

Woman, Thou Art Loosed! Part Two

The Loosing Of The Seed

Introduction

In part one of “Woman Thou Art Loosed” we looked at the scriptures in Luke 13:11-16 and discussed being loosed unto our identity from above. The focus of that section dealt with entering into our union and position in Christ through faith. What wonderful liberty to finally put off the old and find our life in Christ alone! Rather than knowing ourselves in our earthly form, failures, and issues, we can turn our eyes to heavenly places in Christ where our true identity is found.

In this article we will discuss how the heavenly places in Christ that we look unto, identify in, and embrace are also to be understood as who we are now in our daily walk. Our position in Christ is not a far away splendor but a relationship that brings us into His fullness. An intimate union has taken place wherein Christ from above can dwell in earthen vessels and find expression.

Two Great Loosings

There are two great “loosings” that we are considering in these articles. One is “upward” as we come away from ourselves to abide in Christ and identify in Him. Our last article centered on that aspect. The other “loosing” is within and through us as the Life of Christ breaks free in manifestation. A union has taken place through the Cross of Christ so that now we are free to live in Him and He is free to live in us. These great realities do not exist independently from one another for they function through union. To put in simply, we are not discussing a doctrine, a miracle, or a kind of faith that has no real substance. We are embracing a relationship with Christ that eventually fills all things with His Life. To fully enter into that union requires that we dwell in Christ AND that Christ dwells in us! Therefore, not only are we loosed unto our identity from above, but we must also allow the Life of Christ that is in us to be released unto glorious expression.

To bring forth Christ is not the work of the flesh. It is not through our own labors and striving that we become fruitful in His Life. It is when we become fully persuaded concerning our own barrenness and inability that we can finally turn our focus to the Seed of Christ. Our faith is in the Seed and not in ourselves. We must forget about our condition and once again lift our eyes to behold Christ with a faith that says, “I am in union with Christ in all His fullness!” His potential becomes the object of our faith.

“So Shall Thy Seed Be”

“And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.”

Genesis 15:5

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy Seed, which is Christ.”

Galatians 3:16

In Genesis 15:5 God told Abram to look into the heavens and try to count all the stars. As Abram was trying to comprehend the vastness and immeasurable fullness of the heavens, God told him that his seed would be as the heavens he was beholding. Here we find a man discovering that God wanted more than just our comprehension of heavenly places, but for the fullness of heavenly places to dwell in us through the Seed, which Seed is Christ (Galatians 3:16). Ephesians 1:3 tells us that the heavenly places God is referring to are only found in Christ. Christ Himself, in all His fullness, filling all things, is the heavenly place we behold. Now we are no longer foreigners standing afar off looking at the glorious magnitude of Christ in heavenly places, we are partakers of all that fullness because we are joined to Him and the body of His expression.

Instead of looking unto Jesus, we can choose to look within ourselves and try to measure our capacity to bring forth based on our own strengths and weaknesses. In such a view our entire potential will be based upon our own resources. Can you imagine what the crippled up woman would feel if she based her faith on her own stature? If we look at ourselves we will lose our faith. We are to look into Christ and find our potential in Him for He alone is our resource of Life! Just like Abram, we must look up and see all the fullness of the risen Christ and then realize that if Christ is truly in us then, “so shall thy Seed be.”

The Seed in Bondage

“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?” Luke 13:16

“Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

Galatians 3:7, 16

At this point we are going to return to the scriptures in Luke chapter thirteen. In this passage Jesus referred to the crippled woman as “a daughter of Abraham”. We must look into the Word of God to understand what it means to be a “daughter of Abraham.” Galatians tells us that those who are the children of Abraham are of faith, and that this faith is in relationship to the Seed which is Christ in the believer. These scriptures define those who are of Abraham as those who have put their faith in the Seed, just like

Abraham did. That is such good news for all of us who are weary with trying to make ourselves better! Praise God, old tired Abraham understood what it meant to believe in something that would come forth from him but was not him! That may sound like a riddle, but it simply means that Christ in us is our hope of bringing God glory and not our own righteousness and abilities (Colossians 1:27) As we come to understand this, then our hearts can begin to exult in faith even before we see the fruit come forth! Rejoice oh barren and break forth into singing for you shall bring forth many more than those who do so in the power of their own flesh (Isaiah 54: 1)! When our hearts comprehend this then our faith will begin to “enlarge the place of thy tent and lengthen thy cords” as we prepare ourselves as the place of His habitation (Isaiah 54:2-3).

Let us return to this daughter of Abraham in Luke chapter thirteen. Even though Jesus saw her as one who represented those who would have the Seed of Christ in them, she had been bound up by Satan for eighteen years. Maybe we should pause for a moment and reflect on that point. Consider eighteen years of torment and constant bondage. She was crippled up and bowed down. Satan had been pushing her mind, eyes and body down into dark depression. Satan was turning her face away from the Son, keeping her eyes on her condition and the dirt of the earth.

She must have felt so alone and desperate, ashamed of her lifestyle and set apart for rejection. Satan, the Father of lies, was wrapping her up in the greatest lie of all... that she was without hope and separate from the Son. His strategy is still the same! He attacks those who have been born again of incorruptible Seed, (I Peter 1:23), with the same tactics. We become so wrapped up in our own condition that we forget that Christ is in us. Our eyes become so filled with the dirt of the earth that they can no longer see the Son. Our minds become so full of our own problems that we forget the Word of God that declares all the promises that are made to the Seed, which Seed is in us... which Seed is Christ. Jesus knew that Satan was holding a woman captive who had been set apart for freedom, the freedom of the Son.

Satan’s purpose is not bound up in causing us personal pain. His goal is to destroy the ground of our hearts so that we will no longer have faith in the Seed of Christ. The Seed cannot grow in ground that is filled with unbelief and self awareness. Wrapping up our hearts and minds in our own infirmities and a failure mentality can suffocate and restrict the life of Christ within. But God “straightens” us to put all our faith in the Son so that eventually we can release the Seed from His bondage and allow the life of Christ to flow freely from us. God is clearing the way for His Son to come forth. The entanglements will fall off as we give place to His fullness rather than the worries and fears that can cripple and entrap us in our own selves.

Our Only Hope

Our only hope is through oneness. We are lame and bowed down to the earth, unable to rise up or come away apart from the grace of God that has brought us into union with His

Son. At times we may become bound by the enemy, even though the Seed of God is inside. The Seed can be held captive by the infirmity of only acknowledging our condition in the flesh. This mindset can go to such a degree that someone can have an all encompassing spirit of infirmity that has bowed them down so deeply that the Seed is all but forgotten. At such a time we must see that it is not just that we are crippled up, but that the Seed is lying dormant within us. It is possible to so deeply acknowledge our own weakness without considering our union with Christ that we can let a spirit of infirmity overtake us. This only happens when we acknowledge our weakness while forgetting the hope that lies within us by the Seed which is Christ.

Although this woman was “a daughter of Abraham”, Satan had bound her. All the promise of Life through Christ from within is ours, but a great stooping and bowing down can overcome us at times, even beyond our own ability to straighten again. And so, our hearts, eyes and faith must turn to embrace our only hope... that we are in Christ and He is in us. God has made this true by the work of His Cross and not the labors of our flesh. We can rest in God’s finished work. We can enter into all the fullness of Christ by faith. We can believe the good report and trust that it is true even when we look and feel like a crippled up and hopeless person. Jesus said, “Ought not this woman be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day? The Sabbath day represents the day that God entered into His rest because His work was finished. If God has already made us one with Jesus and that fact is settled in His heart, then why should we remain shackled in bondage and stooped over in separation from Him? In effect Jesus was declaring that if the work is finished, shouldn’t this woman be free to enter into His rest? Today is the day and right now is the moment that our faith can begin to turn from ourselves to the glorious reality of union into Christ through the finished work of His Cross.

The Loosing of the Seed

God is growing us in the knowledge of the Seed, and as that happens the Seed seems to take more ground in us. God is not seeking to make the earthen vessels (us) into the Seed (Christ). We are not improving the containers but cultivating the Seed. He is the treasure and we are the vessel that contains Him (II Corinthians 4:7). Our weaknesses can even facilitate the bursting forth of His resources rather than our own. To truly release us from our infirmity is to release us unto the Seed. We are not truly made free by solving every problem, answering every question, settling every issue and curing every injury. Freedom is found through living in the Son! As we are carried by the Life of Another we are lifted out from our infirmities by the glorious liberty of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2). And so eventually the outer shell of our own weakness and lack has to give way to the Seed of Christ within. We must be loosed from that outer man that is perishing to allow the inner man (which is Christ) to come forth (II Corinthians 4:16). At that time there will be the advent of the inner man rather than a strengthening of the outer shell. We are loosed from that form in all of it’s infirmity unto newness of Life. New life will break free and break forth from the hard and brittle shell that was holding it in.

The scriptures declare of Christ that “death could not be holden upon Him” (Acts 2:24-27). If we truly are the body that contains Christ the incorruptible Seed, then we shall not be held by the death that can encompass us. Incorruption cannot be held by corruption. All our hope is in knowing that the incorruptible Seed in us cannot be held by our own weakness and corruptibility. This Seed will spring forth and blossom, even though we know not how (Mark 4:27) There are times when must look one another in the eyes and say, “Brother (or sister), you are a child of Abraham and the Seed of promise which is Christ is in you. You shall bring forth and not be held back by your own barrenness. The sweet savor of Abraham’s Seed will break free from the husk of your earthiness, and from you will flow rivers of living waters.” The potential for the unleashing of Life that is in this incorruptible Seed is unfathomable. The Body of Christ may at times appear bowed down and bound up, but within us is a Seed that, according to Genesis 24:60, can bring forth “thousands of millions” if only it can find release.

Thousands Of Millions

“And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.”
Genesis 24:60

“A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.”
Song of Solomon 4:12,15

In the last paragraph we quoted a scripture in Genesis that exhorted Rebekah to “let thy seed” bring forth thousands of millions and possess the gate of her enemies. Think about that, “thousands of millions”. We cannot fully comprehend the capacity for Life that is in the Seed of Christ. The gates of our enemies are possessed in the bringing forth of Christ and not through our own personal merits. All victory and fruitfulness is only attainable through the bringing forth of Christ by faith in the Seed.

In the Song of Solomon the Bride is referred to as a garden enclosed and a fountain sealed (Song of Solomon 4:12). In another place she is described as a fountain of gardens (Song of Solomon 4:15). Think of that, “a fountain of GARDENS.” There is so much life in the Bride of Christ, whether she realizes it or not. All of that fullness is in her because the Seed of Christ is in her. His life in us can bring forth without measure. His is the power of an endless life. RIVERS of living water will flow from our innermost being (John 7:38). So far we have quoted verses that speak of gardens and rivers. How can words sufficiently describe those vast and limitless resources of Christ’s life in the believer? If we saw past our walls and weaknesses and put all of our hope in the Seed that is within us, we would have a spirit of faith rather than a spirit of infirmity. We would be abounding with faith for we would see how far this Seed can carry us once it is released to flow forth in Life. Christ within gives us life abundantly, and our faith can abound at the very thought of it. Look up and try to count the stars in the heavens and then try to

calculate the capacity of the Seed of Christ to bring forth Life through you. There is no set measure upon the Son, for the Spirit was given to Him without measure (John 3:34). He will flow forth as rivers and gardens of life giving waters. And He will come forth out of us, weak earthen vessels that contain eternal treasure... Christ within.

Let It Grow

“Then said he, unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it. And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened:.”
Luke 13:18-21

In Luke 13, after Jesus loosed this woman from her infirmity, He began teaching about the Kingdom of God. Interestingly, He began speaking of a very small seed that was cast into a garden and eventually became a great tree that brought rest and lodging to others. In like manner Jesus spoke about a bit of leaven hidden in some bread dough that eventually caused the entire loaf to rise. Once again our attention is turned to consider the power of something very small that is cast into a garden or lump of dough. That very small seed or bit of leaven is able to rise up and spring forth in ways that we would never imagine. What a wonderful picture of how the Seed of Christ in us can come forth and affect everything.

Think of the marvel Abram must have felt when God told him that he would be a father of nations and exceedingly fruitful (Genesis 17:6). He was ninety nine years old when God told Abram that his elderly wife Sarah would be a mother of nations and kings of people should be of her. Abram literally fell on his face and started laughing (Genesis 17:16-17). Remember, we are talking about the father of faith! It can be very difficult to believe that anything of God can come out of us when we look at ourselves. If we are going to consider ourselves, then we must look towards the Seed (which is Christ) that God has placed in us. If we don't consider the Seed of Christ and look only to our own resources, then we will either fall down laughing or become bound up in depression. Only by placing all our hope in the Seed can we begin to have faith like Abraham did. When we see all the potential for life and fruitfulness that is in the Seed, then we can release our faith like an arrow from its bow. Such faith will transcend human frailties, impossible situations and join with Christ in a union that will eventually bear fruit.

Conclusion

“Woman, thou art loosed” were the words Jesus spoke to the woman bowed down with her own infirmity. We are loosed unto union with Christ and unto releasing His Life by the Seed of Christ within.

Can you hear the Word of God speaking to us today? Woman thou art free from the confinement of your own weakness and inability. Break loose from yourself by releasing the Seed that is within. Give the Seed time to sprout and blossom. Allow the incorruptible Seed space to send forth roots deep into the soil of your heart and mind. Be filled and renewed as you grow in the knowledge of the Seed. This Seed will burst forth into the beauty and expression of the Son. Another spirit will replace your harsh and unchanging attitudes. The fruit of this Seed will bring mercy, peace, longsuffering, and gentleness where once there only strife and lack of care. Do not bow down in depression over your own wretchedness, but bow down like a gardener to tend to the Seed that God has planted in you. Groom your heart to contain Christ and release His spirit from deep within. The truth is, we need to release the Seed unto His expression instead of worrying about the infirmities of the container. Christ in us is held prisoner while our attention is upon ourselves and the earth. Join with the faith of Abraham, and hope against hope by considering not your own body while believing the promise that was made to this Seed (Romans 4:19). We cannot and will not produce what only Christ in us can be.

But we CAN join with God in faith and begin to cultivate ourselves as a place wherein He can dwell. Lift up your eyes and embrace your identity from above. Open up your heart and become fertile soil for the Seed of Christ to grow in. Be loosed from the old ways and become straightened to receive Christ in all union and fullness. Woman thou art loosed! ***