

ACHIEVING SPIRITUAL SYMMETRY

ROMANS 12:1-2

“ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL SYMMETRY?

- The word “**SYMMETRY**” means: “**BEAUTY RESULTING FROM A BALANCED OR HARMONIOUS** (peace, serenity, & joy) **ARRANGEMENT.**”
- Therefore, **SPIRITUAL SYMMETRY** is the **BEAUTY THAT RESULTS FROM BEING SPIRITUALLY ALIGNED WITH GOD AND THE PEACE, SERENITY, AND JOY WHICH COMES FROM HAVING A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, JESUS CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
- When Paul makes reference to presenting our bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God and being transformed by the renewing of our mind he is indicating that we need to have a harmonious spiritual relationship with God so that we can know, accept and do God’s perfect will.

IMPORTANCE OF SEEKING AND ACHIEVING SPIRITUAL SYMMETRY

- It is important for us as God's children to achieve a spiritual balance in our lives in order to meet our spiritual commitments and obligations which come from being declared beneficiaries of the power, salvation and resurrection resulting from the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. For Colossians 3:1 says, **"IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE WHERE CHRIST SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.**
- It is also important that we strive to achieve spiritual harmony in order to have a place in glory with Jesus Christ. Colossians 3:2-4 tells us, **"SET YOUR AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH. FOR YE ARE DEAD, AND YOUR LIFE IS HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD. WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE, SHALL APPEAR, THEN SHALL YE ALSO APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY.**

STEPS TO ACHIEVING SPIRITUAL SYMMETRY

#1 - CHRISTIANS MUST ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUTH

- The New International Version Bible defines truth as **“A QUALITY THAT BELONGS TO GOD, TO CHRIST, AND TO THE SPIRIT.”**
- Therefore, in order to live in accordance with the type of truth that God requires, **CHRISTIANS MUST SEEK TRUTH, SPEAK TRUTH, WALK IN TRUTH, LIVE BY TRUTH, AND WORSHIP IN TRUTH.**
- The only way to attain this level of truth is through Jesus Christ. For in John 14:6 Jesus said, **“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE; NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER BUT BY ME.”**

#2 – CHRISTIANS MUST HAVE A SPECIFIC WALK OF LIFE

- The primary focus here, revolves around structuring each step we take in our lives to coincide with God's prescribed path. When we step out on faith and walk with God in the truth, in the light, in the Spirit, in love, and in obedience we fulfill the requirements of God.
- The bible provides instruction on how to achieve a specific walk of life in Proverbs 3:5-6 and 2 Corinthians 5:7. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to **“TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING, IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS.”** 2 Corinthians 5:7 gives simple directions for achieving a specific walk of life. For verse 7 instructs us to **“...WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.”**
- When we as Christians, order our steps to walk in the footsteps of Jesus we have a promise from the Lord that He will walk with us and bestow upon us blessings which exceed our wildest imagination.

#3 - CHRISTIANS MUST STRIVE TO BE HUMBLE SERVANTS

- God's Children are to **SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL**, and **NOT UNTO THEIR OWN WILL**. Jesus stressed the importance of humility during a discussion with his disciples on **WHO IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**. Christ told his disciples in Matthew 18:4 that **"WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL HUMBLE HIMSELF AS A LITTLE CHILD, THE SAME IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."**
- Christ also provided helpful insight on being humble in Luke 14:11. Christ said, **"FOR WHOSOEVER EXALTETH HIMSELF SHALL BE ABASED (OR BROUGHT DOWN); AND HE THAT HUMBLETH HIMSELF SHALL BE EXALTED (OR LIFTED UP)."**
- Jesus Christ devoted his life, and also his death, to obeying and doing God's will. Therefore, it is quite understandable that when we as God's Children, allow ourselves to become servants of Christ, and servants to others, we are adhering to the doctrine of Christ. That is why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:19, **"FOR THOUGH I BE FREE FROM ALL MEN, YET HAVE I MADE MYSELF SERVANT UNTO ALL, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THE MORE."** Furthermore, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:23, **"AND THIS I DO FOR THE GOSPEL'S SAKE, THAT I MIGHT BE PARTAKER THEREOF WITH YOU."** As a result, God's children take a third step toward reaching a balance spiritually.

#4 - CHRISTIANS MUST REALIZE THAT THEY ARE CALLED BY GOD TO FULFILL A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

- Each child of God has a calling to live a life of holiness aided by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's children can satisfy this calling by being **LONGSUFFERING, PEACE MERCHANTS, SERVANTS IN FREEDOM AND LOVE, AND WORKING TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL.**
- The book of Romans tells us that by seeking and fulfilling this fourth step that children of God advance even closer to achieving spiritual symmetry. Romans 8:28 says, "**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.**"

#5 - CHRISTIANS MUST BE ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER AS FAMILY MEMBERS

- In most cases, family refers to the mother, father, sister, brother or other persons who are related through bloodline or matrimony. However, the family we want to allude to is the family which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 12:50, where He said, **“FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN, THE SAME IS MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND MOTHER.”**
- Furthermore, this family is a spiritually orientated family that strives to follow God’s commandments, live together in peace, and work together as one body and not as separate units. That is why Romans 12:4-5 says: **“FOR AS WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY, AND ALL MEMBERS HAVE NOT THE SAME OFFICE: SO WE, BEING MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND EVERY ONE MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER.”**

#6 - CHRISTIANS MUST BE DEAD TO SIN

- God's Children must pick up their cross and become disciples of Jesus Christ. This is confirmed in Matthew 16:24-25 for it says: **"THEN SAID JESUS UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME. FOR WHOSOEVER WILL SAVE HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT: AND WHOSOEVER WILL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE SHALL FIND IT."** By picking up our cross, we allow ourselves to receive salvation and forgiveness of our sins. We also become one of Christ's believers and we crucify the sins of the flesh. As a result, **WE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WE PUT OUR SINFUL NATURE TO DEATH, WE MAKE A COMMITMENT TO DO GOD'S WILL, AND WE WILLINGLY OBEY CHRIST.**
- We can insure that we will be dead to sin by following the guidance given in Colossians 3: 5 and 8. Verse 5 tells us: **"MORTIFY THEREFORE YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE UPON THE EARTH, FORNICATION, UNCLEANNESS, INORDINATE AFFECTION, EVIL CONCUPISCENCE, AND COVETOUSNESS, WHICH IS IDOLATRY."** Moreover, verse 8 says, **"BUT NOW YE ALSO PUT OFF THESE; ANGER, WRATH, MALICE, BLASPHEMY, FILTHY COMMUNICATION OUT OF YOUR MOUTH."** In other words, we must not allow these acts and desires of the flesh to control our lives. We must rid our body of these sinful afflictions and allow the Spirit of righteousness to reside within us.
- Romans 8:10, confirms for us that when our bodies are dead to sin, our spirit lives to righteousness. For verse 10 says, **"AND IF CHRIST BE IN YOU, THE BODY IS DEAD BECAUSE OF SIN, BUT THE SPIRIT IS LIFE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

#7 - CHRISTIANS MUST BE OBEDIENT TO CHRIST

- Through obedience, God's children are much closer to having a harmonious spirituality. The book of 1 John gives credence to the connection between obedience and spirituality. In 1 John 3:23-24 it says, **“AND HE THAT KEEPETH HIS COMMANDMENTS DWELLETH IN HIM, AND HE IN HIM. AND HEREBY WE KNOW THAT HE ABIDETH IN US, BY THE SPIRIT WHICH HE HATH GIVEN US.”**
- In other words, when we live according to God's commandments, God resides with us and we reside with God. As a result, we know that God lives in us through the Spirit that He has given us.

#8 - CHRISTIANS MUST BE SANCTIFIED BY GOD

- **SANCTIFICATION** has been described as a process by which Christians, over time, approach **HOLINESS** and **JUSTIFICATION**. We know that God wants us to be holy based upon the writings in 1 Thessalonians 4:7 and 1 Peter 1:16. Paul indicates that “...**GOD HATH NOT CALLED US UNTO UNCLEANNES, BUT UNTO HOLINESS.** Peter informs us that “...**IT IS WRITTEN, BE YE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.**”
- We have knowledge about justification by God because of what the word says in Romans 5:1 and 9. Verse 1 says “**THEREFORE, BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.** Verse 9 says “**MUCH MORE THEN BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS (JESUS’) BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM.**”
- Jesus tells us how we are sanctified, in John 17:17, where He says “**SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH; THY WORD IS TRUTH.**” Now, if sanctification comes through God’s truth, and the Word of God is truth, then we should conclude that sanctification comes through Jesus Christ.

#8 - CHRISTIANS MUST BE SANCTIFIED BY GOD CONTINUED

- The reason we should come to this conclusion is due to the writings in the first chapter of the book of John. In that first chapter John says **“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD (John 1:1).** John goes on to say that **“...THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH (John 1:14).** John solidifies this conclusion by stating; **“FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN BY MOSES, BUT GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST. (John 1:17).”**
- Now, based upon John’s writing, we know that **JESUS WAS IN THE BEGINNING, JESUS WAS WITH GOD, AND JESUS WAS GOD.** We also know that **JESUS WAS MADE FLESH, JESUS IS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,** and that **GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS.**
- Now, because we know that **JESUS IS TRUTH,** we also know that **JESUS IS SANCTIFIED.** Therefore we can conclude that **JESUS IS SANCTIFICATION AND WE ARE SANCTIFIED BY JESUS CHRIST.**

CONCLUSION

The gospel provides specific directions which lead us down the path to achieving spiritual symmetry. Our ability to achieve spiritual symmetry depends upon our consistency in following God's prescribed paths.

- We must follow **THE PATH OF TRUTH**
- We must follow **THE PATH OF A SPECIFIC WALK OF LIFE**
- We must follow **THE PATH OF A HUMBLE SERVANT**
- We must follow **THE PATH OF FAMILY ONENESS**
- We must follow **THE PATH THAT IS DEAD TO SIN**
- We must follow **THE PATH OF OBEDIENCE**
- We must follow **THE PATH OF SANCTIFICATION.**

**BY FOLLOWING THESE PATHS
THE CHRISTIAN WILL
ACHIEVE SPIRITUAL SYMMETRY**

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