

Sunday Celebration (February 22, 2009)
"Charging Your Batteries"

"Walking in Newness of Life" (Pt. 4)

INTRO

Ez 36 ... is God Intruding into MAN'S FAILURE with the announcement that one day God would give man success—by His Taking action to Remove the Old Heart, give us a NEW HEART, and EMPOWER us with His Spirit in our hearts

Gal 3:1-5 ... Yet another group who are trying to walk with God—washed up on the shore of Self-Effort

- **Gal 3:10** ... the "Curse of the Performance Treadmill"... "those who rely on works"

"Once you make your performance the basis for your motivation, you've cursed your future walk"

1Tim 1:3-10 ... Yet Another Group!! (Fallen prey to this Tendency)

1 Tim 1:5 "Whereas the object and purpose of our instruction and charge is love, which springs from a pure heart and a good (clear) conscience and sincere (unfeigned) faith." AMP

... Remember:

EXTERNALIZED RELIGION = the Practice of the Law + Good Intentions and Self-Effort

Beware of MISUSING what God has given (the Law... Spiritual Disciplines... etc.)

"various spiritual activities— such as Bible reading, prayer, or sharing the gospel— that are good and vital in themselves when pursued for the right reasons. But often without realizing it, we allow a dangerous shift to take place in our mind and heart. We change what God intends as a means of experiencing grace into a means of earning grace. " C.J. Mahaney, "Living the Cross Centered Life", p. 115

2Cor 2:17-3:3, 6 ... Yet ANOTHER Church that has come under the influence of "Externalized Religion"

"it appears that these opponents are involved in a Moses-type ministry. That ministry was "on tablets of stone" (v.3) and was and is "a letter" that "kills" (v.6). The ministry of the new covenant, is, by contrast, "of the Spirit," as demonstrated by the work of the Spirit in the lives of the Corinthians. Because it is the Spirit of the living God, it is this ministry that gives life." Paul Barnett, "The Second Epistle to the Corinthians", NICNT, p. 171

THE DANGER OF EXTERNALIZING & MINIMIZING

EXTERNALIZING: The Control & Motivational Mechanisms of the Christian Life

MINIMIZING: The Divine Component in exchange for the Human Component

... God IS Something and We are Something

... God DOES Something and We DO Something

... BOTH of these are in the equation of the Christian Life—BUT which one am I More Focused On? Which one is more my DEFAULT SETTING?

Indicatives & Imperatives in Scripture

indicative > a verb expressing a simple statement of fact, rather than something imagined, wished, or commanded.

imperative > a verb that expresses a command or exhortation (Oxford Dictionary)

At some point INDICATIVES transition into IMPERATIVES—what we KNOW gets expressed in what we DO.

Rom 6:1-10 ... INDICATIVE TRUTHS

Rom 6:11-14 ... IMPERATIVE ACTIONS

Finding the Right Balance ... "CHARGING YOUR BATTERIES"

Indicatives... Sustain and Supply FAITH

Indicatives... Promote and Inspire MOTIVATION

Imperatives... Contribute to GROWTH & MATURITY

ABRAHAM

(1) Indicative Revelation ... Gen 12, 15



(2) Faith Receives the Indicative Revelation (Jam 2:23 "Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness")



(3) Works are Produced by Genuine Faith (Heb 11:8 "by faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.")



(4) Maturity/Growth results from the Actions of Faith (James 2:22 "You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;")

The Great Breakdown of a Christian Living "Beyond the Fences" is not the Size and Strength of the Fence, but rather the Loss of Gravitational Pull of the Center!

How to Address an "INSUFFICIENT WALK"

Who is Sufficient for These Things? ... 2Cor 2:14-16; 3:5-6; 4:7 ...

2Cor 3 ... *Only the New Covenant (Ez 36) Person!*—STONY HEART removed
(Dead to sin)... NEW HEART (with new writing on it)... SPIRIT EMPOWERED

...Start with the INDICATIVES!

Col 3:12-18... The Indicative Condition of the VEIL BEING REMOVED and LIBERTY

- These things are true! We don't make them true by something we do; they are true by what God Has Already Done!!
- Here is the FOCAL POINT (v. 18)—"Beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed..."
 - This is a different Focal Point than the FENCE BUILDER— who is preoccupied with simply managing and restraining attitudes and behavior with very little Growth Toward God and Increasing Knowledge of God
 - Transformation is a BY-PRODUCT (of beholding the glory of the Lord)(2Cor 4:6)
 - 2Cor 4:1-3 ... Indicative Revelation Produces Imperative Desires and Actions