

Articles and Sermons :: Transparency in Christ

Transparency in Christ - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2011/12/27 23:28

To be transparent is to walk with an undefiled conscience and pure heart. Walking in a state of repentance and mortification ensures such transparency, because both are predicated upon honesty – the one thing God values above all else in His saints.

Dear saint, it doesn't matter how many times you've failed or made a mess of your life; if you can this day accept sole responsibility for your sins, wholly take the blame, and say "I am the man" with brokenness and sorrow over your yet unmortified passions, I tell you, there is no limit to what God will do in your life. Just be honest with Him, be utterly transparent. Own your sin, bewail your failure, cry out for God to make you more like Jesus Christ. I started down this path some years ago. I resolved to make transparency continually my heartcry and to be ruthlessly honest with God about my depravity.

Well, things got a lot worse before they got better. The Lord brought a firestorm of trials and temptations into my life, and they began to peel off all the layers of holiness and security I had been clinging to. I was brought to utter ruin and despair. I told God that it was impossible, that the Christian life was totally impossible to live out. For refuge, I turned back to the onions and leeks of Egypt, if only to get my mind off God and my indefatigable wretchedness. Indulging in sin just made it worse, for as a wise Puritan once said, "Satan's apples all have worms in them."

God's Spirit was on me like a bloodhound. I can't tell you how many times I cried myself to sleep as I lay next to my wife and children late at night. My life was beyond wretched and I was a perfect failure. Truth be told, I had suicidal notions; the powers of darkness took advantage of my situation and started injecting fatalistic thoughts into my head.

When at last it became clear that God was not going to forsake me, grace to renew the cry for victory and purity suddenly arose in my soul. Some months after this renewal of hope, the Lord delivered me from all the strongholds, cleansed me completely, baptized me in Holy Spirit and gave me the authority to minister this truth unto others with the same comfort the Lord had given me. In addition, He showed me how to maintain the purity of heart and conscience by the practice of holy mortification led by the Spirit.

This is the blessed order: God first delivers, cleanses, fills with the Spirit, and then He teaches you how to keep the heart clean via mortification. One thing God showed me is that it is better to keep a cleansed home clean, than it is to always have to clean up a dirty home. Mortification in the Holy Spirit by the blood of Christ is the daily maintenance that keeps a cleansed home clean.

Mortification is going to the throne of grace each minute of every hour of the day to fetch power from God to put to death the unchristlike deeds of the body and take captive the unchristlike thoughts of the mind. God's will for us is perfect victory in these areas, all day every day. But He has made provision that if we fail, we have the immediate power of the cleansing blood of Christ that operates by true repentance and faith – by being totally honest with God concerning our woeful estate. In a moment, you can be restored and put back on the pathway of victory and led into deeper battles of mortification. The house need never get trashed; it can be cleansed instantly, as soon as a fingerprint smudge appears on a window.

- Brother Paul

<http://understandingmortification.wordpress.com/>

Re: Transparency in Christ - posted by Compton (), on: 2011/12/27 23:44

A wonderfully uplifting word Paul.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2011/12/28 23:14

Thank you brother. My prayer is that many be uplifted and influenced to go on unto perfection with Jesus.

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2011/12/28 23:51

Thank you brother.

Re: Transparency in Christ - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/12/29 6:19

Bro Paul,

Amen. One of the many Scriptures that pierce my heart is Psalm 51:3-4a: For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight...

Thank you for the word this morning,
God bless,
Lisa

Re: Transparency in Christ - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/12/29 7:07

Brother Paul,

Thank you so much for this personal testimony that will help many of the saints that have gone through various experiences of defeat and failure where it seems like all hope is gone.

Just this morning as I was having my morning coffee praying and meditating on the Lord, it was brought back to my remembrance the many Christians that I have known since the early 70's that at one time were on fire for the Lord but are now totally backslid. My wife and I prayed this morning for those that have wandered away from the Father's house and are now in a critical situation as they are in a far country eating with the pigs, starving for a little spiritual nourishment. Then the thought came to me that if it wasn't for the faithfulness of the Lord and His keeping power then I could be one of those prodigals.

Many years ago I went through a long period of time in which I was being overcome by a besetting sin. This was so grievous to me that I told the Lord that I would rather die than continue on living this way. Praise God that deliverance came and I was restored back into fellowship with the Lord.

Paul, I appreciate what you have shared on mortification, because it doesn't matter how far we have advanced in the things of God, we must on a daily basis deny ourselves and take up our cross, claiming our position of Romans 6 being dead to sin through the death of Christ but alive to God through His resurrection life.

As you have mentioned, a vital key in maintaining our fellowship with God is in having a conscience that is void of offense toward God and man. Only the blood of Jesus can purge our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. We must be completely honest with God about our sins and failures, but we can't live in the past. We must keep our eyes on Jesus so that we can finish the race and obtain the prize forgetting those things that are behind.

Praise God that He is able to keep us from falling and to preserve us unto His heavenly kingdom.

Mike

Re: - posted by Elibeth, on: 2011/12/29 8:05

Good morning ,

And I am truly blessed this morning to hear these testimonies.

The testimony of Jesus,...encouraging..refreshing,
...remembering how Paul was saying,' he was refreshed by the saints,'
We,too are refreshed.

' They overcame by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the words of their testimony,and they loved not their lives unto death.

Elizabeth