

Enterprise Symbiosis, ascending the straight and narrow

6 September 2000

Luke portrays the passion of Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane as a person highly trained in the skill of human perception. Only in his gospel do we find the sentence: "**Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground**" (22:44b). I have long thought that there is an insight here captured by Luke that signifies something deeper than just the anguish of death recorded in the other gospels.

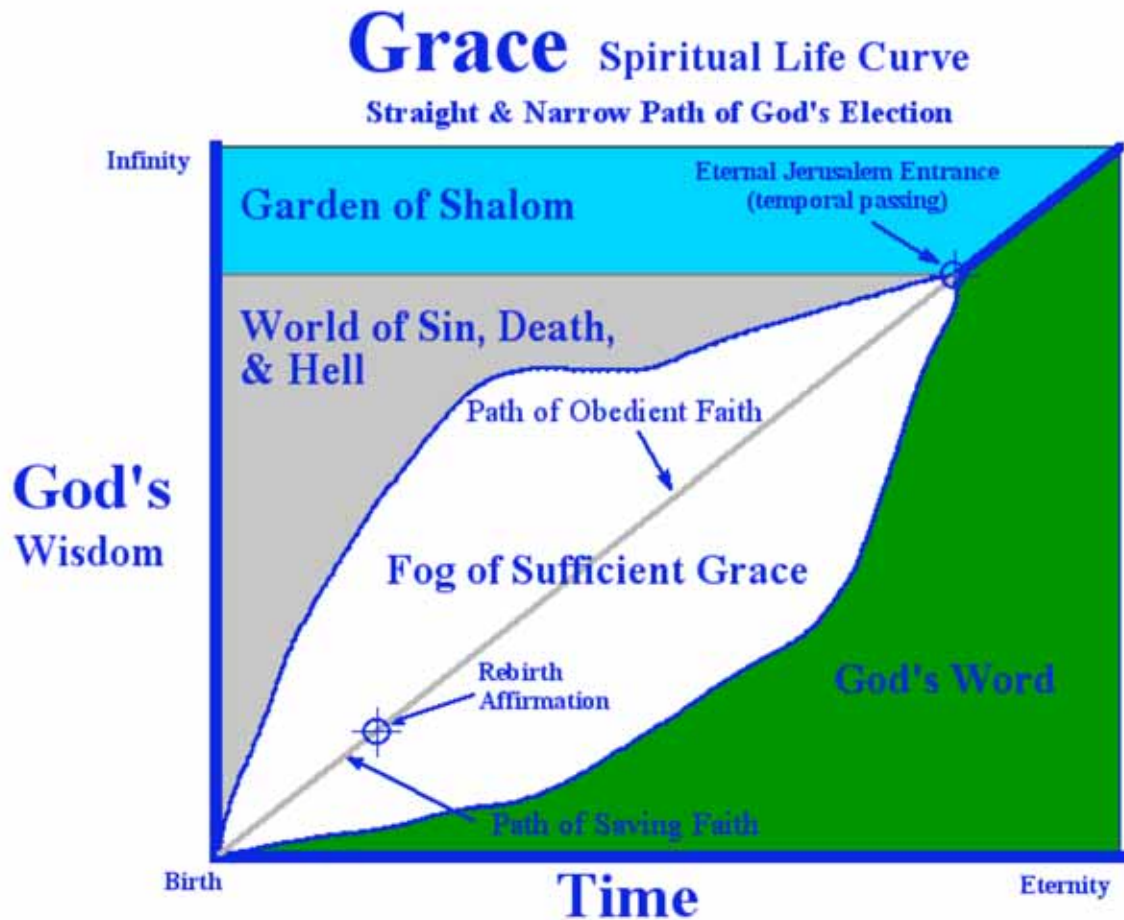
Every person's life is an epitaph of things done day by day. But persons of faith early on learn that dying for ones faith is in many ways easier than living for it. Starting with the stoning of Stephen in the Book of Acts and continuing up until this day, martyrs are always given an unworldly (for lack of a better term) portion of God's grace in these dying circumstances. While not making light of the weight of bearing the sin of all humanity and all creation, to say that this burden totally explains the remorse of Jesus, shows a lack of understanding of the culmination in time, of God's redemptive plan. It would be less than twenty-four hours later when he would utter the words "**It is finished!**" But I believe that Jesus greatest trial at this time was that he was looking in a reality beyond the suffering, beyond the cross, to His resurrection and His life beyond the grave. Only at this brief interval could He realize just how few, of the billions of people over all time, would fully come to a saving knowledge of God's redemptive plan, now finished and soon to be fully documented and recorded, so that all might believe, it was now finished. There would be no more prophets with the anointing of old, no more priests in the order of Aaron, no more kings born naturally to David's lineage. Through His eyes of faith Jesus could surely utter the words, "**Behold I make all things new.**" But for some individual's choices He could see that it shall never be true in the sense that the words alone indicate.

We see these words actually spoken in Revelation 21:5, adding further the statement recorded by John, "**Write for these words are true and faithful.**" One day all believers in the redemption offered alone through Jesus Christ will be gathered in the Eternal Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem of Revelation, to witness the restoration of all creation, except for the second death and the lake of fire. At the words, "**Behold I make all things new.**" It shall be accomplished, as Peter records it in 2 Peter 3.

I believe for that brief instance, we secure as the eternal bride of Christ, truly glimpse the total love of God in a new and fresh way, understanding how blessed we are. The stark reality of the new is now eternal and so is the old. That is the love that provided the wretchedness of Jesus alone in the garden. Forever we shall be separated by those who selfishly chose to follow there own dark way. Our way is suitable for a new life in a restored creation, in an eternal paradise. A place I have called in this week's last of our life curves the "Garden of Peace." After that brief instance, the old has passed away for ever more. But there can be no rendering, no illustration designed by man that can even begin to suggest an understanding of God's love. So we see that it is in no way represented in this simple drawing.

In this world the life of the pilgrim is straight and narrow (**Matthew 7:13, 14 and elsewhere**) We perceive we are wandering in circles and climbing hills and valleys, but in reality God is shifting creation beneath our steps. His work in symbiosis with our obedience is building the path that we travel. To the extent we let God provide that pathway, the slope and the exposure of our pilgrimage is determined. But no matter our abilities, all paths of the Christian in this life lead to a temporal passing from this life into an eternal audience with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We shall behold the Lamb of God in the Eternal Jerusalem, the true Holy City, the City of Peace, the Everlasting City of God.

All this is laid upon the finished work of Jesus Christ, the Word of God. The Word of God is the only foundation of this pilgrimage. That written Word is contained in what we call the Bible, Old and New Testaments. In Old Testament times, the Jews journeying to the temporal Jerusalem and the temple would sing songs of assents. These fifteen are recorded in Psalms 120-134. As you look at the Grace Spiritual Life Curve, keep in mind that these Psalms are still the bases of things we encounter in the journey, from where we currently are, toward the eternal Jerusalem. Note that Psalm 120 begins amongst pagan non believers, and Psalm 134 ends in worship at the temple. They uniquely illustrate this pilgrimage we all journey and repeating their applications many times. We all end in the same place coming from all directions. A full reading of the complete Psalms will be well worth the endeavor, even though they are edited for continuity in this message.



Psalm 120

In my distress I cried to the Lord,
 And He heard me.
 Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips
 And from a deceitful tongue.
Verses 1&2 of 7

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills--
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.
Verses 1-4 of 8

Psalm 122
Of David

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go into the house of the Lord."
Our feet have been standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem
Verses 1&2 of 9

Psalm 123

Unto You I lift up my eyes,
O You who dwell in the heavens.
Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
Until He has mercy on us.
Verses 1&2 of 4

Psalm 124
Of David

"If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,"
Let Israel now say--
"If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
When men rose up against us,
Then they would have swallowed us alive,
When their wrath was kindled against us;
Then the water would have overwhelmed us,
The stream would have gone over our soul;
Then the swollen waters
Would have gone over our soul."
Verses 1-5 of 8

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the Lord
Are like Mount Zion,
Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the Lord surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.
Verses 1&2 of 5

Psalm 126

When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion,
We were like those who dream,
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with singing.
Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us.
And we are glad.
Verses 1-3 of 6

Psalm 127

Of Solomon

Unless the Lord build the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman stays awake in vain.
It is vain for you to rise up early,
To sit up late,
To eat the bread of sorrows;
For so He gives His beloved sleep.
Verses 1&2 of 5

Psalm 128

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,
Who walks in His ways.
When you eat the labor of your hands,
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.
Verses 1&2 of 6

Psalm 129

"Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth,"
Let Israel now say--
"Many a time they have afflicted me from y youth;
Yet they have not prevailed against me.
The plowers plowed on my back;
They made their furrows long"
The Lord is righteous;
He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked.
Verses 1-4 of 8

Psalm 130

Out of the depth I have cried to You, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive
To the voice of my supplications.
Verses 1&2 of 8

Psalm 131*Of David*

Lord, my heart is not haughty,
Nor my eyes lofty.
Neither do I concern myself with great matters,
Nor with things too profound for me.
Verses 1 of 3

Psalm 132

Lord remember David
And all his afflictions;
How he swore to the Lord,
And vowed to the Mighty one of Jacob:
"Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house,
Or go up to the comfort of my bed;
I will not give sleep to my eyes
Or slumber to my eyelids,
Until I find a place for the Lord,
A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
Verses 1-5 of 18

Psalm 133*Of David*

Behold how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
Verse 1 of 3

Psalm 134

Behold, bless the Lord,
All you servants of the Lord,
Who by night stand in the house of the Lord!
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
And bless the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth
Bless you from Zion.

OTHER ITEMS

Starting as soon as I get some material and all the bugs worked out I would like to put on the URL <http://www.goodnewsreport.net> a whole lot of good news stories in the generic sense. In other words stories that anyone having a bad day might like to read to be encouraged. In that sense they don't or shouldn't be too preachy, but could contain something related to faith etc. Real life, fiction, poetry, or music would all be acceptable.

Eventually, I would like to get it set up so people could "contribute" to your efforts, just like buying a book or other e-commerce. You could also donate any proceeds to your favorite missionary, charity or worthwhile endeavor, The other thing, if you would like another email account, that you can use as long as you submit a story a year. This account you could access without using web mail and the browser (like

hotmail, yahoo etc.) by using a regular email program like Outlook Express. (This account could be @meyersfalls.com; oikosvirtual.org or goodnewsreport.net) It could also be forwarded to your regular ISP account and would follow you if you changed ISPs. Any other ideas and suggestions would also be appreciated.

The reason for doing this at this time is last week I had the good fortune to meet with a Mexican YWAMer couple. The husband and I got to talking and he said that he would like to write some stories about people and life and was wondering if I might have some suggestions. The condensed version is that his vision was about what I had envisioned, therefore I decided it must be time to step forward to see what the Lord will do.

If you are currently in some type of ministry or missions work and would like to provide material or letters to supporters and the like, provision is available through St. Paul's Mission in Oikosvirtual. That could be letters we would place or links to your ministry web address. But you need to request that inclusion along with any background material we or you think is relevant.

All the URLs mentioned currently head to the same place, so if you would like to take a look please do so. Again any suggestions would be gladly accepted. Most of our material is now under the Chronicles of Diversity links, but banners at the top of the home page also can give you an idea about the community concept.

PRAYER PLANTS

The major money has still not gotten here to provide scouting funds for the move somewhere, however I received a letter late last week promising that they are on the way as well as another payment that I was due for some work I had completed. Those funds basically paid the necessary for August payments. Continue to intercede for guidance and provision of necessary funds.

It is amazing how much clearer the path ahead now seems. However, with that light comes a fresh understanding of just how carnal we saints still are. Over this weekend I do feel that all requirements for me to remain at this location were lifted, so as the Lord provides direction and resources, we will soon be on our way. The only thing that is not now packed is stuff used on a somewhat regular basis. Continue to intercede for long term personal and ministry needs.