

I Want MORE (Part 9)

Sunday, April 16, 2023
10:30 AM

We began by asking...

1. Do I BELIEVE MORE is AVAILABLE?
2. Do I DESIRE MORE in MY LIFE?
3. Am I WILLING to MAKE ROOM for MORE?
4. WHAT will I ASK God for MORE OF?

So far we have sought to answer the desire for more with these suggestions...

I WANT MORE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

I WANT MORE TRUST AND PEACE

I WANT MORE FRUIT

I WANT MORE RECOGNITION OF WHO JESUS IS

I WANT MORE ANOINTING

I WANT MORE SOULS FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

I WANT MORE OF THE CALL OF GOD FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

I WANT MORE RIGHTEOUSNESS (HOLINESS AND GODLINESS)

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

1 Peter 1:13-16

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.””

The first thing that I want us to take away from these scriptures today is the intensity of desire for Righteous, Godliness and Holiness to which Jesus called us to and which was affirmed throughout the rest of the New Testament

Hunger and thirst... An intense desire for more

Seek first... An intense desire for more

BE HOLY in ALL that you do... An intense desire for more

But beyond that, and in order to fill that intense desire; there are 4 components of Righteousness, Godliness, and Holiness that we need to understand.

We Must Understand that Righteousness is Imparted

Now some people will make a distinction between Imparted Righteousness and Imputed Righteousness; the latter meaning...

“to instantly credit to one’s account.”

While...

Imparted means, “to give daily from one’s abundance to another.”

Imputed takes place instantly; imparted takes place continually, even for a lifetime.

The point is that what we have doesn’t come from ourselves but from another.

Romans 3:9-12

9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 3:22-23

22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

And Paul said...

Philippians 3:9

9 {I want to} be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

In the case of Righteousness, Holiness and Godliness, it does not first come from ourselves but it is given to us by God, through faith in the atoning work of Christ on the Cross. We are justified, or made right with God, through our faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ. Both instantly when we are saved and continually as we continue to walk in relationship with him.

What we must not forget though is God's call for our participation

Note again what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 5... "That we might become" - indicating potential and possibility.

Note again God's call for us "to BE Holy"

Note again Jesus' call to hunger and thirst for righteousness and to seek righteousness

We Must Believe in Righteousness

Knowing that there is a standard of righteousness (Holiness and Godliness) that is defined by God's word and applied to our lives through the teaching correction and conviction of the Holy Spirit as we walk-in in humble obedience to His ways.

The Purpose of the Word

2 Timothy 3:16

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

When Peter declared that we are to BE HOLY he was quoting from the law. There are those who think the law has no meaning for our lives today and in the sense of saving us or making us free from sin, that is correct. But reading a bit further in Matthew 5:6 - where Jesus states "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness and prior to his teaching in Matthew 6:33 to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" - Jesus declares

Matthew 5:17-20

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Because God's Law teaches what is right and true and holy.

The Holy Spirit's Job

John 16:8-11

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

John 16:13

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

But If we don't believe that there is a righteous standard to which He has called us to live by - the absolute moral truth of God - we will never submit ourselves to it

I like what Don Stamps, author of the Full Life Study Bible, says in his preface.

"During the past number of years I have written with an increasing assurance that the Holy Spirit is not confined to the pages of Scripture, but that he wants to act today as he did in Bible times. The Spirit has come to remain personally with God's people and his abiding presence is to be manifested in righteousness and power. In and through the church, God's spirit desires to work in the same manner as he did in the earthly ministry of Jesus and continued to do in the apostolic church of the first century."

"The church will fully experience the original kingdom power and life in the Holy Spirit only as it seeks with all of its heart the righteousness and holiness set forth by God in the NT as his standard and will for all believers. Kingdom power and kingdom righteousness go together; they cannot be separated. Jesus states that God's kingdom consists of both power and righteousness. Thus the way to the fullness of God's kingdom with all its redemptive power is found in sincere faith in and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and in a separation from all unrighteousness that offends both God and the Holy Spirit whom he has poured out."

We Must Think Righteously

Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)

7 {As a man} thinketh in his heart, so is he:

Righteousness begins in our hearts and minds. Jesus told the pharisees...

Mark 7:20-23

20 He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. **21** For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, **22** adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. **23** All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

The eyes and the ears are the windows to our heart and mind.

Psalms 101:3 (NLT)

3 I will refuse to look anything vile and vulgar.

Proverbs 4:23-27 (NLT)

23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. **24** Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. **25** Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. **26** Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. **27** Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

That's why the scriptures teach us...

Romans 12:1-2

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Colossians 3:1-2

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Philippians 4:8-9

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

We Must Live Righteously

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

"our motivation for godly living, then, is grace and hope, not fear of judgement" - Doug Clay (Article Influence Magazine Winter 2023)

"In this passage, what caused believers anxiety was sin, which Paul described as 'ungodliness,' 'worldly passions,' and 'wickedness.' Christ's coming into the world shone a ray of hope on sinful humanity. 'The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people,' Paul wrote. in the meantime, believers should strive to lead

godly lives as they await 'The blessed hope — the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior.' Notice the time stamps on Paul's words. *'The grace of God has appeared' points to the past. Our wait for 'the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory' points to the future. As Christians, we don't live between one anxiety and another. We live between grace and hope. That is our present reality!"* - (Doug Clay - Influence Magazine Winter 2023, Pg 11)

So we have the past and the future, but I would add that this passage tells us what to do in the present - *"live self-controlled, upright and godly lives"*