

PRAYER SCHOOL

Series Title: INTIMACY WITH GOD & FLOWING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today's Message:

Part 20: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is There is Freedom"

[2Co 3:16-17 ESV] *16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

When we turn to our Lord, there is freedom to see and freedom to be:

- God's heart is for us to receive from Him! He WANTS us to come to Him and to receive from Him...He *wants* you to receive from Him more than you want to receive from Him!
- God is love and love gives! (1 John 4:8, John 3:16)

[John 3:16 ESV]: *For God so loved the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

[Rom 8:32 ESV] *32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

[Rom 14:17 ESV] *17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

- Father God WANTS us to experience the good life He provided for us through the death, burial and resurrection of His son! In Christ, we receive the GIFT of righteousness and a life of peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- We continue to receive the outpouring, the daily benefits He loads us with, the fresh mercy, fresh grace, fresh manna from heaven, as we TURN TO THE LORD!!! HE is our only source and He is a gentleman waiting close by to be our ever present help in time of need, just waiting for us to turn to Him.

FREEDOM TO SEE & TO BE COMES TO US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT!

- Last week - Psalm 92 fresh oil – representing Holy Spirit & his anointing upon us – spoke of our spiritual eyes & ears being opened and seeing and hearing and being under God's influence...and the availability for us to receive fresh EVERY DAY. We live in the *age* of the Sabbath – the *year* (time period) of the Lord's favor – the Sabbath is no longer only one day of the week - we now have freedom to receive through the finished work of Christ every day!

[Psa 92:10-15 ESV] *10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil. 11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants. 12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of*

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sap and green, 15 to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

- But my horn shalt thou exalt - The horn is a symbol of strength or power; the Psalmist is declaring the LORD is His strength and power and that is making a statement that he is not relying on himself. He had such confidence that he was the friend of God, that he believed God would honor him and exalt him.

Psalm 18:2 (ESV): ² *The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

- The Lord, our Lord, Jesus Himself, is the horn of our salvation...our ONLY source for deliverance, well-being, healing, wholeness, preservation, prosperity...
- The Holy Spirit always leads us to see Jesus! He is always leading us to the truth, and Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We can only receive the truth through the help of the Holy Spirit enlightening the eyes of our hearts.

[Jhn 16:13 ESV] *13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

[Jhn 14:26 ESV] *26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

[Eph 1:18-19 ESV] *18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might*

[2Co 3:16-17 ESV] *16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

In context of 2 Cor 3:16-17, Paul is speaking of the glory of the new covenant and comparing the new covenant we have in the Spirit with the old covenant that Moses ministered through the written law. The old covenant condemned God's people, because it presented the perfect picture of God's glory, but no man could live up to it. The new covenant ministers righteousness as a gift to all those who believe upon Christ for salvation (*sozo*: welfare, prosperity, deliverance, preservation, safety) and turn from the old covenant way of trying to earn their own righteousness.

As we "turn to the Lord," we are turning to the Spirit who is the Lord, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom...

TURN TO THE SPIRIT  VEIL REMOVED  FREEDOM

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Turning to the Lord/Looking to/on the Lord/Lifting up Jesus/Looking Upon Jesus:

- “turn to” from 2 Cor 3:16 = *epistrephō* (Strong’s G1994) – to revert (literally, figuratively or morally): come (go) again, convert (re-) turn (about, again)
- To “turn to” also means we are “turning away” from something else...

[Jhn 6:29 ESV] 29 *Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."* (People had to turn Jesus and rely on him rather than on themselves and their own good works.)

[Jhn 6:40 ESV] 40 *For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

- “Look on” here is *theōreō* (Strong’s G2334) – to be a spectator of, that is, discern, (literally, figuratively [experience] or intensively [acknowledge]): behold, consider, look on, perceive, see
- “Looking on” Jesus is more than just *saying*, “Jesus I look to you...” This is actually *looking on* Him like you would watch a show, an event, a sports game, or look upon someone you’re attracted to! You take Him all in and observe all the details about Him.

[Jas 1:25 ESV] 25 *But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

- Wait...the law is the law of liberty? I thought the law brought death and condemnation...how can scripture say both things?
- It is not that the law of Moses or the law of God were much different or that any law from God is bad. The law itself is good, and looked upon with proper understanding, it is life and freedom to us!
- It was not that the law was bad in any way, but the difference is in how men LOOKED upon that law. When people see it as something they must keep in order to earn salvation (Jesus would call this “your law”), it brings condemnation, because that is wrong thinking and no one except Jesus can fulfill the law. Yet when people see it as a standard of righteousness that Jesus fulfilled on our behalf and that the Holy Spirit strengthens us to keep (though imperfectly) (Paul would call it “the law of God” – Romans 8:4).
- **Looking upon Jesus can be looking upon God’s written Word, OR seeing the person of Jesus Christ who is God’s manifested Word (Jesus is both!) The fullness comes into our heart as we understand the written word has already manifested in the flesh in the ONE man, Jesus Christ.**

[Jhn 6:68 ESV] 68 *Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,*

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[Jhn 8:27-31 ESV] 27 They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. 28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." 30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him. 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples..."

[Heb 12:2 ESV] 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

[Heb 3:1 ESV] 1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

PICTURE IN OT AND NT OF LOOKING UPON JESUS AS SOURCE OF HEALING AND EVERY PROVISION FROM GOD:

[Num 21:8-9 ESV] 8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

[Jhn 3:14 ESV] 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

[Isa 45:22 ESV] 22 "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. As we look upon Jesus, we see God's love for us.

- As we look upon Jesus, we see His willing sacrifice and heart to save us.
- As we look upon Jesus, we are reminded of the finished work He did on our behalf on the cross.
- As we look upon Jesus, we see Him looking upon us... "for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross." (Hebrews 12:2)
- As we look upon Jesus in faith (confident reliance upon Him and seeing Him as our provision sent to us by our heavenly Father), we are healed.

[1Pe 2:24 ESV] 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

- Jesus didn't only pay the price for our sins (past, present and future), but He also uprooted us and redeemed us from the cursed nature of sin...we are no longer rooted in sin...sin is no longer our master...we are now rooted and established in righteousness and love.

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[Gal 3:13-14 ESV] *13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"-- 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

[Rom 6:14 ESV] *14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

[1Co 7:23 ESV] *23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.*

[Col 2:10-20 ESV] *10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. 16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. 20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations--*

[Eph 1:7 ESV] *7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

[Psa 123:1 ESV] *1 A Song of Ascents. To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!*

JESUS OFTEN LIFTED UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN – LOOKING TO THE FATHER

[Jhn 6:3-13 ESV] *3 Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. 5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand*

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in number. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

[Jhn 17:1 ESV] *1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,*

PETER WALKED ON WATER WHEN HE HAD HIS EYES ON JESUS:

[Mat 14:22-33 ESV] *22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

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