

Daring to Ask for More

December 5th, 2010

Little by Little

I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. **I will not drive them out from before thee in one year;** lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. **By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.**

And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

Exodus 23:27-31

The Impossible Commission

1. We should be perfect (Matthew 5:48)
2. We should be holy (1 Peter 1:16)
3. We should be slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:19)
4. We should be dead to sin (Romans 6:10-12)
5. We should be pictures of supernatural love (Luke 6:27-31)
6. We should not shrink back from death (Revelation 12:11)
7. We should deny our Self, pick up His cross, and follow (Matthew 16:24)

The “Instant Maturity and Perfection” Gospel

You have all that God gives the moment you believe

Five crazy realities of the IM & P Gospel . . .

1. **We will stay infants.** For if we find ourselves behaving as an infant (ie. lacking any self-control, whining over difficulties, hot-tempered, self-pitying, and completely self-centered), then we must deny the reality and, in faith, claim that such behavior, though it may not look like it, is indeed adult behavior.
2. **We will justify our defeat.** Anything we do (in our decaying marriages, our withering parenting attempts, our polluted lives, and our fake ministries) MUST be right and perfect, because hasn't God made us perfect as He is perfect? Sure, we may be difficult to be around, but, whereas everyone else is busy complaining about imperfections, we are doing the one thing God has asked of us and that is to “believe that the work is finished, and we are, in deed, perfect.”
3. **We will spiritualize our sin.** Your behavior (including your chronic lying, your outburst of rage, your unethical business practices, your physical abuse of those near and dear, and your complete lack of love for those entrusted to your care) is now the new rule of righteousness, because aren't you now the righteousness of God?
4. **We will not be able to hear correction or rebuke.** For any sort of behavioral correction or attitudinal rebuke is a direct and tactical assault on our position in Christ. For it is our job to believe that, though our lives show absolutely no evidence of it, we are, in fact, now mature and perfect in Jesus. How dare someone claim that we aren't.
5. **We will never change.** For there is never any need for improvement, never any need for spiritual effort or work, and never any need to feel a farthing of conviction. For improvement, spiritual work, and conviction are operations of the Devil who doesn't want us to know that we are the fully completed work of Christ.

The “This-is-All-We-Can-Expect” Gospel

You have all that God gives the moment you believe

Five Sad Realities of the AWCE (Aw-kee) Gospel . . .

1. **We will fail.** Like Peter at the Last Supper, we can esteem the notion of giving up everything for Jesus and dying the hero's death, but in actuality, when tested we will fail. For what we have of the Spirit is sufficient to illuminate the Person of Jesus to our minds, but not to see the Nature of Jesus planted inside our hearts.
2. **Will will turn to ourselves for the solution.** If there is nothing more to be offered from the Cross, then the only solution for bettering the life of the believer and bringing it into alignment with the Scriptural pattern is to find what is offered in our Self-effort.
3. **We will lessen the standards of righteousness.** Since our Self-effort is certain to fail, and our attempts at matching the perfection of Christ will fall miserably short. And, since, there is no additional remedy provided by God for our problem, the only remaining solution is to revisit God's requirements and find a way to revamp them and make them humanly possible.
4. **We will accept the discrepancy between the modern Church and standards of the Bible.** Without even a peep, we will subside into silence and turn a blind eye to the vast difference between the modern believing church and that which is described as the true church in the Bible.
5. **We will be secretly miserable in our Christianity.** Of course, we will try not to let on, but deep inside we will be wholly without life and void of joy. The substance of Christianity will be known in our minds only, while our lives will be absent of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. And, if we choose to stay, its because we know Jesus is real, and we simply have no better options to turn to.

The Endless Frontier

There is never an end to our discovery of Christ, our growth in Christ, our work for Christ, and our ever-increasing admiration of Christ.

Is The Spirit Given Without Measure?

Yes and No

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure [unto him]. - John 3:34

Spiritual Mathematics

- ✦ According to the measure of the gift of Christ (Ephesians 4:7)
- ✦ Increase our Faith (Luke 17:5)
- ✦ Some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred fold (Mark 4:8)
- ✦ Jesus increased in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:52)
- ✦ He must Increase, I must decrease (John 3:30)
- ✦ The Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied (Acts 6:7)
- ✦ God gave the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6)
- ✦ The Measure of Faith (Romans 12:3)
- ✦ The Proportion of Faith (Romans 12:6)
- ✦ Dividing to Every Man (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- ✦ multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:10)
- ✦ the Lord make you to increase and abound in love (1 Thessalonians 3:12)
- ✦ When your faith is increased (2 Corinthians 10:15)
- ✦ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end (Isaiah 9:7)

Pleonazō - Ple-o-nä'-zō

to super-abound, to make increase over and over, to make exist in abundance, to grow large

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith grows exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other **aboundeth** (increases over and over, and grows large)

2 Thessalonians 1:3

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and **abound** (increase over and over, and grow large), they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8

The Ever-Increasing Fruit Principle

And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

Mark 4:8

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

2 Corinthians 9:10

The Ever-Strengthening Body Principle

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:16

And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Colossians 2:19

The Ever-Growing Love Principle

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

1 Thessalonians 3:12

But as touching brotherly love you need not that I write unto you: for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed you do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that you increase more and more.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

The Ever-Developing Faith Principle

Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labors; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly . . .

2 Corinthians 10:15

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith grows exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

The Childlike Receive a Portion - The Trustworthy Receive More

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast you your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Matthew 7:6

And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Luke 19:15-17

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Luke 16:10

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:1-6

Spiritual Maturity

It's a constant, ever-present, ever-increasing measure of Christ within the believing man or woman

The Ever-Deepening Waters of the Spirit

it is ever-deepening as it progresses unto the full measure of promise and defines the outer edges of the purchase of the Cross

Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house. And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by

their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places. In their setting of their threshold by my thresholds, and their post by my posts, and the wall between me and them, they have even defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in mine anger. Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever. Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

Ezekiel 43:1-10

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; **the waters were to the ankles**. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; **the waters were to the knees**. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; **the waters were to the loins**. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for **the waters were risen, waters to swim in**, a river that could not be passed over. And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed . . . And by the river upon the bank

thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

Ezekiel 47:1-8,12

The Ever-Deepening River

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Psalms 46:4

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Joel 3:18

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Zechariah 13:1

And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Zechariah 14:8

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. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (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

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb . . . And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:1,17

Daring to Ask For More

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

2 Kings 2:9-14