



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

The Sacrifice, the Spirit, and the Fear of the LORD

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Salvation is all about getting back to the Father. In Christ, lives are transformed; and that's absolutely amazing. All things are new; we move out of our past into our destiny in Christ; and it was costly, but free to every true believer.

Sin alienated the human race from its Creator when Adam disobeyed his Creator and ate forbidden fruit, choosing another wisdom and rejecting Christ, the Wisdom of God—God only wise.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

God sent His one and unique Son, Jesus Christ, out of love. Jesus is God, God the Son, a divine Person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Jesus lived the life required by the Covenant; perfect, personal, perpetual obedience. He moved from obedience to obedience. He died the death, paying the penalty for sin on behalf of those for whom He died, according to the Law. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. He who had no sin became the sin offering in our place and in our stead, dying, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, making peace through the Blood of the Cross. Thus Jesus overcomes alienation.

Jesus overcame the liability of guilt by His death, paying the legal penalty for sin, being Himself the sacrifice for our sin and thus paying the debt note of sin, canceling all that stands against us and that which is contrary to us...Colossians 2 We call it expiation. Jesus bore our sin though He Himself had no sin.

Jesus redeemed us, overcoming bondage to sin. We have been bought with a price and our life is not our own.

Jesus overcame the wrath of God by propitiation, bearing the wrath, God's agony of rejected love. He took the wrath of God justly deserved by us, on Himself until satisfaction was complete and divine justice was paid in full.

In satisfying all requirements for a people to fully return to God and know Him as Father, Jesus overcame death, hell, and the grave. He overcame sin, the kingdom of darkness, Satan, the world system, and the iniquity of the human heart, the bent of our hearts toward evil. Jesus defeated Satan legally and judicially, thus breaking the power of Satan. Hebrews 2:14, 15. Jesus holds the keys of death and hades. (Revelation 1:18)

The raising of Jesus from the dead proved that the Father accepted the finished work of Jesus Christ on behalf of those given to Him by the Father to save. Jesus is the Beloved. Those chosen before the foundation of the world for salvation are accepted in Christ, the Beloved.

Salvation is all about getting back to the Father. Jesus is that Sacrifice and the only Sacrifice acceptable to deliver a people to the Father. This deliverance came by power and by price. Jesus lives in the power of an endless life.

The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to indwell those who believe in Jesus, believe Jesus, and believe what Jesus believes. Jesus ever lives to make intercession for the saints, those who are declared holy, blameless, and without reproach because of and only because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ being imputed to them in the life exchange of the Covenant. (Colossians 1)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Father, the Mighty Third Person of the Godhead. He is the Spirit of Truth. He is the Spirit of Grace and Prayer. Andrew Murray notes in his book, *The Ministry of Intercession*,” that if the true believer “would enjoy the blessing of being taught to pray by the Spirit of prayer, [he] must know” three simple lessons. “Believe that the Spirit dwells in you (Ephesians 1:13)...Beware above everything of grieving the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)...and “Be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).”

The Holy Spirit is the Life Giver, the Life Producer. Eternal life comes through the Promise. The Holy Spirit is the Promise of the Father. The Law could not give life but serves as a Standard for being the demonstration people of God. It shows us what love looks like, what is holy and what is unholy; what is clean and what is not clean; what is death and what is life. Within the commands is a promise: You WILL have no other gods before Me, etc.

The Holy Spirit gives us eternal life in Christ. He regenerates and turns the heart. We respond by repentance and faith. Everything is the gift of God, flowing out of His love and grace. Nothing is of us. We must be born again, born out of God, born anew spiritually. Adam died spiritually and then physically. Jesus came as the Last Adam and Second Man, the Federal Head of a new creation, making all things new.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ. He indwells the true believer. He is the Comforter, the One who comes alongside. He is in, on, with, and working through the believer. He sanctifies us through the Truth. The Word of God is truth. Jesus is the Truth and came to bear witness to the truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and the Witness. Jesus said in John 17:3: And this is eternal life, that they might know You, the One, True God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. It’s not about having the Jesus we want, but about having the Jesus who is. We are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ through His life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into glory made it possible for every true believer to enjoy relationship with the Father, the Creator/Redeemer. That relationship is precious—for our next breath, our next heartbeat, is in the hands and heart of a Sovereign God. Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant is now the Sovereign Savior sitting at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty. He is the Ruler over the kings of this earth, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Life in the Holy Spirit and life with the Holy Spirit is fragile. **The Holy Spirit can be tempted/tried/tested, grieved, insulted, quieted, vexed, limited, resisted, quenched, lied to, defrauded, despised,**

disobeyed, blasphemed against, refused, or received, obeyed, followed, and yielded to. The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Him. Acts 5:32.

Therefore, we do well to remember the Lord our God, to fear Him and be sensitive to His nature and His ways. Especially today we see the Holy Spirit grieved, despised, and limited...which leads us to this: We are admonished to remember the Lord our God and Fear the LORD.

David teaches the fear of the Lord beginning in Psalm 34.11. He says it is to keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies, to turn from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it. (cf. 1 Peter 3.10-12)

Proverbs two adds insight. It tells us to incline our ears unto wisdom and to apply our hearts to understanding, to cry after knowledge and seek and search as if looking for hidden treasure. The LORD gives wisdom that is sound and keeps the paths of judgment and preserves the way of His saints. We will come to understand righteousness and judgment and equity. Wisdom is something that must enter into the heart. Then discretion preserves us and understanding keeps us to deliver us from the way of the evil man, from perversity and darkness, from crookedness and from the wisdom that is earthy, sensual, and demonic.

The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1.7) To fear the Lord and depart from evil will bring health to your flesh and strength to your bones. (Proverbs 3.7)

The Fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride and arrogance, the evil way and the perverse mouth. (Proverbs 8.13) The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9.10) The Fear of the Lord prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened. (Proverbs 10.27) In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. (Proverbs 14.26) The Fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the grave of death. (Proverbs 14.27) In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity, and by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil. (Proverbs 16.6)

The Fear of the Lord leads to life, and the one who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil. (Proverbs 19.23) By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life. (Proverbs 22.4)

David prayed in Psalm 86.11-13: *Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth. Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify Your name forevermore. For great is Your mercy toward me. And You have delivered my soul from the lowest hell.*

Now let's listen to the Prophet Jeremiah and heed this warning:

Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes and see not; which have ears, and hear not. Fear ye not Me? saith the LORD. Will ye not tremble at My presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart. They are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God; that gives rain, both the former and the latter, in his season. He reserves unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withheld good things from you. For among My people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that sets snares.

They set a trap, they catch men... Shall I not visit for these things? Saith the LORD: shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this? (Jeremiah 5.21-29) Jeremiah's declaration to Judah

To fear the LORD is to hallow His name, to understand just who He is and what He does and can do. To fear the LORD brings us to keep His commandments, knowing that He is not only long-suffering, willing to forgive, and ready to pour out abundant grace and mercy, but also righteous in His justice and a God of recompense. Jesus said to fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10.28)

Today, foundations are being shaken. Let's build our house on the Rock.

The foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows those that are His, and Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (2 Timothy 2.19)

The angel of the bottomless pit draws one into the pit, the abyss of destruction, from which there is no hope of escape apart from God. It brings nightmares and torments as it produces terror in the soul. It pulls to the grave. Only God's love flooding the soul with His standard overcomes. I experienced this love the night I was saved, as the battle with the angel of the bottomless pit raged for my soul. God's election stands, for at the foundation, I am sealed.

God alone saves. He knows His own and redeems them from the pit, redeeming their very lives by forgiving iniquity and by remembering no more their sins and their iniquities. The fool does not cry out to God. The fool thinks there is no recompense from a holy God, no infinite justice from an eternal God, but the one who fears the Lord cries out to the Covenant Lord to bless and have mercy, to save to the uttermost, to sanctify body, soul, and spirit, and to finish the work of salvation.

Christ holds the key of the Abyss and a great chain in His hand, who binds Satan, plundering Satan's house and carrying off his property. (Rev.1.18; 20.1-3) **Christ holds things together**, uniting those who trust in Him to the Father. Christ is the wisdom of God, so when He enters the heart, there is understanding, discretion, deliverance, preservation and peace. **Wisdom is to depart from evil.**

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Because of the Sacrifice of Christ we have the Holy Spirit indwelling every true believer. As we believe in Jesus, believe Jesus, and believe what Jesus believes, we grow in wisdom. Therefore, I encourage us all to pray Colossians 1:9-13 on behalf of ourselves and the Body of Christ worldwide.

May you be blessed to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. Rejoice! The LORD reigns!

Taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

**The fear of the LORD is beginning of wisdom, and
knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10**



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