

The Bible Speaks

circumcision of the heart. What is genuine obedience? To obey from the heart. What is saving faith? To believe with the heart. Where ought Christ to dwell? To dwell in our hearts by faith. What is the chief request that wisdom makes to everyone? ‘My son, give Me your heart.’” J. C. Ryle, Expository Thoughts on Matthew, page 174.

b. A new mind. “Be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2.

NOTE. “There can be no new birth of a human being, no planting of the life of God in the soul of man, without a basic change in the mental pattern of that life. Regeneration is the work of the Spirit of God in the life of man transforming him from a slave of sin into a child of God and a citizen of the kingdom of God. Repentance is man’s response to the tutelage of the Spirit in which he accepts the wisdom and grace of the divine Teacher and follows through the experience of regeneration into the life of Christian fellowship and service.” - H. W. Tribble, “Repentance Is the Need of the Hour,” The Review and Expositor, Volume 43, Number 1, Page 39.

12. In what ways will the new nature manifest itself?

a. Spiritual interests. “They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.” Romans 8:5.

b. Love for the law of God. “I delight in the law of God after the inward man.” Romans 7:22.

c. Love for fellow men. “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.” 1 John 3:14.

13. For what does God look in the life of the regenerated sinner?

“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10. See also Romans 8:4.

NOTE - If I am to follow such as He, I must be born again and born different. A new birth is a necessary beginning for this new life.” - E. Stanley Jones, The Christ of the Indian Road, page 172.

14. By what visible test may we determine whether we are born of God?

“If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone that does righteousness is born of Him.” 1 John 2:29. “Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.” Verse 3. Also verses 4-6.

Living By Faith

I. IN what striking words does Paul summarize the two essential features of the plan of salvation?

“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:14.

2. To what high standard of righteousness are the redeemed to rise?

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:11. See also Colossians 1:28.

3. In what other way has God declared His high purpose for the redeemed?

“You shall be holy; for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:44. See also 1 Peter 1:16.

4. Who only may inherit eternal blessedness?

“Not everyone that said unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21.

5. Why is righteousness so necessary to association with God?

“Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne.” Psalm 97:2.

6. Can the justified believer attain unto this righteousness of life in his own strength?

“Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect by the flesh?” Galatians 3:3.

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7. To whom must he look for its attainment?

‘York out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’ Philippians 2:12, 13.

8. How is divine righteousness appropriated?

‘Be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.’ Philippians 3:9.

9. By what process does God implant His righteousness?

a. By writing the law in the heart. ‘This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, said the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.’ Jeremiah 31:33. See also Hebrews 8:10.

b. By implanting divine power for its observance. ‘Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature.’ 2 Peter 1:4. See also Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19.

NOTE – ‘For the gospel of Christ is much more than good advice; it is good news. It tells lost men of God’s divine provision for saving them. And it certainly does this work, by changing the nature, changing men from sin to holiness, from being degraded rebels, at enmity with God, into loving children and heirs of all that God’s universe affords in the way of happiness and cultural development.’ -George McCready Price, *Modern Discoveries Which Help Us to Believe*, page 159.

10. How will the law written in the heart of the believer express itself through the indwelling power of Christ?

‘What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.’ Romans 8:3, 4.

11. Of what is this righteousness in the Christian’s life an evidence?

‘Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.’ 1 John 2:3.

NOTE - If we keep the commandments of God, loving Him with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves, we have the fullest proof that we have the true saving knowledge of God and His Christ. The Gnostics pretended to much knowledge, but their knowledge left them in possession of all their bad passions and unholy habits. They, therefore, gave no proof that they had known either God or His Son Jesus; nor is any man properly acquainted with God who is still under the power of his sins.’ -Adam Clarke, *Commentary*, note on 1 John 2:3.

‘He that expects assurance, while he neglects Christ’s commandments, and gives way to daily inconsistencies of temper and conduct, is expecting what he will never get.... Let those who will, call such doctrine ‘legal.’ As a matter of fact, it will always be found true.’ J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on St. John*, Volume 3, Page 122.

12. Of what will transgression be an evidence?

‘Whosoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.’ 2 John 9.

13. What two apparently contradictory statements are thus shown to be entirely in harmony?

‘Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.’ Romans 3:28. ‘You see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only!’ James 2:24.

NOTE-We are justified by faith only, for there is nothing that we can do to commend ourselves to God. But becoming thereby partakers of the ‘divine nature’ the ‘righteousness of the law’ is ‘fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit,’ and the works of the Spirit bear witness to the regeneration which has taken place. If such ‘works’ are not manifest, doubt is cast upon the reality of the claim to inward change. ‘We are not justified by keeping the law; we keep the law because we are justified.’ -H. M. Hughes, *Christian Foundations*, page 169.

14. How does James say Abraham’s faith was made manifest?

‘See thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?’ James 2:22.

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15. What reply does he make to those who claim to have faith and yet do not reveal it visibly in their lives?

“What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?” Verse 14. “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” Verse 26.

16. For what did Paul look as a result of his preaching?

“But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.” Romans 16:26.

17. Were such results forthcoming?

“The word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” Acts 6:7.

18. What two marks are particularly mentioned as characteristic of the remnant people of God in the last days?

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12.

5. Formulas for Fellowship

God's Ten Words

I. WHAT threefold authority does God exercise over mankind?

“The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; He will save us.” Isaiah 33:22. See also James 4:12.

2. How has He summarized the principles of His government?

“The Lord spoke unto you out of the midst of the fire: you heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only you heard a voice. And He declared unto you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, even Ten Commandments.” Deuteronomy 4:12, 13. Read Exodus 20:3-17.

NOTE – “The first table containing the first, second, third, and fourth commandments, and comprehending the reverence we owe and the religious service we should render to Him. The second, containing the six last commandments, and comprehending a complete system of ethics, or moral duties, which man owes to his fellows. By this division, the first table contains our duty to God; the second, our duty to our neighbor.”-Adam Clarke, Commentary, note on Exodus 20.

“How lofty, how impressive, how solemn this code! How it appeals at once to the consciousness of all minds in every age and nation, producing convictions that no sophistry can weaken, binding the conscience with irresistible and terrific bonds. Those immortal Ten Commandments, engraved on the two tables of stone, and preserved in the holy and innermost sanctuary of the Jews, yet reappearing in all their literature, accepted and reaffirmed by Christ, entering into the religious system of every nation that has received them, and forming the cardinal principles of all theological belief!” - John Lord, Beacon Lights of History, Volume 1, Part 2, Page 107.

3. In what way did God distinguish the Ten Commandments from the other laws He later gave to Moses?

a. Written on tables of stone. “He wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.” Deuteronomy 5:22.

b. Placed in the ark. “Thou shall put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.” Exodus 25:16. “Thou shall put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shall put the testimony that I shall give thee.” Verse 21.

4. By what special names are the Ten Commandments designated?