

**IT'S  
JESUS.  
TOTALLY.**

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July 27, 2014

**Sermon in a sentence:** Trust completely in Jesus for the power to live a successful Christian life.

**Scriptures:** Colossians 3:1-17; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 4:3-12; Gal. 2:20-21; Psalm 31:1-8,19-24; Phil. 2:13;

Many Christians go through life with the feeling that they are failures, useless, unworthy, and not really, truly saved. They look at all of their shortcomings, spiritual wrecks and willful sins and conclude that the distance to travel “to be like Jesus” is just too great.

(This is certainly a more realistic assessment of our situation than feeling smug, self-satisfied and self-righteous, but neither extreme is a good or healthy place to be.)

So, for those who are somewhat depressed about the state of their Christian walk and relationship with God, here are some things to remember:

- All of us have sinned and “fall[en] short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23 NASB). This puts us all at the very same level of need. Every one of us needs a Saviour, and none of us has ever been able to do anything to save ourselves.
- God’s free gift to us is salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:23). Salvation is a gift and must be received as such.
- In fact, the only godly “work” we are required to do is to believe in Jesus Christ (John 6:28-29)!

- **Everything we now have that is good and godly comes from God: He even gives us His own righteousness in order to justify us (Rom. 4:3-11)!**

**Rom. 4:3-11 NASB For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup>" BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. <sup>8</sup>" BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT." <sup>9</sup> Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." <sup>10</sup> How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; <sup>11</sup> and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them....**

**We are called to live with total faith in God's grace, and rejoice in the reassurance this brings! He alone can perform, and has performed the work of redemption, and we hold this gift with joy and thanksgiving.**

**When Satan the accuser comes our way, we defeat him as Jesus did – through the Word.**

Gal. 2:20-21 NASB “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. <sup>21</sup> “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”

We fully understand that we are not at liberty to live unrighteously just because Christ has given us His own righteous perfection (Rom. 6:1-7). The reality of His gift is meant to free us from the stress of ‘works righteousness’, or salvation through our good works. It’s all Jesus. Totally.

Instead, here is how we need to live:

Colossians 3:1-17 NASB Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. <sup>6</sup> For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him — <sup>11</sup> *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew,

circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

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### Illustrations:

**Healer (F)**  
Michael Guglielmucci

You hold my every moment  
You calm my raging seas  
You walk with me through fire  
And heal all my disease  
I trust in You, I trust in You

Chorus: I believe You're my healer  
I believe You are all I need  
I believe You're my portion  
I believe You're more than enough for me  
Jesus, You're all I need

Nothing is impossible for You  
Nothing is impossible

**Nothing is impossible for You  
You hold my world in Your hands**

**Someone who was fighting a serious addiction problem and lied about having a life-threatening disease wrote this beautiful song. For two years after he wrote it, God kept reaching out to him until he finally confessed his sin and became accountable to his spiritual leaders for help to recover.**

**What's the point? The Lord doesn't give up on us, even in the midst of our persistent, pre-meditated sinning, and we shouldn't give up on Him. This is a great song to sing when you need spiritual encouragement and healing!**

**Here is another song that helps us to fulfill Colossians 3:16 (see above):**

**You're Worthy Of My Praise (Eb / F)  
John Tesh, Nicole C. Mullen**

**I will worship with all of my heart  
And I will praise You with all of my strength  
And I will seek You all of my days  
And I will follow, follow all of Your ways**

**I will give You all my worship  
I will give You all my praise  
You alone I long to worship  
You alone are worthy of my praise**

**I will bow down and hail You as King  
I will serve You, give You everything  
I will lift up my eyes to Your throne  
And I will trust You, I will trust You alone**

**Lockheed Martin / Boeing F-22 Raptor**  
**Single seat, all weather stealth fighter, interceptor**  
**Top speed: 2400 km/h. Cost: \$412MM**



**A little tour of this incredible aircraft may help to illustrate the way God feels about His people and what He has made His church to be.**

**The F-22 is the most advanced fighter plane in the world. It can fight airborne enemies as well as ground-based attackers. It is capable of aggressive attack as well as defending key assets. It is virtually undetectable by either ground based or aircraft radar, so it can go virtually anywhere and fulfill its military objectives with impunity. It is the fastest fighter plane on Earth, with a top speed exceeding Mach 2 (over 2400 km/hr.).**

**Less than 200 of these aircraft were built – they are very rare and exceedingly valuable – approx. \$400MM each. It is not intended for defeat or destruction – it costs far too much for its owner to risk losing it.**

**1 Pet. 1:18-19 NASB ... knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.**

**This aircraft did not make itself. And it cannot fly itself.**

**Jer. 10:23 NASB I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.**

**It does not run on it's own power and when it breaks down, it cannot fix itself. It cannot keep itself clean.**

**Acts 1:8 NASB *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;***

**1 Cor. 6:11 NASB ... you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.**

**It was, and is, built for battle, and it was also built to evade detection by the enemy – it is a stealth fighter.**

**1 Tim. 6:12 NASB Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,**

**Col. 3:3 NASB For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**We were not built for defeat, and our steps are established in His Word. (Ps. 119:133).**

**Philippians 2:13 NASB For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.**