications or benefit in other ways from the ministry materials think we are able to keep operating. Do they think there is some invisible organization providing the funds? The answer is no. The answer is the funds have to come from people like you. **Our unending gratitude to those who do contribute!**

Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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