

# MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Too Good, Yet True

Dear Friend,

What an awesome and extremely costly plan God devised to free us out of spiritual death and to be born anew. To say that God's plan was too good to be true would be an understatement. God's limitless capacity to love and desire to be loved necessitated He pay the ultimate price. The reason the price was so high was because God had held nothing back from Adam when He gave Adam the oversight of His creation. (Genesis 1:28)

**“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ‘Be fruitful, and multiply, replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.’”**

If only we could appreciate the magnitude of what was accomplished in this statement. One person, Adam, was given complete authority over everything on this earth. What must that have been like as Adam began fulfilling his assignment as “under ruler”, under God's purview? Then, as quickly as Adam came into rule, he fell to sin and became subject to satan's rule. These events might cause us to wonder why God didn't just end man's existence all together. Why not scrap everything He had created and start over again elsewhere with a totally new creation? Had it not been for God's never ending love for man, things might have turned out differently. But, thank God for His great love for man which kept Him from forsaking us.

God's intention has always been to have a family consisting of children who are free will, moral agents, able to make their own choices without manipulation or coercion. Children who are free to do whatever they choose to do within the basic parameters He outlined. In Adam's case those parameters were, “Don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...”. Obviously, we all know how that turned out.

Rebellion is a horrible sin. It is particularly difficult when the rebellion originates from within the immediate family, as most parents can attest. For an employee to challenge authority is one thing, but when the challenge is coming from your own son it's especially heart wrenching. Adam was God's son. Adam was not God's slave; he was God's son. Luke described this by going through the genealogy beginning with Joseph and working backwards to Adam. (Luke 3:38)

**“Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.”**

Adam was God's son. Adam wasn't created so that God could simply watch him like a hamster in a cage. Adam was made a son of God. When Adam fell, God wasn't witnessing the fall of a creation in which He held no vested interest. He was watching the fall of His family and the end of that creation. For God's ultimate plan of having a family to be realized, without having to utterly destroy everything He had just created and start out from scratch, a plan had to be devised in which mankind could all be accounted as dead without actually leaving the planet and once dead be reborn as a totally new creation. All of this would have to transpire concurrently, with the end of one creation simultaneously being the beginning of another; say hello to Jesus. Without hesitation, God immediately put into action His plan for Jesus, beginning with His statement to the serpent, satan. (Genesis 3:14-15)

**(14) “And the Lord God said unto the serpent, ‘Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: (15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.’ ”**

God knew in making this statement, announcing the end of satan's rule, that all hope of ever enjoying true fellowship with this first creation was gone. God knew that for Him to have a family He could fellowship with required Him to “seed” a new family into the earth. It would be up to God to provide that “seed”. In an unusual twist, the carrier of the “seed” would be the woman instead of the man. With the “seed's” successful entrance into the world, the devil's reign of terror would soon be over. God's ingenious plan required that the one who would originate God's new family would somehow be the same one who ended the existence of the first creation.

God's plan was set in motion, although it would take thousands of years of meticulously releasing His Word into the earth until finally the “seed” of His Word

produced Jesus. With the entrance of Jesus, the “seed” of His new family was finally in the earth. God’s first son Adam was lost, which meant the loss of all those born through his loins. God needed another Adam through which He could begin a new family by birthing within them the same life that was given to the first Adam. This would be the job of the last Adam. This “last Adam”, also God’s only begotten Son, would bring to an end the existence of the first race of Adam and initiate God’s new family. This is the essence of what John wrote. (John 3:16)

**“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”**

Also, Paul spoke of the work of the last Adam in his letter to the Corinthians. (I Corinthians 15:45)

**“The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam (Jesus) was made a quickening spirit.”**

The “last Adam” paid the price for the sin of the first Adam by dying on a cross. Jesus’ death not only satisfied the price of sin, His blood simultaneously ratified the New Covenant resulting in His own rebirth as the “first born from the dead” and the prototype of a new race of people, “new creations”. What a plan!

Sadly, it seems much of the body of Christ have stopped at the cross to receive deliverance from sin and refuse to go any further. They fail to realize that the death of the old man simultaneously results in the birth of the new man into God’s family as His son. Their “cross mentality” holds them captive to a sin mentality causing them to continually look back at the dead man on the cross. Unable to see themselves as God’s sons, they continue to think of themselves only as “sinners” saved by grace. The “sinner” is dead and we are now the righteousness of God in Christ. (II Corinthians 5:21)

**“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”**

Jesus related this to Nicodemus. (John 3:3)

**“Jesus answered and said unto him, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ ”**

The born again experience Jesus spoke of here is supposed to be more than an event which we point to and say, “Oh yes, I am born again, amen.” We who have accepted the Lordship of Jesus have been born again, born of God’s spirit, and

that rebirth has given us entrance into God's family. Our birth into God's family is as real as our first birth into our natural family. God is now our Father. That's right, God is our Father. If you were reborn, God is your Father. It would do us good to focus our attention on this truth until it becomes **a living revelation** inside of us.

Doesn't it only make sense that being reborn would accomplish more than freeing us from sin? Think about it, simply freeing us from sin could not totally accomplish the objective God had in the first place of having a family. God wanted a family with members who simply love Him of their own free will choice. Love that freely flows out of a heart that is completely and totally devoted to a Father who spared no expense to free them, going so far as to offer up His only begotten Son to redeem them. Your love is what our Father longs for and you are the only one who can give that to Him. What an awesome thought, to have something that God cannot receive from anyone else but you.

Herein is the Gospel, the message of how God made a way for man to be born into His family. It isn't only about how **not** to go to hell. Obviously, we should thank God we are not going to hell. But, the Gospel is so much more than that. For us to exclusively focus on that one point would be like someone giving you a car and you focus only on one feature of that car, like the motor. You open the hood and marvel over what a beautiful motor you have. Well, praise God for the motor, but don't be so focused on the motor that you lose sight of the car. "Oh, no brother, I am so thankful for my new motor. But, I'm so unworthy; I don't deserve an entire car. I'll be content to simply rejoice over my beautiful motor." How silly is that? Of course we didn't deserve this, the motor or the car or any of it. We can't continue to remain focused solely on the motor. Or, we can't remain focused solely on our deliverance from sin. God has provided us with the opportunity to be born into His family, that's the entire package, the whole car. Let's get into our car and drive, or rather, walk in the fullness of all that God provided us as sons of God.

Discovering who we have become as members in God's family is what I believe to be the forerunner to the outpouring that will cover the earth. Take a look at the following verses that reveal this truth that we are sons of God. This is the prayer Jesus prayed to the Father in John's Gospel. (John 17:22-23)

**(22) "And the glory which thou (God the Father) gavest Me (Jesus) I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: (23) I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved Me."**

Ponder what Jesus is saying here to the Father, that the glory the Father gave Jesus would be given to us and that the world would know that the Father loves us as much as He loved Jesus. That's enough to make a person's head explode. If it wasn't in my Bible I couldn't believe it, but the truth is that it is in my Bible and I must believe. So, what is this "glory" Jesus spoke about because if we can understand what this "glory" is then we have a good shot at understanding what we have been given. Before we let the Bible define this glory, it is important that we realize what this glory is not. This glory **is not** the glory of being the second member of the Godhead, known in heaven as "the Word". John identified "the Word" as God. (John 1:1)

**"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."**

John went on to explain how the Word left heaven and became flesh in the first part of verse. (John 1:14a)

**"And the Word (*the second member of the Godhead in heaven*) was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."**

Paul explained to the Philippians that all deity was laid down and Jesus was born into this world in our likeness. (Philippians 2:7-8)

**(7) "But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."**

The original Greek word translated as no reputation, in verse 7, means to empty or make empty. In heaven, the second member of the Godhead, identified by John as "the Word", emptied Himself of everything it meant to be deity before leaving heaven and entering the human race through the womb of a virgin as a baby named Jesus. God, The Word, didn't come into this world as God. Jesus came into this world a man. He came as both The Son of God and the son of man. All the works of Jesus in this world were accomplished by a man who was anointed by the Holy Ghost, just like us. Consequently, the glory Jesus gave us had nothing to do with deity. This still leaves us with the question, "What was this glory that Jesus gave us?" Look at the last half of verse 14. (John 1:14b)

**"... (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."**

John explained that the glory Jesus held on this earth was the glory of being the only begotten of the Father, The Son of God. Jesus also identified Himself as the son of man. (John 3:14)

**“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the son of man be lifted up.”**

Jesus was both Son of God and son of man. Jesus was the son of man because He was born into this world with a natural body. Jesus was The Son of God because God had birthed Him into this world with His life, the same life lost by the first Adam. By Jesus giving us His glory he made the way for us to be born again of the life of God and become sons of God.

It's when we go beyond “the cross” and the sin mentality that we see how Jesus made it possible for us to be reborn into God's family as God's sons. Being a son of God has nothing to do with becoming deity. We will never become deity. Being God's son is about fulfilling God's original intent and purpose of having a family, a family to share in His Kingdom. The first Adam came into existence as God's son and understood that the Father was turning all dominion over to Him. Once we are born again sons of God with His life, His expectation is for us to rule and reign in this life as was His intent for the first Adam. This is the glory Jesus gave us.

Here is the icing on the cake. Not only are we reborn as sons of God, but God put us on equal footing with “the first born from the dead” by making us joint heirs with Christ. How's that for something too good to be true? Through our identification in Jesus as our representative we also enjoy His standing as heir. Paul said it this way. (Romans 8:16-17)

**(16) “The Spirit (Holy Spirit) himself (Himself) bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together.”**

We have been born again into God's family with the same glory as Jesus. His glory has made us sons of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Is it just too hard to believe that God would do this for us? Is it that we look too much at ourselves and think, “I'm no son of God!, I don't deserve to be a son of God!” No, we really don't deserve to be sons of God, in ourselves, but He made us worthy. Our responsibility now is to believe it. Believe the Word of God that tells us we are sons in God's family. We who are born again should meditate on the scriptures that paint this picture of being His son until the image is clearly painted on the

canvas of our heart. When “I am a son of God” is **a living revelation** in us we will walk exactly as The Son of God, Jesus Himself, walked on this earth. You are a son of God, believe it! It is too good, yet true.

Grace be with you,

*Mark Jenkins*