

OVERCOMING THE GREAT DECEPTION

Last week we revealed our true identity, that God made you a triune being like himself.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You are a spirit, that has a soul, that lives in a body.

Then we looked at how the Bible describes your born-again spirit.

Colossians 2:9-10 AMPC For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. 10 And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

The thing that we need to understand is that the moment you get born again you are placed IN CHRIST and the Bible declares you as complete or whole which means nothing lacking or missing.

Then we talked about the great deception that Paul warned us about.

2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Eve was created in the image of God, and she was complete, yet Satan deceived her into thinking that she had to do something (eat of the tree) to receive what she already possessed, the image of God.

So, this week I want to help you understand, then overcome this great deception.

The Holy Spirit inspired the Old Testament prophets to declare what Jesus would one day do to restore God's plan for mankind.

In the Gospels Jesus declared that the reason he came was to fulfill the will of the father, so he showed us through his ministry what it looked like to be made whole, then he provided the atonement that would make wholeness available to everyone who believes.

Then Jesus declared that he had finished the work that God sent him to do and when he finished the work, he sat down at the right hand of the Father, not because he was tired but because he was finished.

Then Paul and the other New Testament writers confirmed that Jesus finished his redemptive work by declaring every redemptive promise as a past tense reality.

2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT For all of God's promises **have been fulfilled** in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

In spite of all of that biblical proof, we still have theology that teaches that what Jesus did was not enough.

Some theologians called cessationists are trying to convince us that God never intended us to experience all of the benefits of salvation. That after the last Apostle died, only forgiveness of sins remains available and we are just destined to live with all of the other effects of sin. So what they are saying is that the God who says that he cannot change has changed. And he is no longer the healer, the deliverer, provider or all of the promises that were backed up with his unchanging name.

Then we have the more prominent group that teaches that God CAN do anything, but he has done very little. The only thing that was paid for through the atonement was the forgiveness of sins, so your sins are paid for but you are still broken and have to attempt to put yourself back together through self-effort.

The Bible is saying that you already have everything you need for life and godliness in your born-again spirit, yet one group is saying not only do you not have, but God never intended for you to have and anyone who teaches that you do is a false teacher. The other group is saying that God wants you to have it, but you might have to wait to go to heaven to get it.

So how do we overcome these deceptions? The truth will set you free.

We have to start with the understanding that God declares Himself the source of life.

1 Corinthians 8:6 AMPC Yet for us there is [only] one God, the Father, Who is the Source of all things and for Whom we [have life], and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through and by Whom are all things and through and by Whom we [ourselves exist].

So think about the garden of Eden. There were two trees, the first was the tree of life. Let's say that this represents God and the root system only produced abundance, so the fruit were the fruit of abundance, health, provision, protection, victory, blessing, favor, intimacy, you get the point.

The second tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This tree represented separation from God or the opposite of life which is death, so this root system produced fruit that was the opposite of God's nature: sickness, disease, lack, cursing, loneliness, self-effort.

When Adam sinned, he was disconnected from the root system that produced life and all of the fruit of abundance. Now his nature could only produce death with all of its fruit.

Understanding root and fruit.

As you study God's plan for redemption you will see this reoccurring theme of root and fruit. Sin is the root of humanities problems, it is what happened to man's nature when he was separated from the source of life, the fruit of this separation are the effects of sin.

Psalm 103:1-5 Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your **iniquities** (root) , Who heals all your **diseases** (fruit), 4 Who redeems your life from destruction(fruit) , Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies (fruit), 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things (fruit), So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's (fruit).

In this picture of redemption, King David is saying that Jesus will take away the root of sin, then all of the fruit of sin will die by themselves.

Isaiah 53:4-5 AMPC Surely He has **borne** our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] **Him we are healed and made whole.**

Isaiah 53:11 APMC He shall see [the fruit] of the travail of His soul and be satisfied; by His knowledge of Himself [which He possesses and imparts to others] shall My [uncompromisingly] righteous One, My Servant, justify many and make many righteous (upright and in right standing with God), **for He shall bear their iniquities and their guilt [with the consequences, says the Lord].**

Here again we see root and fruit and the result of this redemptive work is wholeness.

The key words here are *bear* in verse 11 and *borne* in verse 4. Both words come from the same Hebrew word that means to **take away**.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who **takes away** the sin of the world!

On the cross Jesus took the root of the nature of sin, and the fruit sickness, and every other fruit that came through death.

A misunderstanding of this verse is one of the major causes that are keeping us from experiencing our true inheritance.

Most of us have been taught that Isaiah is talking about spiritual, not physical healing. We have read the words griefs and sorrows and believe that they are referring to emotional things. If you want to know the truth that sets you free you have to learn to allow scripture to interpret itself. If you look at how these two words are used in other Old Testament passages they almost always refer to bodily sickness and physical pain.

Let's look at how under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Matthew declares the prophecy of Isaiah.

Matthew 8:16-17 NKJV When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, **and healed all who were sick**, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "**He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.**"

The Gospels describe some of the sickness that Jesus was healing; epilepsy, paralysis, blindness, deafness, muteness, leprosy and deformity, just to name a few. These are clearly physical maladies, yet Satan has convinced us that only spiritual healing was paid for during the atonement.

The question that you have to answer is, What do I do now that I have found what I believe is in direct conflict with the truth of scripture?

1) You can be prideful and continue to believe this deception and miss out on the benefits that Jesus already paid for.

2) You can humble yourself and thank God for revealing the truth to you so you can experience all that God promised.

The atoning work of Jesus was to take away everything that came when man was separated from God. So, he took the root (sin), and the fruit, sickness.

1 Peter 2:24 NKJV who Himself **bore our sins** in His own body on the tree, that we, having **died to sins**, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

Root and fruit.

Matthew 9:1-8 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!” 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 7 And he arose and departed to his house. 8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

So, the question we have to answer is, why did God send Jesus to take our sin (root) and sickness (fruit)? BECAUSE IT DID NOT COME FROM HIM!

Romans 6:5-8 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.

Colossians 3:3 TPT Your crucifixion with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ.

Colossians 2:14 He canceled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. **He erased it all—our sins, our stained soul—he deleted it all and they cannot be retrieved! Everything we once were in Adam has been placed onto his cross and nailed permanently there as a public display of cancellation.**

The Greek word for stain means to erase. This means the nature of Adam has been erased and the nature of Jesus has been embedded into us. We are totally set free from every trace of sin by the power of the blood of Jesus.

On the cross God took everything that came through Adam and placed it upon Jesus and killed it off once and for all. Then he sent the Holy Spirit to baptize you into Christ, reconnecting you back to the source of life, so that you could receive everything that he intended when he declared it was “VERY GOOD”.