



Silver Falls in Silverton, Oregon

Christians Seeking Identity

January-February 2012

“ Do you mean that God is not charging my transgressions to my account? ...that He does not see me as a sinner?”

Greeting Family and friends,

It seems like it was only yesterday when we were celebrating the new year and now Valentines Day is upon us. The year certainly started out fast for us as we found ourselves in Silverton, Oregon doing a women's conference (a first for me). It took place at the Christian Renewal Center (a beautiful retreat center) located in the deep woods of the pacific northwest rain forest .



It was a “true” place for a retreat. There was no cell phone reception and no TV's.

Being the only man amongst all those ladies was quite the experience but as Suzan and I

taught on Identity in Christ I soon realized that there is no difference between men or women when it comes to finding out who you are in Christ. Third John one four describes how we felt as we watched the women get a revelation of the message of grace, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth”. As one particular lady realized that her Heavenly Father did not see her through her faults, her sins or short comings, but rather through His Son Jesus, her eyes grew wide with revelation and amazement and tears of joy welled up in her eyes. This was quite an encouraging way for Suzan and I to start the new year off with.

Have you ever found yourself doing something or having an understanding of a certain subject (or scripture) and when you are asked about it you realize that your understanding comes from someone else's interpretation and not your own personal revelation of it at all? In this months newsletter Suzan presents a teaching titled, “Discernment Belongs to God”. We hope that you will benefit from it and that it will be a blessing to you. We love and appreciate you so very much. God Bless you.

Your friends,
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Discernment Belongs to God

Have you ever wondered why the scriptures seem so hard to understand, and why one scripture often seems to contradict another, or why Jesus deliberately spoke to the Pharisees in parables [Matthew 13:15] so that they could not hear or understand? What prompted Jesus to speak to his own disciples in proverbs with hidden meanings? [John 16:25]

When Joseph was asked to interpret the dream for Pharaoh that no one else could interpret, Joseph said, “Do not interpretations belong to God?” [Genesis 40:8] When the disciples asked Jesus to tell them when the kingdom of Israel would be restored, Jesus answered, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” [Acts 1:7]

1 Corinthians 2 says that the natural man cannot discern spiritual things because they can only be spiritually discerned. The scriptures were not designed to be understood intellectually. Without the “quickenings” interaction of the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual revelation to us, our hearts are hardened [lacking in spiritual perception.]

Why did God tell Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? It was because God created them to walk with Him in relationship. God’s part in the relationship was to supply spiritual understanding. The things of the spirit can not be understood in the natural. **1 Corinthians 15:44-50** Without His part, they had no spiritual sight. Eve was tempted to partake of a knowledge base that was not hers to partake of.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Eve became a partaker of that which God said would bring spiritual death when she became convinced that being able to discern spiritual things without God’s help would be good for her. However, once she lost sight of her dependency upon God to supply spiritual discernment, she was no longer able to tell the difference between good [that which is of God and is incorruptible]

and evil [that which is of the flesh and is corruptible.]

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

The Pharisees interpreted the scriptures by the letter according to their natural understanding and they completely failed to comprehend the true message of the gospel. [Matthew 12:7] When the gospel is interpreted through religion rather than revelation it brings death rather than life. [2 Corinthians 3:6]

Spiritual things can only be spiritually discerned.

That is why **John 3:1-5** says we must be born again. The flesh has no power to see into, or to enter into the kingdom of God. It is a spiritual kingdom that cannot be perceived without the quickening power of the Holy Spirit. We have to be spiritually conceived in order to understand the things of God.

God created us to walk with him in relationship. If the natural man could receive the things of the Spirit without God’s help, there would be no need for relationship. We enter into the things of the kingdom through him. He is the door. Entering in by any other way opens the door for the thief to bring destruction.

John 10:7-10 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

In **Acts 1:8** right after Jesus said that the power to discern belongs to God, Jesus said, “You will receive power [to discern] when the Holy Ghost comes upon you. It was through the work of Jesus that man’s spiritual connection with God [that Adam and Eve lost] was restored.