

Sharing



Recently I received a request for an encouraging message to share with others. I had one that I thought was appropriate and complied, a day later I was viewing a You Tube Video made by Dr. Vuong regarding the Covid Pandemic which you could watch here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J0d59dd-qM>) that explains how the disease works in your body which I shared with some friends and relatives. The responses that I received from these messages were very different from what I had expected, which got me to thinking. I have been creating these articles for the last 10+ years (Yup it's been that long) with certain expectations, have any of those expectations been fulfilled? I like to fantasize in believing that my communication skills have improved over the years, you'll have to be the judge of that but the question that this raises is, "If my message isn't interpreted in the same way by everyone and not always the same way as intended, there must be other messages that fall prey to the same phenomenon?"

Every day of our lives we are bombarded with information and with all the opportunities presented to us through all the social media, perhaps we could refer to ourselves as "The Information Generation". The question this begs thought is, "Just what impact does all this information have on us from a day to day basis?". I suggest that it has a lot more than you think or would admit!! Which leads to the core of this message. We need a "Filter" for all of this admonition!! What would that "Filter" look like? Would it be a cover over our eyes and ears kinda like the face masks that those who would avoid the Covid disease wear? No, even the face mask isn't 100% effective and soon becomes a nuisance to the wearer. The filter that I would suggest is "Brain Implanted" and monitors all incoming and outgoing data but doesn't impair the vision or hearing function. We have antimalware on our computers, think of this as "antimalware for the brain" and just as the computer reaches out for "Updates" so you should update the "Brain Filter" on a regular basis and maybe not just weekly or weakly.

Isaiah 55:10-11 says. *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* Do we understand the full purpose for which He sent that word?

Isaiah 30: 15 sheds a little light on what the purposes of God's word really is, *This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it."*

So let's fast forward, this is the season where we talk about the sacrifice that God made in the person of Jesus Christ and the death and resurrection of Him. Even though this is the culmination of Jesus's efforts to bring all of humanity into a right standing with God His Father, it isn't where it began.

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea saying, "repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." He further expanded on this message by saying, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." John was very outspoken in regards to this "Repentance Thing" and even chastised

the then Clergy to present a more repentant reflection or image. Sounds as if John was into repentance as an instrument for salvation.

When Jesus started His Ministry He followed the same path that John had pioneered and preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Jesus had other aptitudes that drew immense crowds and an audience to listen to His message. Did He preach "Sit back and I'll do all the work". I don't think so!! One of Jesus's first messages came in Matthew 5, when you go there you will recognize it right away. In it Jesus talks about your spirit, humility, grieving, righteousness, mercy, exemplary heart, statesmanship, and finally your willingness and ability to exhibit these attributes even under the threat of oppression. After His message Jesus instructed the hearers and us, "Now that you have this learning, go out and season the culture that you live in and don't camouflage yourself so as to blend into this world". Much of Christianity is not hearing this part of His message and this could be a disservice to Jesus's work.

If you continue to read Jesus's message, you will hear about the "Law", how it hasn't gone away even in His presence, and how it is much more difficult to observe than you might think. It is at this point that you hear Jesus exclaim that He is the fulfillment of the "Law" but I believe that is only in the eyes of God and as far as the rest of humanity is concerned, their judgement will be just as strict as is God's but much less consistent, understandable or forgiving.

What **Is** Jesus trying to teach us!! His life was a model of fervent commitment to the will of God His Father and He constantly encouraged us to do the same. It was God's will that sent Jesus to The Cross and Jesus said so in Gethsemane and John said so in his oft repeated 3:16. Jesus shed His Blood so that we would be reconciled to God and receive the Blessing Of Eternal Life but only through Commitment To God's Will, Continued Repentance and Attention To The Holy Spirit while we are waiting can our lives here on Earth be improved.

PS: Filtering life through the promises of God will make us less fearful and more confident even when things don't go as we would prefer them to and if you think you have nothing to repent of, you may not be paying close enough attention to the Holy Spirit.