

The Best of Us

I have not had the desire to put my thoughts down for quite awhile. Some days I wonder... *where did that come from*—quickly, I can be given a whole story line in my thoughts that can develop into an essay over time.

Of course, my disclaimer: *I am not claiming to be right; this is just how I see it right now!*

This story started at the local library where I go some Saturdays to do some research and afterwards I sometimes will browse some magazines. This particular week a “Men’s Health” article on “*how to get the beauty*” caught my eye. Even though I am married and “*have the beauty*”, I am a man who is still alive—I can still appreciate the *beauty* of... a woman... an intricate flower... a magnificent landscape... a good solution to a problem... an act of kindness... an expression from a child that melts the heart... or any part of God’s creation. When I got home, I shared with my wife what I had read—I asked her if it was true in the history of our relationship... she confirmed.

If you have read my writing in the past, you know I see the Life of Christ, the Holy Spirit, represented quite a bit in a woman. [I say... *represented*... not, is a woman!] “Charity”, known as “she”, is described to be like the “fruits of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 13) while “wisdom” is called “her” in Proverbs. The desire for relationship, and the growth thereof, plus nurturing and comforting seem to be at the heart of a woman—roles, I would say, described of the Holy Spirit... and, to top it off, the Church unified by the Holy Spirit is referred to the “bride of Christ”.

The article on “the beauty” said that what she finds most sexy in a man would shock most men. We tend to think it would first be aggressive strength displayed, or the ability to “pound our enemy into the ground”, that we are the “top dog”. The women interviewed said what they found the most attractive was a man that treated his family and friends with kindness and respect... and, the words he spoke were not foul, abusive, and degrading towards others. If this was found present, it opened up trust for exploration of a relationship with this man.

Where does this sound familiar? This seems to be indicated about the Life of Christ, the Holy Spirit... that a “corrupt or evil speaking mouth” can squelch, or weaken, this Life (Proverbs 4:23-24; Proverbs 8:13; Ephesians 4:29-32; and 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). On the other hand, it seems words of praise and thankfulness towards God seem to unlock, or flourish, the Life of Christ, the Holy Spirit, in us (Ephesians 5:15-20; Colossians 3:15-17; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19; all of Psalm 37).

I find it interesting that men who struggled much with “the beauty”, King David and King Solomon, God used to write passionately about the relationship between the Life of Christ, the Holy Spirit, Wisdom, and us.

I could say, *what hope do I have*—my mouth can get *the best of me*, literally, at times (James 3:8). If words come from what is in our heart (Matthew 15:18), and the heart is changed (establish the heart with Grace... the heart of flesh of the New Covenant...

Hebrews 13:9), then the words will change. Sometimes we lose sight of this reality of “*the Grace that establishes our heart*”, Perfect Love... 1 John 4:18-19.

Forgetting, squelching, or not possessing the Holy Spirit, our words reflect our fear, worry, and distrust—our actions turn into anger, fretfulness, and backbiting resulting in cursing and condemnation of others. Remember, the world cannot recognize Perfect Love (John 14:17) so should it shock us when we are treated accordingly. If we’re not led by, walking in, the Holy Spirit, we respond along the same lines. When we slow down, take a breath, and seek the Lord, His Perfect Love, *the best of us* (the Life of Christ... the Holy Spirit) flourishes again.

If the Life of Christ, Perfect Love, fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17; Romans 10:4), then I think I could say the Holy Spirit in us is the evidence of this—He provides for the man who does not scorn but delights in the righteousness of the Law... the Life of Christ, our Savior, Redeemer, and High Priest. This man is to *be blessed and prosper like a tree bringing forth fruit* because he... *hopes and trusts in the Lord and not man* (Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-9).

True Life is known as “*the Tree of Life*”... and we, the believer in Christ, the Church, are described as wild branches grafted into “*the fatness of an olive tree*” (Romans 11:16-18). I understand “olive oil” can represent “the anointing of God”, which blesses a man making him like... *a tree by “the water” that never dries out staying continually green with the abundance of “fruit”*—all from “the living water... the Holy Spirit” ([Exodus 30:23-25](#); [Psalm 89:19-21](#); [Matthew 25:1-12](#); [Psalm 45:6-8](#); [Hebrews 1:8-10](#); [John 7:37-39](#)).

I see the Life of Christ, the Holy Spirit, as the Glory of God. Praise and thankfulness can only break out from us when we recognize this—our relationship, fellowship, with Jesus Christ grows and flourishes. We give *glory to God*... recognizing and appreciating His best for us... *the best in us*.

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. Psalm 148

3 Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant. Psalm 135

1 O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. 2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 117

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Psalm 100

All reference scripture quoted or discussed is King James Version unless otherwise noted. Bold, brackets & underline – mine

23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.** 24 **Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.** Proverbs 4

¹³The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and **the froward mouth,** do I [The Holy Spirit] hate. Proverbs 8

29 Let ***no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth,*** but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God,** whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.31 **Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:**32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4

19 **Quench not the Spirit.**20 Despise not prophesyings.21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is.**18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;**19 **Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,** singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;20 **Giving thanks always for all things unto God** and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Ephesians 5

15 And **let the peace [the Holy Spirit] of God rule in your hearts,** to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.16 **Let the word of Christ [the Holy Spirit] dwell in you richly in all wisdom;** teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with grace [the Holy Spirit] in your hearts to the Lord.**17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Colossians 3:15-17

6 **Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And **the peace of God [the Holy Spirit],** which passeth all understanding, **shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus** Philippians 4

16 Rejoice evermore.17 Pray without ceasing.18 **In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**19 **Quench not the Spirit.** 1 Thessalonians 5

8 **But the tongue can no man tame;** it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. James 3

¹⁸**But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart;** Matthew 15:18

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For **it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace [the Holy Spirit];** not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. Hebrews 13:9

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because he first loved us. 1 John 4:18-19

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. John 14:17

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Matthew 5:17

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat *of the scornful*.² But **his delight is in the law of the Lord [the Holy Spirit]; and in his law [the Holy Spirit]; doth he meditate day and night**. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-9

¹⁶For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.¹⁷ And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of **the root and fatness of the olive tree**;¹⁸ Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Romans 11

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) John 7:37-39

Written by: Greg J. Lingus