



Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries

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**...looking unto
Jesus, the author and
finisher of our faith,
who for the joy that
was set before Him
endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and has sat down at
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Heb. 12:2, NKJV

Dear Partners and Friends,

In the month of September, we began traveling again for ministry outside of Colorado, going to churches and colleges in South Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri. In October, we will continue with ministry in Texas and Arizona.

Letting God Influence Our Hearts

The righteousness in your spirit can flow out and influence your heart, if we let it. John told us that if our hearts condemn us, God—who is living in our spirits—is greater than our hearts (see 1 John 3:20). He who is in our spirits can definitely change our hearts, and that's exactly what we need to have happen.

So, what is the condition of your heart?

Are you exalting your heart and its beliefs to the point that you're sensitive to yourself but insensitive to the Holy Spirit? Does your voice reign supreme in your heart when it comes to the issues of life? Do you take hold of your problems according to your perspective rather than God's?

If you're walking in anxiety, that means there is an issue to be resolved in your heart. We have to turn to Jesus. It's time for us to take our eyes off ourselves and to look unto Jesus, the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith:

...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2, NKJV)

The word “looking” here, in the Greek language, carries the meaning of stopping what we have been looking at and turning to look in a new direction. In this context, it implies that we are looking away from ourselves and putting all of our focus on Jesus.

When you focus on Jesus in this way, you are not going to waver between two opinions (see James 1:6-8).

Being double minded (James 1:8) means that you have two different belief systems. When you waver, you are trying to trust God but are still focused on the problem. In order to resolve the issue of anxiety, you do not deny you have a problem, but you refuse to accept the anxiety associated with it.

With God, you have nothing to be anxious about. You'll say, “No way! I want my heart to be free from anxiety, so I can hear God's voice. I can do what He says and get His results. His Word can open up to me. I can be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. So, I cast all anxiety on Him and don't exalt the problem.”

You don't deny there is a problem. No! You want to be able to look at the problem without it dominating your heart.

You want to be so free on the inside that you have more confidence in Jesus than you do in yourself. You won't have to be in control, because something has been proven to your heart. You've experienced God at work in your life.

Understanding How God Works

I remember a lady coming to me for prayer. She began to speak, and the tone of her voice and the choice of her words revealed the condition of her heart.

There was a whine in her words as she said, "Oh! It's been so hard!" She continued to tell me, in detail, about all the issues, including expressions of hurt and pain.

All this revealed how she believed in her heart. She believed Jesus had let her down. You see, she thought that she was believing when she prayed, but her prayer wasn't answered. So, just like a lawyer, she took God to court. In her heart, she said, "I did this, Lord, but You didn't respond."

This is typical of those who are under the weight of their issues. Their hearts have been dominated by their problems so much that they have become the problem. They don't just *have* a problem; they *are* the problem. God is never the problem. If there is a problem receiving, it is always because of our lack of understanding His way of life in Christ. God has established all things through His Son, Jesus Christ. We receive from God because of the covenant He made with His Son.

When you draw up a covenant or a contract to sell your home, it may include a clause that states the number of days you can stay before you have to move out. The covenant sets the terms, so if the buyer shows up before your time in the house expires, you'll be able to point to the clause in the contract and say to them, "You can't do that. It's in the contract."

God works through covenants, but He didn't make a covenant directly with us. God made a covenant with Christ Jesus. If God were to make a covenant with us, our flesh is so weak that we would fail. We would blow any covenant, probably worse than the first Adam did. So, God made a covenant with His Son, and it is incredibly important to understand all that God

accomplished through that covenant. For example, we enter into relationship with God through Jesus Christ because He fulfilled the terms of the covenant perfectly. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, so we can have a relationship with God through Him.

The way you initially receive salvation, in and through Him, is the way you are going to continue to receive everything. *"As therefore you received Christ Jesus, the Lord, walk in him"*

(Col. 2:6, WEB). The way it happened in the beginning is the way it continues. So, salvation is about Jesus, and healing is about Jesus.

Receiving in Christ Jesus

Do you understand how to approach God in Christ Jesus?

Do you understand what it means to receive in Christ?

Paul told us that all the promises of God, every single one of them, are always "Yes" and "Amen" (see 2 Cor. 1:20). The promises were given **in Christ Jesus**. Therefore, we need to understand what it means to receive in Him.

Remember, the covenant was made with Jesus. It was not made directly with us. We enter into relationship with God through Jesus, and we continue to receive every promise through Jesus.

You can subscribe to our YouTube channel, **Living Out of The Heart**, via a link on our homepage at **clpmi.org**. Just click the link, and then click the "subscribe" button next to our channel, and select the bell icon that will appear next to the "subscribed" box. We upload a teaching every week, and YouTube will send you an automatic notification regarding that new video.



As we understand the difference between receiving from man and receiving from God, we will see that, in Christ, we're already free—now! We'll come to understand that we have this freedom in every area of life, including our relationships, our finances, and our health.

In healing, when it comes to living the truth of Matthew 8:17, we need the help of the Holy Spirit for God's perspective. The Holy Spirit will show us how to apply the truth of the cross to our lives.

I'm reminded of a lady who had an open vision of Jesus on the cross. She didn't like what she saw. She didn't enjoy the experience of watching Jesus suffer. It was terrible. In fact, her heart was not changed by the vision. An open vision is a form of communication from God. He has a purpose for it, and you need to understand that purpose and to see the meaning of the truth He is conveying to you.

Sometimes, but not always, people get open visions because God's Word isn't opening up to them. That was the case with this lady. In her situation, she was not connecting to the truth of God's Word. She was living with a serious, potentially life-threatening physical problem. The Lord was trying to reach her heart with understanding. He gave her a visual presentation of Christ suffering on the cross, to make salvation and healing very real to her heart. Instead, although she could tell you everything she saw and how terrible it was, her heart did not change. This shows us that even a vision from God will not change us if our hearts are hardened and sensitive only to ourselves and our problems.

When God gives an open vision, we still need the Holy Spirit. Understanding is not about our intellect trying to figure things out. No! Our hearts need to be humble before the Lord so that the truth comes alive on the inside.

When we think of all that Jesus went through and the price He paid in His love for us, our hearts should soften every time. When we fully understand the cross and all that Jesus accomplished for us there, our hearts should just melt on the inside. There should be humility of heart when we put our thoughts upon Jesus. It will be an influence upon our hearts for good instead of a hardness, where we just callously brush His suffering aside. There will be such a sensitivity toward Him; it will be very beneficial for our hearts to open up to Jesus.

Thank You!

Lisa and I are very grateful to you, our friends and partners of this ministry, as together we are seeing lives changed. We believe that you, our partners, are greatly prospering—spirit, soul, and body—as you experience increase in the seed you have sown multiplying and increase in the fruits of your righteousness. God's richest blessings in Christ are already yours. Believe and establish this truth in your heart and have an open heart to receive all that God has given you in Christ Jesus.

Blessings in Christ,

Cecil + Lisa

Here Are Stories Worth Telling

I had a set of Cecil's CDs with a title of *God Is Good* or something similar. One Sunday, when the library was closed, it was on the front seat of my car as I went through the drive-through to return some DVDs. I accidentally picked it up and put it in the drop box. When I went in on Monday afternoon to see about picking it up, no one could find it. The lady said, "Anything that is accidentally dropped off is put on a specific shelf with the expectation that the owner will come get it or call." They looked and looked. No CD.

My take is that someone was so fascinated with the thought that "God is good," they just couldn't resist taking it. I suppose that is an example of getting the Gospel (Good News) out to unexpected places!!!

Thanks for sending the newsletter. It was good news. Bless you and your ministry.

Thank you for talking with me the other day. I have read 2 chapters of the book and worked through the study questions and pulled scriptures to meditate on from there. Some of the stuff I remember from the videos I had watched. I'm excited to get some of these explanations and to work on putting the new things into practice. Thank you for your time and your teachings and your direction to me.

Newest Teachings From Cecil

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE



Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries



The Difference Between Success & Failure

How do you identify yourself, as a success or failure? You never become something until you believe it. Your identity determines your self-worth, either in Christ or yourself. Join me as I explain how your self-view affects you.

4-Disc CD Album \$28
Album Download \$20

Order both on our website clpmi.org
or send in the enclosed form.

The Danger of the Intellect Dominating Our Hearts

If something in life happened that has deeply influenced our hearts, resulting in establishing only a human perspective of the problem, then the end result is that we will live with a dependency on the mind of the flesh. Romans 8:7 calls this the carnal mind. The carnal mind, or the mind of the flesh, produces thoughts from a human perspective, which are based on natural knowledge alone. This kind of thinking produces thoughts that always focus on us, our self-life. Even though the Spirit of God dwells within us, when our hearts are in this condition, our lives become about us and not about Jesus, who is the source of true life.

The problem is always found in us, but freedom is found in Christ Jesus.

The DANGER of Our Intellect Dominating Our HEARTS

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