

Why are many believers today walking around with a facade of happiness but a heart of heaviness?

First, as believers, we must settle in that God is more concerned about our lives than anyone else in this world. Your friends, relatives and even so sorry to say some of your parents are less concerned about your life even though they may check on you every now and then than your Heavenly Father. Unfortunately, some are there for what they can get from you and NOT what they can give you!

In contrast, God has a beautiful plan for our lives according to Jeremiah 29:11-12. This plan can be revealed to us by Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10) Let us look at these 2 Scriptures individually:

Jeremiah 29:11-12 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ¹² Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you."

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

The beautiful thing about our Heavenly Father is that He is always eager to speak to our spirit man. That is where he reveals his plan

for our life BUT we have to be listening to Him. We have to sensitize our spirit man to hear from Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in *and* rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart And do not rely on your own insight *or* understanding. ⁶ In all your ways know *and* acknowledge *and* recognize Him, And He will make your paths straight *and* smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].

Any concerns or questions you have right now, He is eagerly waiting for you to ask Him so He can grant you every desire of your heart. (Read Jeremiah 33:3) God knows the intents of your heart and you have to allow Him to change it to conform to His will and purpose for your life.

Let us look at Matthew 6:25-34 (KJV)

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Because majority of us are living our lives from outside-in instead of living an inside-out. As fallen human beings, we like to work on the outside more than the inside. The outside is more mechanical. For example, we eat, drink, exercise, put on make-up, buy the newest fashions and smile and that all good but unfortunately our heart remain broken.

We spend so much of our life concerned with how we look on the outside. Think about how much time we spend getting ready in the morning or how concerned we are with what we look like and wear. Yet, God cares more about the inside than He does about the outside. God wants us to have a godly heart because He knows that who we are on the inside is way more important than the outside.

Psalmist David said in 139:1-4, "O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. ²Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. ⁴For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

The only way for us to change in a way that lasts, is through a genuine repentance and living a godly lifestyle.

How do we do this?

1. **Confess your sins.** Sins are the wrong choices we make. When we "confess our sins," we simply agree with God that they are wrong. We tell God we are truly sorry. We "turn away" from them, deciding to stop doing them and ask Him to help us change.
2. **Believe in Jesus.** Jesus was human, just like you and me. But He is also God and He never sinned, not even once! To show how much God loves us, Jesus took our punishment for sin. He died on the cross to pay for them. Three days later, Jesus came back to life again. In order to accept the gift of forgiveness (Jesus paying for our sins and making us right with God), we need to believe that Jesus is who He said He is. We need to believe that Jesus took our punishment for sin so we can be made right with God.
3. **Trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior.** Even the demons believe in God and shake in their boots because of Him. That is not enough. We need to trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior. That means we trust in what Jesus did to save us from our sins and make us right with God. We also decide to love and

serve Him all the days of our life. Lord means Jesus is our boss. He is the one in charge who decides what is best for us to do.

Once you give your life to Jesus Christ and He becomes your personal savior, your life is no longer your own. You cannot do whatever you want.

Believers Are Salt and Light of the world

God has called us as believers to shine in a dark world.

Matthew 5:13-16 says, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Ezekiel 37:26-27: Moreover, I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.