

Miracles that follow the plow :: Honestly...

Honestly... - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/3/27 6:24

There comes times in our walk with Christ we have to get really honest. I work with police officers and many of the dialogue statements they use on the streets is "I am going to ask you some questions and your answers are real important in this matter as to whether or not you go to jail." I feel God is telling me that now, it feels kind of weird posting this but I feel this community of people on this forum is very supportive and is a people of prayer so I feel at least comfort in that.

Anyways I have been thinking about my walk with Christ and I feel I am at a stand still. I know more of the answers than I use to but I don't KNOW the answers for myself. Ask me and I can tell you from my intellect but experience is few and far between. As I struggle with this I question my salvation and motivation and everything that keeps me going in this walk. If Christ asked me Do you Love Me? If I was being honest I would have to reply "I most certainly like you a lot."

The searching never seems to stop and I fear that I will simply just grow weary from it all and stop all together and be a reprobate, I am reminded constantly of Gaius who simply fell in Love with the World and the things of it. At times I pray that the Lord would discipline me more harshly so I would wake up but either He wishes to show me something different or I am not His precious child like I once thought.

I'm selfish, unholy, ungodly, unrighteous, unworthy and though I know all of these things and pray Lord change me take away all the sin and pain and filth, my heart is unmoved and unchanged even be my tears and the wonderful blessing of Christ and His death for me. I feel I have been in Christianity for so long and not really knowing what it is and then to finally figure a small part out only to see I'm miles away from that reality.

I know many of you will quote scripture, which is fine, but I know the ones that already apply I just don't know how to unlock the truth of them for myself. Please pray for me and my salvation Thank you.

Sincerely,
Matthew

Re: Honestly... - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/3/27 6:49

Quote:
-----Please pray for me and my salvation Thank you.

Will do.

Re: Honestly..., on: 2011/3/27 7:31

Dear Matthew,

Quote:
-----selfish, unholy, ungodly, unrighteous, unworthy

I don't know whether to quote scripture or not, but the reality of your statement is why we are exhorted to 'look to Jesus, the Source and Perfecter of our faith'. (Source and Perfecter is Holman's NT.)

It is BECAUSE we are all that, that Christ died, and your awareness of it is BECAUSE you have the Holy Spirit working in you. This IS your 'salvation' being worked out. You are BEING SAVED.

But if you dwell on what you're like, instead of what Christ is like, it is its own form of idolatry. What does scripture repeatedly say about idols? And yet YOU are in God's image and HE is restoring you to His likeness.

Miracles that follow the plow :: Honestly...

You can make a decision to believe that He died for you in this condition, and decide to show Him how grateful you are for the rest of your life, or you can hang around moping what that's going to cost you in the process. That's a bit harsh, but it's a way of getting some perspective.

The really hard part is being saved 'now', and doing the thing 'now' which makes no provision for the flesh - the good things about being made in God's image, or the corruption of the flesh - pressing through the pain into the glory of identification with His selflessness, humanly speaking.

There was a time when I keenly felt the discrepancy you describe here,

Quote:

-----but experience is few and far between

until I decided consciously to believe Heb 10:14. That as far as God's concerned, I am already complete in Him through the Spirit, and my experience is playing catch-up. You would not even be aware of this discrepancy, if not for the Spirit of Truth in you.

There are two Carter Conlon audios I think you might enjoy. One is his testimony. The other is a very old sermon. I'm not promising these will be the dynamic end to your anxieties, but if you listen to glean just one word from the Lord to move you on, I'm CERTAIN He will feed you.

I would also recommend myutmost.org. Begin any date and day by day risk being even more undone by Oswald Chamber's struggle to put into words the way God has dealt with his own life, so that he might be a blessing to others.

Your heart is in the right place, and maybe there are strongholds you need to pull down, but we're all at the same thing, and believe me, God is very gentle and paced in His revelations to us of our blind spots - but there is never any excuse to hold on to them. The blood will purge away our stain if we but bring it to Him for washing.

He Lives in Me

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=2089>

Who are the Meek, and What do they Inherit?

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=1934> (

Re: Honestly... - posted by Enochh (), on: 2011/3/27 7:38

Matthew

Been a member here for a while. As you can see never felt a need to post. Been there done that and got the T shirt. I came out of years of the "word of faith" cult only to hear the real gospel later in life. I struggle to this day with the intellect of what I was taught (which was false). The main things I want to point out to you (and I won't send you to scripture as I know you know those verses) are 1) The fact that your heart breaks over sin is a sign of your nearness to the Lord. 2) We serve a Big God....He saw all this before you were born (heck before the world began for that matter), and what He allows in our life is to a. expose sin b. to mature us. Read so of the men who I have come to view as heroes. Jonathan Edwards, John Owen, A W Tozer, or Adoniram Judson.

None of these men, who I will never come remotely near to in my devotion, never thought they had "arrived".....many of them had major flaws like me. The difference between the five wise virgins and the five foolish...the sheep and the goats was "depart from Me...I never knew you"...Fellowship with Him, Fellowship with Him, Fellowship with Him...

Lord we are hungry for You make us more hungry
Lord we thirst for You make us more thirsty

Re: Honestly... - posted by mama27, on: 2011/3/27 7:55

I have been praying for you....will continue...

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/3/27 8:00

"depart from Me...I never knew you"

This phrase has always scared the living daylights out of me. How awful it would be to hear this uttered to you from the Lord Jesus. What makes me more scared about it is the fact that some people that will be told this may not even know the Lord.

How do you fellowship with God? I really want to know. It seems quite elementary and will likely require childlike simplicity that I see in my own children. When I was about 15 years old I would worship the Lord with my eyes closed and the whole world around me would disappear but someone commented on this and I let pride ruin that and so now when I worship, especially in public settings, I am always evaluating what I looked like, sounded like, etc etc. I wish I had that back, wreckless abandon to the Saviour and Lord.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/3/27 8:08

AtG I have been slowly coming to this very conclusion, It has to be Christ because I am a failure. A song I have often listened to and ended up crying is Tenth Avenue North's song "By Your Side"

Why are you striving these days?
Why are you trying to earn grace?
Why are you crying?
Let me lift up your face, just don't turn away

Why are you looking for love?
Why are you still searching as if I'm not enough?
To where will you go child?
Tell me where will you run, to where will you run?

'Cos I'll be by your side wherever you fall
In the dead of night whenever you call
And please don't fight these hands that are holding you
My hands are holding you

Look at these hands at my side
They swallowed the grave on that night
When I drank the world's sin
So I could carry you in and give you life
I wanna give you life

'Cause I, I love you, I want you to know
That I, yeah I love you, I'll never let you go
No, no

And I'll be by your side wherever you fall
In the dead of night whenever you call
And please don't fight these hands that are holding you
My hands are holding you.

I feel I am missing something very vital to the Christian walk, and I understand and will turn from making my condition an idol and praise the Lord for His CONDITION that He graciously has given and is working in me. I will listen to the two sermons when I have a chance to.

Re: Honestly..., on: 2011/3/27 8:46

Just because I became a Christian, and have been born again by His Holy Spirit, it does not mean that the evil SATANIC nature of my forefathers has vanished. It has not.

Like the Manna of Heaven in the wilderness, I cannot hold onto Divine love, or His Glory. At midnight I exult in the glory of Love unspeakable, and at 7am fantasize about lustful wickedness....over and over again.

If you have been born again, the Satanic Nature you possess will war against His Holy spirit, until the day you die...and are given a New Spiritual and Holy body standing in Heaven.

"The Flesh... wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh....so that I cannot do the things I would

This contains the nature of walking with God. We must bear a death to this nature. "If any man come after Me, let him DENY HIMSELF, PICK UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME!" Cross means death....Die; to be resurrected in His life.

Christianity is rewarded by who you become...not what you do. If we allow Him to slay us, to live to Him, daily, we will begin to look like Him. Our choice is to crucify ourselves, and follow Jesus by walking in the Spirit, or, as most do...crucify Jesus, and live to ourselves.

That is what vain religion accomplishes.

14." For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

17. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

19. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 Oh! Wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?!"

JESUS DID, BUT WE MUST BEAR OUR CROSS....TO KNOW HIM.

Re: , on: 2011/3/27 10:06

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

Did you experience this when you first came to Jesus?

Was there ever a time when the burden of your heart rolled away and you had such joy and peace and happiness that you thought you would just go crazy if you could not tell everyone you met, everyday about this Jesus?

The Cross is still your victory and relief from yourself, Satan and the world.

My best times of fellowship with the Lord have been when I was broken and contrite and looking to Him. He is near to them and He will not despise the broken and contrite.

Our eyes were given to us to look outward, not inward. Too much introspection and you will lose sight of Him.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;

Return to your first love.

Many are growing in Knowledge ABOUT Him but few are growing in knowledge OF Him. He will say to many "I never knew you", because they never knew Him.

You cannot know Him intimately, be safe and secure, resting from all your struggles and labors of self-improvement and introspection, if you leave the CROSS. The Cross and Jesus are inseparable and so should the Christian be.

No matter how "modern" and "emergent" Christianity becomes, you can never do away with the Cross.

Re: , on: 2011/3/27 11:08

Matthew

Hear the words of the Lord

2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works, or else I will come vnto thee quickly, and will remove thy Candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4WSe5tK_2Y&feature=player_embedded

Most cases of dryness are due to there being a secret idol in the heart. The Lord is giving you the chance to turn around and start on a new path where you no longer work in the flesh that is, your own strength and to enable you to tear down the idol.

Re: Honestly... - posted by narrowpath, on: 2011/3/27 12:01

God is showing you the abyss in your soul. I am praying for you...honestly!

Re: Honestly... - posted by InLove, on: 2011/3/27 12:02

Hi,

Is it strange that I seem to be going through the same struggle myself? I think not. I want to tell you about what I'm thinking about where I'm at and what I need to do and maybe it will help.

I have been a failer. I embraced my sin, I asked God to forgive it only to swin in it some more, but as a deeper look in my self, hating that I always gave in to my flesh, God convicted me with a message, not at my computer so I'll edit it in later, that made me qestion my mind. My walk in the world looked close to God and I thought about God as much as my mind could think about Him, but the conviction was my mind only thought evil. I somehow never seen this until now. I believe i n that moment God would not have taken me if He came at that moment. So I knew to try to fix that, I'm not going to go i n the details of how I'm doing that, but its getting better. Now since my focus is more where it should be.

I know I'm missing something though. Its just not there like I once knew it was. Words will not comfort my mind when I k now I'm missing something. That something is the fulness of the Holy Spirit. How full should it be in me? I'm not sure, bu t I won't stop until I can have it in full. I don't know how you searched when you came to God, but God came to me and I gave everything to search Him out and to just plainly know. I'm going back to that. At all cost, without the fulness of the Holy Spirit, Christ won't be able to come through me and convict, change, and save people. I can do nothing without Him so I'm determined to find that place where He can do it through me. I pray this helps you. We need power, but not of us. What will we do our sacrifice to find that?

In Love,
Joe

Re: Honestly ... , on: 2011/3/27 14:34

Hi Matthew, I appreciate your response and openness.

I had had a thought after I posted, which, in the Lord's goodness, you yourself have picked up on, probably not realising just how important it is.

I know you've got worship in your bones, because of being invited to a worship leader's position - and which I indirectly warned against taking. Why? Because the worship Leader Himself, is in every believer. This breakthrough into praise, is Christ's declaration, after He has cried 'It is finished'!

Quote:

-----and praise the Lord

Everything should be 'and praise the Lord', as Horatius Bonar so well expressed in the hymn I posted (Today I'm praisin g thread) very recently. I had never heard the hymn sung, but have tried to learn the words now, so as to be carried by t hem closer to that end. This is what the apostle Paul recommended as a way of being refilled by the Spirit daily. It may be against the flesh and the unrenewed mind, but it is most surely spiritually intuitive (as opposed to counter-intuitive).

That's why the person who commented on your youthful abandonment to the Lord was definitely not speaking either with His permission, or His mind. It made you self-conscious. That's exactly what the enemy of your soul intended, and no matter who it was who said what they did, it was not to the glory of God on their part nor yours. You do have to get bac k to that place, because it is there that you will know again the water of life springing up to satisfy not only your own soul, but in a vital way, blessing thirsty others. There is a sense in which it never comes naturally, but, you can discipline you rself for Christ's sake to lay aside all concern about your image in the sight of the world, or those who espouse its values . When you open your mouth it is to HIM, and, publicly to lift up His Name in the midst of the congregation, to the congr egation.

Re: Honestly..., on: 2011/3/27 14:40

Quote:
-----If Christ asked me Do you Love Me? If I was being honest I would have to reply "I most certainly like you a lot."

Be even more honest, you really don't know what you would say. Most likely you will blurt out what Peter said, "Yes Lord , I do".

The reason why you will say yes is because where those words originate is from your new spirit man, NOT your mind. This world hates Christ because they are of another spirit. But you and I are of another Spirit as well, His Spirit.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

You are a brand new creation, Old things are past away behold all things have become new. The issue here is not about you believing your salvation is real, or about answering the questions that have plagued your mind, these are just symptoms of discouragement. The real issue is do you believe what is written about Him and what He has done for YOU.

And I know that you do. You are just discouraged and we all have been there in more ways than one. What you are lacking is wisdom and knowledge, you will need to dig in your heels and seek the Lord for some answers. I am glad that you have come to a standstill, would to God that we all were at this standstill so we can shake ourselves of the lethargy that permeates this generation.

I've been where you are at and the answers will come as we seek His face.

Let me attempt to interpret what it means to seek His face.

It's to get His attention, it's so that you can get Him to look upon you and take seriously your petitions and requests. When we seek Him, first, He HAS heard us speak! Secondly, He waits if you are serious and when you press in, faith is ignited. Sometimes the petition is answered immediately, others may take a few days while others may take longer depending on how much work the Lord has to perform in the background, "working out all things for our good".

"He that keeps asking receiveth"
"He that keeps knocking the door will be opened unto him"
"He that keeps seeking shall find"

Re: Honestly..., on: 2011/3/27 16:24

Honestly, THANK GOD that you feel this way.

If anyone doesn't - they need to be prayed for.

HE IS shaking everything that can be shaken and Praise our LORD that He doesn't want us to stay where we are at. He desires constant growth. A constant sense of where we're lacking - but not in a condemning way, but as the mother eagle begins to take parts of the nest apart to get her babes to begin to fly - so GOD is not allowing any of His own to feel "comfortable" just where we are but is striving with us to go "Deeper Still". Striving as Jacob strove on the mount, at times. Some have the limp to prove it - but yet - that doesn't ever mean that the work is complete. No - not until we See Him.

I worry more about those who don't see their state. To me it signals that they have never been in His Awesome drop-on-to-your-face-like-a-dead-man Presence. What dropped these men of GOD in His Presence? His Holiness compared to ours.

I just hear for myself and whomever - "Seek Him all the more" - despite how many super-natural experiences we've had - or how He's used us in the past - or how much we've lived for Him for many years - Nothing past this next second matters.... He needs to bring us into much much more than we ever gave Him credit for. Beyond our own proudful imaginations - because it all involves deep-deep humbling, beyond what our minds have ever conceived of.

We should be praying for each other. We will all need it.

Re: Honestly..., on: 2011/3/27 17:02

WHAT, Lord, is the trust which I have in this life, or what is my greatest comfort among all the things that appear under heaven? Is it not You, O Lord, my God, Whose mercies are without number? Where have I ever fared well but for You? Or how could things go badly when You were present? I had rather be poor for Your sake than rich without You. I prefer rather to wander on the earth with You than to possess heaven without You. Where You are there is heaven, and where You are not are death and hell. You are my desire and therefore I must cry after You and sigh and pray. In none can I fully trust to help me in my necessities, but in You alone, my God. You are my hope. You are my confidence. You are my comforter, most faithful in every need.

All seek their own interests. You, however, place my salvation and my profit first, and turn all things to my good. Even though exposing me to various temptations and hardships, You Who are accustomed to prove Your loved ones in a thousand ways, order all this for my good. You ought not to be loved or praised less in this trial than if You had filled me with heavenly consolations.

In You, therefore, O Lord God, I place all my hope and my refuge. On You I cast all my troubles and anguish, because whatever I have outside of You I find to be weak and unstable. It will not serve me to have many friends, nor will powerful helpers be able to assist me, nor prudent advisers to give useful answers, nor the books of learned men to console, nor any precious substance to win my freedom, nor any place, secret and beautiful though it be, to shelter me, if You Yourself do not assist, comfort, console, instruct, and guard me. For all things which seem to be for our peace and happiness are nothing when You are absent, and truly confer no happiness.

You, indeed, are the fountain of all good, the height of life, the depth of all that can be spoken. To trust in You above all things is the strongest comfort of Your servants.

My God, the Father of mercies, to You I look, in You I trust. Bless and sanctify my soul with heavenly benediction, so that it may become Your holy dwelling and the seat of Your eternal glory. And in this temple of Your dignity let nothing be found that might offend Your majesty. In Your great goodness, and in the multitude of Your mercies, look upon me and listen to the prayer of Your poor servant exiled from You in the region of the shadow of death. Protect and preserve the soul of Your poor servant among the many dangers of this corruptible life, and direct him by Your accompanying grace, through the ways of peace, to the land of everlasting light.

(Thomas Kempis)

Re: , on: 2011/3/28 0:06

Hi Matthew,

If you take some time and look into the 3 times that God called men in the Old Testament by their first name twice and the 3 times in the New Testament that He called men (generically speaking) by their first name twice, I think the Lord will show you what you need to know. Take special notice to their situation at the time when He called their names TWICE. This will weave together a good teaching for you in your present state in life.

The 3 men in the OT.

Abraham
Moses
Samuel

The 3 men in the NT.

Martha
Simon Peter
Saul

God bless,
777

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/3/28 4:54

"Was there ever a time when the burden of your heart rolled away and you had such joy and peace and happiness that you thought you would just go crazy if you could not tell everyone you met, everyday about this Jesus?"

I don't think so, I have had moments of peace but there are things of my past that I seem to hold on to despite my knowledge of Christ Jesus and His work on Calvary, I can't say I have had times of going crazy if I couldn't tell someone about Jesus. I have at one time been quite zealous for religion but it only turned people away because I didn't know the Gospel and it seems the Gospel turns a lot of people away.

I have witnessed to my nonchristian friends who were at the curious state and just being able to talk about Christ Jesus and Christianity. I have never experienced that exuberant experience of joy that I couldn't help but share Christ. I am an introvert but oddly enough my strongest times of sharing the Gospel is when I would preach every once in a while on some Sundays. But for the most part I am probably a poor example of an "evangelistic" person.

I am not sure if that is for all Christians or not I just assumed and believed that God uses our personalities and strong suits to help spread the Word.

I have come to Christ and I know He has been Faithful to me, I believe I am being discouraged because I am not faithful to Him. When I came to Christ for the first time (about 2 years ago) I came into contact with His Incredible Holiness and my incredible depravity, since then I have learned of His mercy, justice, Righteousness, and Love but I still feel hollow on the inside sorrowful even. I know this walk is an uphill climb I thank you all for your prayers, I still don't know the Fellowship of Christ that brings me great joy but I know the fellowship that completely humbles me so at least I still have that.

Re: - posted by nasekom (), on: 2011/3/28 6:18

wow, brother... reading your posts in this thread and thinking...i thought i was the only one feeling this way and having these experiences. appreciate your honesty brother. thank you for sharing. i'll pray for you.

Re: , on: 2011/3/28 9:33

Hey Matt,

Your honesty is refreshing. You'll get down the road a lot faster and farther, with that attitude.

One reason that I said to look into those men and women, (3 in the OT and 3 in the NT), is because they all had to come to the point of learning about the things of the spirit and the flesh, the natural man. And they had to come to an end of **themselves** and step out and trust God and learn of His ways.

As the heavens are high above the earth, so are His ways high above ours.

It's a great study and I am sure the Lord will speak something helpful to you.

Re: - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2011/3/28 12:38

mguldner,

I have noticed that your answer to the question that anonymous777 asked was no.

To put it simply, If you have never eaten the flesh of the Son of man and drunk His blood, You are Not saved. All the humility and honesty you may possess will count for nothing.

However, being honest and humble are a must. Those who want to be delivered must come to God with absolute honesty and humility. The problem is that many never advance any further than this to obtain real salvation.

You must eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood. When you do, you will know it and will not need to post a thread here to get the affirmation of man that will count for nothing on the day of Judgment.

Don't be like many who merely had some crackers and juice, made a mental consent to the biblical facts. I am not talking about a Catholic communion service but I am talking about the salvation experience.

Salvation is a real and tangible experience. it is not merely head knowledge of what Jesus did on the cross for you.

Shut yourself in with God as if you have only one day to live and insist on getting confirmation from him. Ask him to save you and fill you with the Holy Spirit. You will know it when it happens.

Re: Honestly... - posted by ccchhhrrriiss () , on: 2011/3/28 12:52

My wife and I will be praying for you, Matthew.

I would simply remind you that God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). All of the wonderful things that He has shown you...or done for you...was done from His timeless perspective in Eternity.

God didn't waste His efforts on you. He must know of the things that He has in store for you if you "faint not."

Be encouraged, dear brother! He is God on the mountain tops...and the God who is with us through the valleys (including the valley of the shadow of death). There are seasons...and I pray that you will yield fruit in season.

We are praying for you.

Psalms 18

Re: - posted by mguldner () , on: 2011/3/29 1:10

Thank you untobabes for your honesty, I am uncertain if I have ate of His flesh and drank of His blood, can you please tell me how? I do desire salvation and I believe if I don't have then God is bringing me to that place, Not of my works but through sheer grace that I don't deserve. I also highly doubt I have ever been baptised in the Holy Spirit. Listening to Carter Conlon's testimony pretty well opened me to this by listening to his experience with the Holy Spirit.

I desire to dance like a madman for Christ like David did when the Ark of the Covenant was placed in Jerusalem. I know salvation is tangible and real which is why David proclaims in his psalms "OH TASTE and SEE that the LORD IS GOOD ." My prayer now is Christ would open my blind eyes and moisten my dry tongue to do these things.

Re: - posted by UntoBabes () , on: 2011/3/30 12:39

mguldner,

I was thinking about sending a private message but maybe it would help some other searching soul if posted here.

I actually struggle with the same things you do.

I started listening to sermons on revival about two years ago. That was eye opening because I discovered that what I possessed may not be actual salvation. I loved Jesus with all my heart, and even suffered for Him, but I have never actually come to the point where I saw Him in my soul hanging on the cross for my personal sins. I have never had a conviction of sin as described in those accounts I have never come to a point where I felt condemned by God and hanging as it were by a spiders thread ready to fall in everlasting torment.

I know that every person has a unique experience of salvation but I truly think that there ought to be a common theme when one is confronted with the holiness of God.

So, I went on my search for these missing essential elements. I asked God to save me if I was not saved. and if I was, to save me some more, to the utter most.

I knew there were things in me that were not saved, insensitivities, lack of zeal, lack of fervent prayer, lack of love and concern for the lost, selfishness,...and the list goes on.

I knew that God saves from these things and If I in my sinful state did not like them, then God must hate and abhor them as much as He is holier, and righteous than I.

Why then was He silent? Why was He not confronting me and demanding that I would repent?

Was I getting closer to that dividing line that marks the difference between the destiny of mankind to glory or despair, wh

ere everything is at ease until that day of great surprises when we will face the Lord.

As I began to pray, God began to show me things I didn't realise I did. A promise I made to him 16 years ago when I was n't even saved , but I went to a church and lit some candles and promised God if He answered my prayers on a certain matter, i will give Him my life. He did answer, but I completely forgot about that promise.

He began to show me things I didn't know about myself, sins I thought I had victory over, only they manifested themselves in other forms because the root was still there.

I had never known that salvation cost so much. The moment my knees hit the floor now tears of gratitude of God's mercy and remorse of my short comings starts flowing that can go on for hours at a time.

The other day I went shopping in Walmart and insisted on a certain color on the bed comforter that I really liked. I got what I wanted, but when I got home I felt awful like the most wretched sinner and rightfully so. We think sin is committing the big things, but sin is any area in us that is not fully surrendered to the Lordship of Christ.

I am still on my journey, but just wanted you to know that sometimes we can be blinded and God will let us go on in our blindness until we stop everything we are doing and say: Something is wrong! I am living as if I am god. Yes I claim His name and pray, I give to the poor and go to church, I submit to His Word in the most part. But only until we ask God to reveal to us how He sees us for who we really are, we can go on to the point of no return.

Some have already passed that point to a dead conscience in the name of grace. They say: Yes, I am living in sin, but praise be to God for seeing me through the finished work of Christ. I am covered in his righteousness. I am under grace and not under the law. As they sleep on their beds of adultery thinking that every time God is trying to see what they are doing, His holy eyes sees them covered with the blanket of the blood of Jesus, and therefore, His wrath is subsided.

I believe God is working with you, because you are aware of your sin, but friend, this is only the beginning.

Tell God that you are not satisfied with where you are at. you want to go deeper, you want Him to point out to you actual sins to repent of and forsake, and be forgiven in the blood of His dear Son. You will be amazed what He will reveal to you. But do not be afraid, He will never reveal anything to you that He is not willing to forgive. God does not reveal our sins to us because He enjoys to condemn us but because He wants to be our Father, He wants to have a relationship with us that is not hindered by sin. But God is Holy, and stubborn. He will never lower His standards for any one including Jesus himself, who although He was a Son, learned obedience by the things which He suffered, Gird yourself, therefore, with His same mind, which was also in Christ.

The seal of salvation is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is something you can not miss, you will know when you have it. Even if you know for sure that you are saved but you are not filled with the Holy Spirit, you have reasons to think that your salvation is not complete. The Holy Spirit is Jesus Himself living in us. If we can do nothing without Him, then how can we live our salvation without being filled with the Holy Spirit.

God Bless you Matt. You have a truly humble spirit. There are many praying for you including me. I need your prayers also. Praise that God would give me a heart that loves him above all, free from the lust of this world.

Re: Honestly... - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/3/31 1:57

I prayed for you earlier today, and then later, as I was reading Deuteronomy, you came to mind. "The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways." - Deuteronomy 28:9. And then it occurred to me that the music that you listen to might be getting in the way.

That which we see, and hear, is a partaking of sorts - and much that is in the world today is pure poison.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/3/31 5:32

Heartsong I just gotta love you for that, I have prayed fervently about the topic of music and I got to say the heart behind it is what matters. I understand your concern but I don't even really listen to "heavy" Christian Rock. However it is my conviction that God is glorified apart from musical style but is glorified in the attitude and intentions of those playing the music and the lyrical content in itself. You don't know the intentions of the heart of every Christian artist do you? I don't think that is your place to judge.

As for my salvation being hindered by music? I am would doubt for the songs I listen to most are about salvation and coming to Christ and our beautiful relationship with the Father. I do appreciate your post but what exalts Christ is hardly poised for a Kingdom divided can't possibly stand. If Satan were in the music he would surely change the God Glorifying words as well. BUT If you wish to further discuss this I would gladly continue it in the Music(debate) thread.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/3/31 5:43

Untobabes thank you for your post and testimony, Also thank you for all who are praying it is greatly appreciated. I have found encouragement not only from you but from sitting quietly reading the Psalms of David and being in prayer.

I know its a long road and a lonely one at that and I am just glad I have others of like mind that are here to encourage me down the proper road. I have found that perfection is in Christ alone and His work on the cross and that I too must cling to the beloved Cross OR else my flesh will rise up. I am still seeking to be enveloped in the Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ or Baptised in the Holy Spirit. In searching I found the way of the cross is one of humility and self denial. The narrow way means being wronged even when I could rightfully take my brother to court that its better to turn the other cheek. For the longest time I have been fascinated by the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle and for some time I had been trying to live it on my own BUT Christ has shown me I am not worthy to walk this path without Him and His righteous blood to atone. I now know I need Him above all else and its not of my own but only because HE is in me working out my salvation from glory to glory.

I know I may at times fall into the swamp of despair as Christian did in the Pilgrim's Progress but I refuse to be like Mr. Pilgrim and return to the town of destruction.

Continue praying for me at this swamp is a deep one but Christ is my shelter in whom I take refuge and He is my vindicator, my strength, my source, my strong tower.

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2011/3/31 7:47

Untobabes, I thank you for your post as well, and for your transparency. Your experience has been mine also - it is a continual giving up, and giving up, and giving up. It is the laying down of my desire to be god in my own life. The more we know of Christ, and the more He reveals to us, the more we realize we don't know Him. It is that analogy of the peeling away the layers of the onion. Painful as it is, praise God that He is faithful, even when we are not.

Mguldner, I have been praying for you, and will continue...

Re: Honestly..., on: 2011/3/31 10:53

This is how Oswald Chambers describes the process - 'continuous conversion'!

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?forum=45&topic_id=36744&post_id=271062&viewmode=thread&order=0#271062

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/3/31 13:26

Quote:

-----You don't know the intentions of the heart of every Christian artist do you? I don't think that is your place to judge.

Back when the LORD was sorting through what He would have me to hear, and what He would have me not to hear, I loaded Whitney Houston's "Jesus Loves Me" on my computer. Later, when I went to bed, He had me get up and delete it off of my computer before I could rest. Later I found out what she had become.

I do not know the intentions of the artists hearts, but the LORD does, and clearly it does matter to Him. And while I do not know if these things affect our eternal salvation, I do know that they affect our communion with the LORD.

I care about you and would have it that you be safely wrapped in His ever loving arms. That is why I prayed, and that is why I replied and brought forth what He put upon my heart.

God bless you and keep you.

EDIT: The LORD does not like my comment about my not knowing if these things affect our eternal salvation - and it has to do with Jericho.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/4/1 1:30

I know you care, and I really do appreciate your prayers. I know they are from a heart that is full of Love for the Lord, I meant no disrespect to you if you were offended by my post. I know your intentions and heart are pure on the matter. The music that I listen to encourages me to keep pressing on into the Lord through His grace. I too desire to be in His loving arms and pray the same for you. Thank you for your prayers! I am opening back up to the Lord as I understand His character more and more each day.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/4/1 16:52

Quote:

-----The music that I listen to encourages me to keep pressing on into the Lord through His grace.

Is He not sufficient in and of Himself?

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/4/1 17:55

I was just listening to Art Katz, and he mentioned that before the walls of Jericho fell, they first had to march around it in silence.

K-463 Death and Resurrection of Israel (1 of 2) by Art Katz

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=21908&commentView=itemComments>

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/4/2 1:03

"Is He not sufficient in and of Himself?"

Well tell me, do you listen to sermons? Or even read the bible? If so isn't Christ sufficient enough to sustain you in and of Himself? Seriously we listen to sermons, read the bible, and listen to music all of these aren't directly for encouragement but it is a wonderful biproduct, the of course Prime Product is to Glorify Christ Jesus. I will gladly listen to the sermon you suggested THANKS! :)

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/4/2 7:54

At times I feel in reverse, and everytime God reveals my wickedness my only thoughts are "welp looks like Im going back to basics" I am content with this because I found my religious mind set made me think I was much further than what I really am. Also I believe still and hope and pray by going back to the basics I will discover what is missing that has left me so despairing.

Re: Honestly ... , on: 2011/4/2 8:11

Quote:

-----I found my religious mind set made me think I was much further than what I really am.

Brother, this truth is the same for all of us.

God is primitive, and until we enter into a rawness with Him, we will escape the rigours of His love.

This thread has been challenging to me, because He has been dealing with me in a very deep place, which I had unconsciously hidden - mostly from myself - for a very long time, even though with my head, I should have been able to work out that it was there.

For me, it is times like this that I KNOW I am in His gentle hands, being carefully carried over every jagged rock underfoot. He has known us from eternity, and doesn't really need our pleading to reveal Himself. Rather, it is we who must to grapple with 'the world' to consciously separate ourselves from the deceptions of its culture and value systems, which cannot but permeate our thinking in every unrenewed part of our lives. The truth comes as a shock, but it is glorious!

1 John 2:16 For all that in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world.