

In this article I am stating that God is Spirit and that as people relate to God spiritually they are empowered to live their best lives

BACKGROUND

First, let us consider: what is our best life? God formed humans and breathed Himself into them. Humans chose to live life on their own terms. The tree of life was taken from them and they died spiritually. They lost their God breathed relationship with God. People have been trying to live life on their own terms; and by doing so, they have existed in conflict with their own unfulfilled expectations and the combined multiplied billions of unfulfilled expectations earth's human population. In the midst of this chaos God still breathes Himself into people who answer His call to stop resisting Him and to return to Him.

Many people attempt to live life on their own terms while they attempt to live in relationship with God. The effect of this complication is an attempt to claim with one's mouth alignment with the perfect One, God while doing things that God disapproves. God does not incorporate a person's bad decisions into God's good decisions. God does not compromise truth. Therefore, by default, the person seeking connection with God while living life on their own terms is left with a **professed** relationship with God in which **God is not present**.

At this point, I find it necessary to say, God is married to the backslider, God is both loving and forgiving. God is patient and longsuffering. But, God will not embrace evil, no matter who practices it. It is at this point we replace God with some element of good and rationalize that we have given God our best. However, this good that we do after satisfying our own ambitions is not God; it is our version of good as we have chosen to understand good and evil.

The tension people feel as they attempt to do good without God creates infinite contradictions and complications. God stands before humanity and beckons us back to the original state in which humanity was designed to exist living in the image of God. People find it difficult to satisfy the requirements of satisfying their own ambitions, the pressures of their environments while realizing that they are not connected to the God the claim to serve. In the midst of these contradictions God says, "come and lay your head on my chest, **My requirements are easy and my work is light.**

MAIN BODY

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. (Proverbs 13:2)

She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her. (Proverbs 3:18)

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. (Proverbs 11:30)

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4)

The tree of life was taken away from humanity in the Garden of Eden. The imagery of the Tree of Life is tied to wisdom in Proverbs.

Purpose of the Mystery (Ephesians 8-13)

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 10)

Note: Heavenly places does not refer to heaven in the sense of it being the destined home of the redeemed. Rather, the Greek word here refers to the invisible realm that surrounds our present daily situation, the arena or sphere of spiritual action and activity. Christ's authority, which encompasses every age and exceeds every known power, is here and now.

According to the **eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

The Whole Amore of God (Ephesians 6:10 – 20)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.