

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

SPIRITUAL EFFORT

RLJ-1647

CHARLES THORELL

APRIL 15, 2018

THE BEGINNING

God created everything perfectly but Lucifer's sin tainted the flawless creation. Humanity was created to prove the righteousness of God. Adam and Eve failed the test in the Garden of Eden and succumbed to the Devil's lie and temptation. **Genesis 3:14-15**

Jesus fulfilled the promise made to Adam 4,000 years later. **1 John 3:8**

The Devil and his minions have been defeated but they are still very much in the game and running loose on the earth. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

SPIRITUAL EFFORT

If Jesus is the Lord of your life, then you are authorized to use His name in advancing the Kingdom of God. **Luke 10:1-2, 17-20**

Our spiritual effort can and will affect the men and women around us.

- ❖ Peter operated under the anointing and a lame man was healed. **Acts 3:1-11**
- ❖ Ananias and Sapphira wanted to be like Barnabas, but their lie caused the Holy Spirit to end their lives prematurely. **Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11**
- ❖ Paul was grieved over the fact that an evil spirit promoted the Kingdom of God. **Acts 16:16-18**
- ❖ The seven sons of Sceva recognized there was power associated with the name of Jesus but the situation got out of control when they misappropriated His name. **Acts 19:11-20**

STAND IN THE GAP

Can you imagine if Jesus had been careless and apathetic during His 3.5 years of ministry? But this isn't the example He provided. Jesus humbled Himself and took the form of a man, allowed agents of Satan to abuse Him and died on the cross so we can have eternal life. **Philippians 2:5-11**

Most Christians are inwardly focused on health, relational and/or financial issues. I think we would be surprised to find out just how many are simply trying to keep some semblance of normalcy, while they stem the tide and try to keep their life from falling apart more than it is. They are living reactionary lifestyle; living on the defensive instead of the offensive. **John 10:10**

Jesus proved He was willing to stand in the gap and intercede for humanity. The cruel hate from Satan was borne solely by Jesus on the cross because He valued us so much. **Hebrews 12:1-2**



SUMMARY

We must learn to be patient and wait upon the Lord regardless of the circumstances. As we move from theory to reality, God will reward the effort we put toward our walk with Him.

Jesus is greater than the Devil. When you look to the cross and how Jesus now sits on the right hand of God the Father, you will want to be more than just an average Christian. **1 John 4:4**

We have been transferred from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God. **Colossians 1:9-14**

You must first take care of your inward needs so you can be useful to God and outwardly focused. God's pattern is to make you strong so you can be useful in the Kingdom of God.

Use the resources God has provided you with for His glory. Many people come to church with needs but what about the outward focus of interceding for someone?

Jesus didn't just die on the cross for you. He rescued you so you can in turn become a rescuer. This is basis for discipleship where you step up and stand in the gap for someone else. **John 3:16**

Walking with God is not a sprint; run the race with endurance.