

INSIGHTS

THE WAY TO A NEW LIFE || SUMMER 2019

“
Knowing
that this
place
has been
prepared
within
you by
Jesus
Himself
is the
game-
changer.”

It really isn't how God sees us that determines our experiences. It is how we *think* He sees us that will govern our trust and ability to receive from Him.

Of course, God's perspective and His provisions make everything He desires for our lives possible for us. But it is the way we let His thinking change our thinking that sets us up for lasting results.

At the very end of Jesus' time with His disciples, just before being arrested, He told them what was about to happen and what it would do in them. The setting was in the moments immediately after

“

It is totally unreasonable to think we can reflect God's image and true nature. Yet this new birth has changed us so drastically and completely that this is exactly how He sees it.”



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their intimate time together sharing the covenant meal that we call the Last Supper.

“Don't worry or surrender to your fear. For you've believed in God, now trust and believe in me also. My Father's house has many dwelling places. If it were otherwise, I would tell you plainly, because I go to prepare a place for you to rest. And when everything is ready, I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am. And you already know the way to the place where I'm going” (John 14:1-4 TPT).

Although the disciples didn't realize it just yet, they were about to face an onslaught of trouble and fears that had the potential of shaking everything they had believed about Jesus. But Jesus knew what was about to happen, and He was equipping them (and us) to succeed against any future threat or attack.

In order to grasp how deeply the disciples would be affected by these soon-coming events, keep in mind what they had been taught about Messiah all of their lives. These men had grown up hearing that Messiah was coming to reestablish Israel's greatness and independence. He would free Israel from Roman occupation and establish God's Kingdom in the form of a government that would reign supreme.

Of course, we know that this was not what Jesus had come to do, but the disciples didn't have that revelation yet as they shared that last Passover meal with the Master. It would only be later that they would come to more fully understand that Jesus had come for a much greater purpose—to liber-

ate all mankind from the tyranny, corruption, and bondage of sin. He would indeed establish God's Kingdom, but He would reign from the heart of each individual who would receive Him as their Lord and personal Savior.

Looking at Jesus's statements in these verses, we can see that He was describing exactly how this would happen. He was about to go away and prepare a place for each of them. The word “prepare” is itself rich with insight to help the disciples understand what was about to happen. In *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*, it is defined to mean *to make all necessary preparations or to get everything ready*. It was taken from the

Jesus said that He was about to leave them and “go.” His death was actually only hours away. This would have been an unthinkable prospect to the disciples. But we know that this was exactly what Jesus was telling them. Through His death, He would pay the price for the sins of humanity and then enter the presence of the Heavenly Father.

Do you remember that moment in John 20:11 when Mary Magdalene was at the tomb of Jesus crying? She thought it was the gardener until she heard His voice. She turned to face Him, but Jesus told her not to touch Him. Why? Because He had not yet ascended to the Father. He had just been raised from death and was about to ascend



“ We are now seated with Jesus in heavenly places.”

oriental custom of sending people ahead of a king on a journey for the purpose of leveling the road and making it passable.

Jesus was telling the disciples that He was going before them in order to make the path to the Father “passable” for them. Then He said that after He made everything ready, He would come back so they could be where He is.

At that moment, the disciples didn't really grasp the depth of what Jesus described. Thankfully, we can now look back to understand it.

into the presence of the Father with the eternal sacrifice.

This is what Jesus was referring to when He said that He would go prepare a place for us. He was going to the Father in Heaven to make Heaven ready for every person who would receive this holy sacrifice.

Once everything was ready and the sacrifice was offered on Heaven's Mercy Seat (Hebrews 9:12), Jesus came back to show Himself over many days to His disciples. Through the sacrifice of His precious blood, Jesus had joined Heaven and earth to bring

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the Father's crown of creation — His people — into His presence.

When we receive Jesus' sacrifice personally, we are given access to all of Heaven's resources. We are where Jesus is, just as He told His disciples.

- Ephesians 2:6 says we are now seated with Jesus in heavenly places.
- Hebrews 4:16 tells us to come boldly before the Throne of Grace to receive what we need.

Our union with Christ gives us a presence in Heaven — but it also gives the Father a presence here on earth. Jesus was the "...exact expression of God's true nature — his mirror image" (Hebrews 1:3 TPT). Now we are filled with the same Holy Spirit and born again, free from sin's dominion and capable of being His mirror image on the earth in this day.

That is a tall order and seems beyond reason. And it is! It is totally unreasonable to think we can reflect God's image and true nature. Yet this new birth has changed us so drastically and completely that this is exactly how He sees it. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus has prepared a place *in us*.

So here is what must happen — *we* must see it too! He not only prepared a place for us in the presence of the Father, but He has also prepared us for everything He desires us to be and to have.

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) makes it so plain:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Second Timothy 2:20–21 (NKJV) gives more insight:

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."

The place has been prepared for every person to come freely and confidently to the Father through the sacrifice of His Son, knowing that they are welcomed with open arms. The place has also been prepared *within* every born-again person to carry the power of His presence into every good work.

Knowing that this place has been prepared within you by Jesus Himself is the game-changer. It's the difference between your struggling to do what *you* can do in



UPCOMING MEETINGS

VISALIA, CA | JULY 7-8

Praise Center Church | 503 N. Floral Street
Visalia, CA 93291 | 559-733-2744

OTTAWA, ON, CANADA | JULY 13-15

Capital City Church | 1123 Old Montreal Road
Ottawa, ON K4A 3N6 | 613-833-1700

HOLIDAY, FL | JULY 28-30 (DENNIS & VIKKI)

Grace Harvest Church | 2205 Arcadia Road
Holiday, Florida 34690 | 727-940-5607

PANAMA CITY, FL | AUGUST 2-4 (DENNIS & VIKKI)

Goodness of God Church | 9721 Thomas Drive
Panama City, FL 32408 | 850-348-0609

MAYSVILLE, KY | AUGUST 9-11

Victory Christian Center | 719 US 62
Maysville, KY 41056 | 606-759-7211

GILBERT, AZ | AUGUST 18 (AM)

Living Word Bible Church | 202 S Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ | 480-456-9200

AHWATUKEE, AZ | AUGUST 18 (PM)

Living Word Bible Church | 14647 S 50th Street #165
Ahwatukee, AZ 85044 | 480-584-6116

SAN MARCOS, CA | SEPTEMBER 1

Grace Church of San Marcos | 855 East Barham Drive
San Marcos, CA 92078 | 760-761-4923

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND | SEPTEMBER 15

Christian Community Church | Arklow Bay Hotel
1 Sea Road | Arklow, Co. Wicklow | 353(0)40223920

your own strength and experiencing all *He* can do through you by the power of His Spirit.

Jesus concluded His final teaching to His disciples with such a powerful statement. Let His conquering courage fill you as well!

“And everything I’ve taught you is so that the peace which is in me will be in you and will give you great confidence as you rest in me. For in this unbelieving world you will experience trouble and sorrows, but you must be courageous, for I have conquered the world!”
 (John 16:33 TPT)

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