

Close the Gap - Pt. 2

(If you haven't read Part 1 of this article you can find it online at www.BenNaughton.com in the "media" section)

In part 1 of this article we talked about the gap between our heavenly / spiritual reality and the power God's Word says we can operate in based on our position in Christ and the natural reality of our day to day lives. In this section I want to encourage your faith and have us "set our affections on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." As I said before I believe the most important thing to see the gap closed and walk in all the potential of what God has done is to set our minds on the heavenly realities of who we are in Christ because of the finished work of the cross.

Let's start by looking at Colossians 3:1-3 again. It says, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things of earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." One thing that I haven't mentioned that religion does is that it tries to cheat you of your reward. Let me explain. Religion tries to make you believe that you are not qualified to walk with God at certain levels. You aren't holy enough, you haven't done enough, you haven't attained enough or experienced enough to walk in power and your full inheritance in the Lord. It brings you into the mindset that you must do more, accomplish more, or through religious works attain to some spiritual level or standing before you will be ready or able to walk in your inheritance. It in reality steals away your reward of being "qualified" by the Father "to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light" - Col. 1:12. It looks at your natural reality and says that you are incomplete and must follow its rules and works to be complete or right. The truth is that Christ, through His death on the cross has finished the work and you are complete in Him (Col. 2:10). You have died and your life is hidden in Christ. You have died to the regulations, ordinances, and laws and your life is hidden in Christ from all its judgments and condemnation. You have been made complete and are qualified to walk in all your inheritance. You are not trying to become right or holy before Him through religious works, even with the short comings you see in your life. Colossians 1:21-22 says, "And you, who once

were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight."

So, the first, and most foundational, point in closing the gap is taking our position of who we are in Christ. Again, the way we receive or operate in anything from the spiritual or heavenly realm is by faith. We walk in miracles by faith, we receive provision by faith, we operate in God's power by faith. So, by understanding who we are in Christ we have the ability to walk in full assurance of faith. We have this full assurance because of what Christ did and his grace. We understand it is not based on our works or efforts but instead our belief in what He has accomplished. This is what religion tries to steal from us, but we must rest in the assurance that we are complete in Him. This is why Paul spoke to the Galatians in chapter 3 verses 1-5 and said, "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?" You see the believers at Galatia were coming under the false teaching that in order to continue on in their walk with the Lord they had to follow the Law of Moses and be circumcised. Now we may not always go to that extreme but a lot of times we feel in order to become "more spiritual" or "go deeper" in the Lord and experience His miracle working power through us we must do or attain more through our religious works. Here Paul says, "This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" He goes on to say, "He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" You see, here religion was trying to steal away the Galatians reward but Paul emphasized that they keep focused on what Christ accomplished for them through His crucifixion so they would have a full assurance of faith to walk in all that was theirs.

To walk in this full assurance of faith to see the gap closed we must walk in the revelation that we've been made righteous as a free gift by His grace. 2 Cor. 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in

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Ministry Reports, Updates & Testimonies

BNM Itinerary

Ministry Update - On Monday, October 26th David Josiah Naughton was born! He weighed 6lbs 13ozs. We are calling him by his middle name Josiah. We would like to thank all of you for your support and prayers.



Him.” Christ has imparted His righteousness into us and now we can walk in the same right standing Christ has before the Father. Romans 5:17 declares, “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.” It is through receiving His abundant grace and gift of righteousness that we are to reign in life. Reign over oppression, reign over the enemy, over sickness, sin, lack, and all the forces of darkness in this world.

Now, this revelation is the foundation for all that we will do as believers in Christ. So, again the first point is taking our position in Christ, but now having done that there is a place of contending for our inheritance to manifest here on earth. We are not contending for these things to become ours in the heavenlies, the price has already been paid and we are joint heirs with Christ qualified by the father, but we are contending for them to be here on earth as they are in heaven. We are actually contending with the earth and all the resistance of darkness in this fallen world to see the Kingdom come, literally the gap closed. We are not contending with God or heaven since through Christ we are seated with Him there, but we are contending with earth from the standpoint of our position in Christ.

Jesus said we have not because we ask not. The word also says that we have been qualified to be partakers of the inheritance. We can partake as much as we desire to, but it is up to us to lay hold of the inheritance by faith. So we, knowing our position in Christ, ask and partake of our inheritance which is rightfully ours and receive it based on our full assurance of faith in God’s grace. Then having asked we

contend with the forces on this earth to see it manifest.

Hebrews 6:11-12 says this, “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Did you notice that it is through faith and patience? We understand the faith part but what is the patience? It is when you have to go through a period of suffering and enduring misfortune and troubles while not losing heart and persevering. It’s in those moments that we must have the foundation of who Christ has made us in order not to be shaken or start losing faith based upon our weariness or “lack of performance.” It is also then, while standing on that bedrock of the finished work of the cross in our lives, that we contend showing diligence to the full assurance of hope.

So, again, to close the gap between our heavenly reality and the natural reality all around us, the most important thing is resting on the foundation of who we are in Christ because of His atoning sacrifice. That is the first point and gives us a full assurance of faith because we realize our rights before the Father are not based on our works but His. Then standing on that, the second point is that we contend during those patiently times, in prayer and fasting, to see the resistance broken on this earth and the realities of heaven invade this realm.

Well, I hope this article encourages you to believe for all of what God has given you to take place on this side of eternity. Let’s believe the realities of God’s Word, our position in grace, and see His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. —BN

Word of Life Church Ft. Myers, FL	11/6
We do not have any engagements before the New Year.	
Continue to check our website for some exciting news coming soon	
and for any itinerary additions that may arise www.BenNaughton.com	



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Prayer Points

- Anointing and Open Heavens for Signs, Wonders, and Miracles
- For the Fires of Revival to be released in each church we minister
- Necessary finances to come in to do all God is calling us to do
- Hedge of Protection around Ben & April
- Ben & April to have greater intimacy with the Lord

Send us your prayer requests & Testimonies!

April and I would love to pray for you and to hear testimonies of what God has done in your life through our ministry.

E-mail us at: BNM@BenNaughton.com