

Understanding Spiritual Breakthroughs

Moving from Confusion/Complacency to Confidence/Commitment.

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Apr. 11 AM

Reflection: Jesus' first synagogue message (in Luke 4:16-21) was from Isaiah 61:1-3 in which he read a prophecy about the purposes for which God sent him. Is.61:3 tells us that God's trying to develop his people to become like *"Trees of Righteousness... that He might be glorified."*

All Trees must begin as seeds, and go through the process of growth; resulting in eventual "fruit". (See Jn 15:1-16) In every successful journey we need to know/identify:

Where we're starting from; Where we want to end up (go); A map (plan) to get there;

How to identify probable obstacles; and How to overcome (navigate) them.

Direction: Everyone starts the journey of Faith from the same basic point. God calls this the condition "The Natural man" in 1 Cor. 2:17 and describes this condition as:

1. **LOST** Mt 18:11; Luke 19:10 *"the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"*

Apol'ymyi: translated perish (33x); destroy (26x); Lose/lost (31x)

A. Jesus told 3 parables in Luke 15 illustrate this.

1) Lost Sheep. Vs 1-7 (Lost foolishly)

2) Lost Coin Vs 8-10 (Lost carelessly)

3) Lost Son. Vs 11-32 (Lost intentionally: aka: Wilfully walked away!)

B. God rejoices when the lost are found!

1) Lost Sheep Luke 15:6 *"Rejoice with me; I've found my sheep which was lost."*

2) Lost Coin 9 *"...Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost."*

3) Lost Son 22-24 *"let us eat, and be merry:... For this my son was lost, and is found!"*

2. **BLIND** 2 Cor 4:3-4 *"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not"*

A. God must intervene 2 Cor 4:6 *"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

B. Jesus illustrated this in Jn 9:39-41 *"For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which (think they) see might be made blind."*

3. **DEAD** Eph. 2:1-5 *"you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"*

A. God warned of this. Gen. 2:17 *"for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*

Ro. 6:23 *"The wages of sin is death.."*

Ezek. 18:4,20 *"The soul that sineth, It shall die"*

B. This death is more than physical!

1) Death means separation. Is. 59:1,2

a) Physical death separates the soul & Body. Eccl 12:7 *"Then shall the dust return to the earth... and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."*

b) Spiritual death separates the soul from God. Is. 59:2 *"your iniquities have separated between you and your God"*

Remember Luke 16:22 *"the rich man died... 23 and in hell he lifted up his eyes being in torment..."*

This is what the final judgment seat of Rev. 20:11-15 is all about!

C. Only Jesus can help. John 11:25-44 *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:...* 26 *Believest thou this?*"

Conclusion:

1 Cor. 2:14 *"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: neither can he (she) know them, because they are spiritually...1) Lost 2) Blind 3) Dead*

This is where we ALL start our spiritual journey! (See Eph. 2:1-3)

1) Since We're naturally Lost, We won't "Stumble" across God! (Isaiah 55:6-9)

We need the Good Shepherd *"to seek and to save that which was lost"* Luke 19:10

John 14:6 *"I am the way..."*

2) Since we're naturally Blind we need The Great Physician (Is. 53:5,6) to heal us.

Jn 8:12 *"I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

John 14:6 *"I am the ... Truth"*

3) Since we're (spiritually) dead we need the Risen Savior to give us life. Jn 11:25

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:..."

26 *Believest* (pisteuo: to trust, commit) *thou this?*

John 14:6 *"I am the way... truth... and the life!"* (See Eph. 2:1-5)

Application:

Our Faith journey begins when we receive the "seed of the gospel" into our hearts. 1 Pt 1:23

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, ut of incorruptible, by the word of God..."

Either you've been "born again" (Jn 3:3; 1 Pt. 1:23) Or Spiritually you're still:

Lost (Luke 19:10); Blind (2 Cor. 4:4-6); Dead (Eph. 2:1-3)

Eph 2:8 *"by grace* (charis: God's influence on our hearts, and it's manifestation in and through our lives. {Aka: fruit! Isaiah 61:3; Jn 15:8})

are ye saved (sozo: healed, delivered, from being lost, blind, dead)

through faith; (pistis: persuasion, trust) *and that not of yourselves:*

it is the gift of God:" (dōron: sacrifice, gift, offering see Jn. 3:16)

9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.* 10 *For we are his workmanship,* (Poi'ēma: tapestry) *created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*



John 14:6 *"I am the way* (for the lost), *the truth* (for the blind), *the life* (for the dead). *No one comes to the Father, but by me."*

Heb 3:7-8 *"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith) To day, if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts,"*

How have you responded to His invitation?

Heb. 2:3 "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"