

Freedom's Gate

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I have this nice pond in my backyard, but there are many tiles from various fields, woods and lawns, which all filter into it. It also has many different run-offs, field chemicals and soil types that spill into this pond. There is a wide variety of birds, herrings, ducks, geese, deer, rodents, bugs, frogs, and dogs, that not only take from my pond, but also add to it.

All of this hodgepodge of stuff, if left unattended, will allow things to grow green yucky nasty things and this gross stuff will overtake my pond in a short amount of time. So I have tried as many different concoctions as I could conjure up. I have conferred with neighbors and friends as to what they thought I should do to rid my pond of this sludge.

They were more than happy to give their opinion. There is a friend who has a pond and I got his advice on how he handles his problems. However, my best solution was to call the "Pond Doctor" (a man close to 100 years old who has spent his life studying ponds). He knows my soil type, the surrounding soil type and its run-off. He knows my pond's habitat, the animals that visit it, the existing weeds and the ones that it will probably produce. Most of all, he knows the answers to my problems; he can provide the solution.

Even after he tells me what to do, this yucky stuff will not be gone forever, to come back no more. No, I must always be mindful and watchful so that this stuff will not creep up on me. If I do not make a conscious effort to be on top of the problem, the pond will soon be riddled with this ugly, smelly, putrid stuff all over again.

This is the same with our lives. We have had our lives formed by our past and present experiences – childhood and teenage experiences, relationships, tragedies, successes, heartaches and joys. Everything that we have had happen to us, every word that has been spoken has formulated us into "us." We can continue to sit on the throne of our life and be "in control." We can keep making all of our own decisions and choices, just like me trying this product and that to take care of this green growth in my pond.

There has been stuff that has happened in our lives, things we don't know exactly how to mend, and sorrows we don't know how to heal. We try every concoction in our strength and understanding to deal with our problems and to walk out our "Christian walk." But, we have no clue what we are doing; we just stumble along trying this and that, doing our best to live a "good" life.

We could complain and whine about our problem to our family

and friends, repeatedly talking our problem over and over again, instead of talking the solution. They would definitely be willing to give their opinion. We could converse with someone who has been through the same problem and glean some insight, which is helpful. Or we could crawl down off that throne of our life and humbly come before our Heavenly Father, confessing we have no clue what we are doing or how to do it.

Matthew 5:3 is the first Beatitude; it says we must be poor in spirit. Being poor in spirit, is to have nothing to offer within self. I am empty and void of power or wisdom on my own, realizing that our Heavenly Father knows all the things that have happened to us in our life. He knows our joys and our sorrows. He knows why we think the way we do and why we react the way we react. He knows what is happening today and He has the answers. He knows our tomorrows and can direct us on our own path – a path He has gone before us to prepare.

When I tried to rid my pond of the putrid stuff, I had no clue how or what to do. I was meandering around, totally frustrated. Such are our lives. We know the direction we want to go, but can't find it within self. On the path of self, we grab at short straws, long straws and broken straws, only to become frustrated and bewildered.

Once I called on the "Pond Doctor", I had a definite direction to go, a path to follow. There were times I couldn't see immediate results; at times it did not make sense to me. But with persistence in following His guidance and making a conscious effort, I began to see a clearing away. If I just went through my day forgetting to make an effort to check the pond's condition, it would usually be starting to grow something unpleasant.

It is the same with our lives. We need to call on our Heavenly Father, allowing Him to dwell within us and us in Him. It takes a continual, conscious effort to stay off the throne of our lives. It takes a daily surrendering of self to receive the blessing of being poor in spirit, allowing God to take HIS seat of authority over our lives. He knows the clear direction we need to take.

This posture allows us to remain in Him and He in us, seated in the heavenly places. (Matthew 5:3b – For theirs is the kingdom of heaven – as co-heirs with Jesus Christ). This is the position that brings pure serene peace. This position brings authority over the problem. This position hides us from the enemy. This is the position to be in.

~ Lila Days

The Pond Doctor

"We know the direction we want to go, but can't find it within self."

We recently studied the events around and before Easter. We are in a Bible study that picks out certain phrases, etc. Then we all studied and presented our information in an open discussion. It was during this time we discovered a very significant event that does not get the attention it deserves.

While it is true that Jesus came to fulfill that God gave Abram in Genesis 12:3, there is much to see, almost everyone thought that God was being specific in these promises.....that He was talking to the Jewish race.

Seed is a direct reference to Jesus Christ – Galatians 3:16. All throughout the Old Testament, there are references to this coming Messiah and "now in the fulfillment of time, God has sent His Son." Galatians 4:4.

We studied the events leading up to the cross. Then we studied what happened when Jesus was on the cross, and what

He said. Here is where we made our discovery! Jesus was very specific in what He said and how He said it.

Study the book of John and you will see what we mean. As Jesus hung on the cross, the last words He said were _ _ _ . John 19:30. It was the study of these three words that gave new insight to us. When Jesus said _ _ _ , He spoke into existence our salvation also along with the Jews!!

Without these words, none of the promises mentioned in the book of Ephesians for example, could be claimed by any Gentile. Ephesians 2:6 says, "We are seated in heavenly places." The Bible also says we are in Christ, and therefore joint heirs with Him. 2 Corinthians 1:21, Romans 8:17.

By saying _ _ _ , Jesus fulfilled the "mystery" that Paul speaks of in Romans 11:25. The fact that Jesus stated _ _ _ is one of extreme importance for us today, and this is a beautiful example of what we can do just by speaking a blessing to our family, friends, etc. Philippians 4:13!

What were these three words?,,,,,,**It is finished!** And now you know the **Rest** of the story.

~Tom Gollmer

what did he say?

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Home Fellowship

Joe Pranger – Old Man/New Man

Home of Joe and Anne Pranger
10188 N 1000 E
Kendallville, IN, 46755
Tuesday, September 18, 2007; 7-9 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study

Anne Pranger – Normal Christian Life

Home of Joe and Anne Pranger
10188 N 1000 E
Kendallville, IN, 46755
Thursday, September 20, 2007; 1-3 p.m.

Chris Pranger – Son-ship

First Baptist Church
110 S. Oak St.
Kendallville, IN 46755
Sunday, September 16, 2007; 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Youth Night – Shelly Diehm

Home of Roger and Shelly Diehm
10426 N 1000 E
Kendallville, IN 46755
Sunday, October 7, 2007; 6 – 8 p.m.

Contact Information: New and Living Way office 260-349-0928 or 866-963-1234

DON'T YOU KNOW?

By Joe Pranger

The promises given to Abraham were to his Seed, not seeds meaning many (the promises were not to you and me), but to one seed; that Seed is Christ (Galatians 3:16). All of the promises for God's children are **In Christ** and they are yes and amen, in Him (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Moses was not allowed to enter the Promise land because of his unbelief. He was not prevented from salvation as evidenced by the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:29, 30). He was however, prevented from entering into the Promise land (Numbers 20:12; 27;12-13).

We can have salvation, but because of unbelief, not adding faith to the word preached, you cannot walk in the promises. The promises are **In Christ**. How many people do you know that have become frustrated with "religion" because their prayers are not answered? It seems as though the word is not true, or perhaps they believe the word is true, but because it "doesn't work" there must be something wrong with *them*.

All of the promises are **In Christ**. It is positional; our religious old man does not work. We must take our position in Christ to walk in the promises of God. You may be asking, "How do I abide in Christ?" The answer is faith. Believe God's word over your five senses.

God's definition of faith: Christ (faith) is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Christ is faith, and faith is Christ. Without faith there is no Christ for that person; Christ must be the center or it is not faith. Christ in us is the hope of glory. Hope is changed into a substance by faith – being fully persuaded. We must add faith to the word to enter into His Rest, which is our position in Christ (Hebrews 4:1-3).

We have all been given the same measure of faith (Romans 12:3). If God were to give some more of a measure than others, then that would be unjust; God is not unjust. The measure of faith given

us is what we need to take our position "in Christ." Once we have revelation of our position in Christ, we operate with His faith (Galatians 2:20KJV).

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). The word is clear about the end of our faith. 1 Peter 1:9 states "receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." So you see your faith ended – SAY ENDED – when you got saved.

Why aren't Christians walking in the promises of God? Why are some weak, sickly, and even die? 1 Corinthians 11:29b, 30 says, "not discerning the Lord's Body. For this reason many are weak, and sickly among you, and many sleep." People perish for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6), revelation knowledge (Ephesians 1:17-23).

Discerning the Lord's Body is revelation of who you are **IN CHRIST**. You have been born into the Jesus race and you are no longer of the Adam race. In Christ, Who is your all in all, you have kept the law because He did. You can forgive because He forgave all for you, you can love all mankind because He did it for you. You are counted righteous because He is righteous, you are holy because He is holy. You are a prophet, priest and king because He is.

You are loved by your DADDY God as the beloved; after all God's only Son married you and you really did become flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. Don't you know?!...**MRS. JESUS CHRIST!** Don't you know?!... Mrs. Jesus Christ, your husband's earth and the fullness of it is yours, not to mention all the stars and things. Don't you know! Mrs. Jesus Christ, the love and peace that comes with this covenant union (marriage) with the Son is yours. His Daddy is I AM that I AM, in Whom nothing is impossible; say **NOTHING!!!** You married into the supernatural, into a whole new creation.

Don't you know?! Oh, don't you know?! As long as your old man is alive you cannot be married to another. Our new man is the one who is married to Christ; reckon your old man dead, that is your flesh (self). OH, **DON'T YOU KNOW!?!**

**Why aren't
Christians
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