

Spiritual Economics 101

V.1 We all thirst for more-satisfying lives, peace of mind and assurances. God has everything that we need. There is no limit to his storehouse. He is the creator; and the God of abundance. He is called Jehovah-our strength, Jehovah-our righteousness, etc.. God gives good gifts. This chapter refers to actually buying something from God; though we do not have enough money. How can we buy something without money? To purchase something there has to be an exchange of valuables. What can we give God in order to receive something worth more than anything that we own?

Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. (Revelation 3:17-18)

We need to understand what things that God values. He values our well-being, our salvation and knowledge of his him. Ultimately God wants the same thing that we do; if we had full knowledge of the future. We just do not have the faith and patience to see it through. Our disconnect from God involves how to get what we want. We actually believe at times that God's path for us leads to something other than what we want.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: (Romans 1:22-26)

We want an abundant and overflowing life. God wants us to have an abundant and overflowing life. Why the confusion? We have trust issues. We will listen to a low life and ignore God.

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. (John 10:10)

We cannot even appraise our situation accurately without God's Spirit leading our thoughts. We have a massive capacity to forget/ignore grace and blessings. The most-dangerous place to be is without thirst (apathy) for the things of God. Even God-haters have hidden unfulfilled spiritual expectations.

But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

We need a lot of **water** (physically); and spiritually. If we do not thirst for spiritual things there is not much that can be done for us; except to put us under conditions that will make us sweat. Egypt was called the furnace of affliction; which symbolizes our lives on earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (Matthew 6:6)

God is calling us down to the river. The ancient synagogues were nothing more than at least 10 men gathering at the riverside to worship and give thanks. The metaphor of drinking from a river is a great word picture. Water is required for life. We need water every day to survive. Water is often a picture of the scriptures. We are called trees of righteousness. Receiving wisdom is like drinking pure water in some respects. Here are some other aspects of drinking flowing/living water or taking in the Word of God:

- We have to stop whatever we are doing; and wherever we are going. You can't really drink and work...especially if it is a flowing river. The tyranny of the urgent can limit our time with God.

- We need to kneel in silence and reach out our hands to obtain this blessing. You can't drink and speak at the same time.
- It is abundant and freely provided to all who will partake

Wine sometimes corresponds to the joy that comes from living in the Spirit. Like alcohol; joy changes and colors our feelings about things and effects our view/perspective. We can be full of anxiety or full of joy over the exact same circumstance. Anxiety is emotionally-crippling. If Satan cannot prevent us from being saved; his second-best option is to just cripple us...and take us out of service. Hope equals energy; because motivation is based on desire and expectation. We want to be happy; and stop stressing. The only way to change the pattern of grief and anxiety is to dive deeply in the word of God continuously. When we play *Russian roulette* with the scripture in a hit and miss schedule; our emotions and decisions are all over the board. Unfortunately our fears are what frequently drive us to the scriptures. A 911 Bible reading is not as good as a regular re-alignment. Going without the guidance of the Spirit is crazy. In fact that is the same as not adding oil to your car's motor until the red light comes on.

Milk can express the fundamentals of Christian living (salvation, repentance, faith, etc.). Like amino acid building blocks for our body; scripture is comprised of basic concepts arranged in a progression. We need to learn the basics of scripture (the milk); and then move on to the deeper concepts (meat). Paul is critical of believers who never get past the milk. That would correspond to a baby Christian. Do you feed your own spirit; or do you depend on nutrition coming from others (radio, church, etc.)? Some churches throw out the opportunity for salvation weekly; and appeal to unbelievers. That teaching schedule will yield souls; but the established flock will become anemic as they are malnourished spiritually. The Biblical model is to feed the flock; and increase them in spiritual maturity. If you do this; you will save souls as well. Many churches use a biblical survey (fairly shallow and broad) approach to teaching. In-depth scriptural study is important.

V.2 We spend ourselves on things that do not strengthen us. In fact; we spend money and time on things that harm us. Jesus is the bread of life. He gives us

strength to continue and grow. Why would take something poisonous like illegal drugs or pornography into our mind? The dark ages and black plague came partially because people did not remove their trash from where they lived in filth. We are too permissive; and need to seek to be holy vessels. It comes down to who is charge of the store? Is your heart or your mind in control of your body? Are you willfully consuming trash (pornography, suggestive TV, ungodly song lyrics, etc..)?

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. "For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit. "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:5-9)

In a sense, our worst enemy is our own heart. Satan capitalizes on our bents and weaknesses. He does not try to sell us what we are not inclined to buy. We have a short-term orientation that seeks short-term gratification; at the cost of long term lasting benefits. Our hearts are very poor evaluators. Immediate gratification comes at the ruination of our lives.

I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind. (Ecclesiastes 1:14)

I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was futility. I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?" I explored with my mind *how* to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding *me* wisely, and how to take hold

of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves and I had home-born slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines. Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun. Wisdom Excels Folly. So I turned to consider wisdom, madness and folly; for what *will* the man *do* who will come after the king *except* what has already been done? And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness. The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I know that one fate befalls them both. (Ecclesiastes 2:1-14)

- Solomon's intellect and skills and opportunities did not give him peace of mind. There is no getting around it. We need to come before the LORD with brutal intellectual honesty and yield to be healed. Walking in God's ways yields peace of mind.

Only the mind of Christ can re-organize/re-set the shambles of our imagination and our hearts enslavements. Do we have a holy thought process; or is it over-run with worldly-sound bites? Maturing in Christ is partly about protecting yourself.

For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:15-17)

What we do is more important than what we try to convince ourselves that we believe. Sometimes faithfulness precedes desire.

V. 3 Merely listening to the word of God is not the same as coming to him. Academic study of scripture produces philosophers or theologians; not servants of God. Action is proof of belief. When the scripture speaks of hearing the word of God, it is not just referring to listening. It is taking it in with an intent to walk in it.

Therefore say thou unto them, Thus says the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3)

Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore unto thy fathers: Deuteronomy 7:12)

What are the sure mercies of David?...that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.' *As for the fact* that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY *and* SURE *blessings* OF DAVID.' Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*, 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.' For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon *you*: (Acts 13:33-40)

God was merciful to David. He did not keep an accounting of his wrongs. He gave David everlasting life. Even Jesus was said to be begotten in Psalm 2 during the millennium. It is to be given a life after this life. Those are the sure mercies of David. Knowing that our eternity is secure should give us some

peace right now. Knowing that God is large and in charge; and that I never have been – is a healing truth.

VV.4-5 We put pressure on ourselves as Christians. “I am not an adequate evangelist” is a common saying. God actually calls us to be witnesses. A witness is a person who was present when something happened. John the Baptist was considered to be greater than all of the prophets; yet his title was: witness. If you see Jesus; and hear Jesus and speak to Jesus and walk with Jesus you will lit up like Moses when he came down from Mount Sinai.

The millennium will be a time of massive blessing upon Israel in every imaginable way. There are comparisons between the notable blessings of history verses what lies ahead in the millennium. David is a leader and commander to the people of God. He was the prototype shepherd of God’s flock. All of Israel and Judah’s kings were compared to his standard.

Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: And I was with thee wherever you went, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as beforetime, (2 Samuel 7:8-10)

…And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father (2 Kings 14:3)

Some scriptures also indicate that King David will return as a sub-regent under Jesus in the millennium.

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, says the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. (Jeremiah 30:7-9)

V.6 God’s Spirit is at hand. If God is omnipresent, what does it mean to seek him while he may be found? We are always faced with decisions and choices.

Our choices further—harden or soften our hearts to God. That is why clay typifies our hearts. The water of the word softens it.

Jesus said unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. (Matthew 21:41-45)

V.7 There is no sin that God cannot forgive. When we fall to sin we become so self-condemned that many are intimidated to return; and some even commit suicide. The reality is that we are all hopelessly self-destructive and slaves to sin and shame without Jesus. We need to see that truth when we are strong; not when we are beat up.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eats and drinks with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard it, he says unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Mark 2:16-17)

We are called to be paramedics to the hurting. There is mercy and healing in the act of healing others. We are sick healing the sick. Helping others is one of the missing components in our own health. In other words; the worst thing you can do when you are full of anxiety and fear is to isolate yourself. Rather, suck it up and go help someone else. It will take your mind off of yourself (your mirage); and set you on a course to minister.

Blessed is he that considers the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness. (Psalm 41:1-3)

VV.9-11: God is orchestrating all things to our benefit; though it may seem to us like things are going against us. When we get down we conclude that it is no use reaching out to God since we see the whole picture. All we see is our face in the mirror. We don't see God. This whole universe is only here until God's plan for man's redemption is complete. God changes paradigms, allies, random and fortuitous events around our decisions as a means to coach us on to further faith. You can't play chicken with God. He knows your limits...where your faith evaporates.

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:25-31)

-Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; (Hebrews 12:2-a)

God's word is like a solemn reminder that he is never, ever wrong about anything. The test is to trust his promises more than what we see before us.

For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2 Corinthians 5:4-7)

VV.12-13: In a sense the millennium is a reversal of man getting kicked out of the garden.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt

not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; (Genesis 3:17-18)