

## What If It Really Is Simple?

*All people everywhere are on a quest. Because of Adam we are born with feelings of inadequacy coupled with longings and desires that cry out to be filled. Just like Adam and Eve our feelings of inadequacy cause us to hide from God and others. We feebly try to cover-up our "nakedness". Being truly known, truly loved for who we are is not possible due to our "clothing".*

*Being separated from God leaves us taking our cues from our flesh, the world and the devil. Not a winning strategy. This unholy trio has deceived us into believing that satisfying the desires of our 5 senses is the key to happiness. Telling us that life can be found in the gifts of God without God or his guidance as to how good gifts are to be enjoyed.*

*How do we get out of this mess? Feelings of inadequacy keep us from God, thus preventing us from having our longings satisfied. We are created for so much more.*

Romans 7:24-25a Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Diagnostic:** But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...

*Two essential truths we have to believe, God is good and sin leads to death.*

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Romans 6:21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? **For the end of those things is death.**

Romans 7:5 For while we were living in the flesh, **our sinful passions, aroused by the law**, were at work in our members **to bear fruit for death.**

Romans 8:6 For to set **the mind on the flesh is death**, but to set **the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**

Romans 8:13 **For if you live according to the flesh you will die**, but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

*If you are not satisfied or you feel inadequate then either you do not understand your adequacy in Christ, preventing you from drawing near or you think that true, lasting satisfaction is to be found apart from Christ.*

**Adequacy:**

Isaiah 61:10a I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for **he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness...**

Colossians 1:22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, **in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,**

Romans 3:24 and are **justified by his grace as a gift,** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Colossians 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,**

Romans 8:1 There is therefore **now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has **set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**

Romans 8:3 For **God has done what the law,** weakened by the flesh, **could not do.** By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:4 **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us,** who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, **since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Hebrews 10:14 For by a single offering **he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

Hebrews 10:15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

Hebrews 10:16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,**”

Hebrews 10:17 then he adds, “**I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.**”

Hebrews 10:18 Where there is forgiveness of these, **there is no longer any offering for sin.**

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since **we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,**

#### **Satisfaction:**

Isaiah 55:1 “Come, **everyone who thirsts,** come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk **without money and without price.**

Isaiah 55:2 **Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?** Listen diligently to me, and **eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.**

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would **draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

1Timothy 6:17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, **but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**

Psalms 27:4 **One thing** have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, **to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

Psalms 84:10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but you? **And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.**

Psalms 34:8 Oh, **taste and see that the LORD is good!** Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy;** at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Problem solved:**

Galatians 5:16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit,** and **you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

Galatians 5:17 For **the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit,** and **the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh,** for these are opposed to each other, **to keep you from doing the things you want to do.**

Romans 7:15 For I do not understand my own actions. **For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.**

Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. **For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.**

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law.**

Galatians 5:19 Now **the works of the flesh are evident:** sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

Galatians 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

Galatians 5:21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. **I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Galatians 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:25 If we **live by the Spirit**, let us also **keep in step with the Spirit**.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**,

1John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

John 14:21 **Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.** And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. **And his commandments are not burdensome.**

John 16:13 When the **Spirit of truth** comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

2Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

Luke 10:42 but **one thing is necessary.** Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”