

RESCUED, LED, GIVEN:
AN ORDINARY LIFE WITH
AN OVERTURNING WORD



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I. RECEIVING MERCY

*“Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.”*

1 Peter 2:10

Why is life so hard?

Life is full of trouble.

What kind of trouble?

Life is full of contention and temptation,
Uncertainty and complication,
Affliction and mistreatment.

What does it mean that life is full of trouble?

It means we suffer.

It means we suffer from all life's troubles.

Life is full of suffering,

And we don't know how we're going to make it.

What happens when we suffer?

We lose the things we need to be okay.

That is what life is like.

Life is full of suffering and trouble, and we've lost what we need to be okay.

What do we need to be okay?

We need honor, and its loss is felt as shame.

We need security, and its loss is felt as fear.

We need fulfillment, and its loss is felt as despair.

Life is full of trouble and loss.

We've lost what we need to be okay.

And we don't know how we're going to get it back.

Why is life full of trouble and loss?

Because the world is broken and fallen. And Death is a power than has been unleashed on the world.

Is life only full of trouble and loss?

No, life is full of trouble, loss and lies.

What are lies like?

Lies are like bullies.

They grip and pull.

They tell us what to do.

And make us feel like we can't say no.

The lies to us about who we are, what life's about,

And what we need to be okay.

Who are the bullies, who are the liars?

These are the liars I know of

The devil's accusation.

The world's provocation,

The mind's intimidation,

The body's anticipation

But the chief Liar is the Devil. He is the deceiver and the accuser.

Is that all the bullies and liars?

No, in a life full of trouble and loss,
There is always pride,
The thing in us that says we can count on ourselves to be okay.
Pride is the thing in us that says we can get rid of trouble,
And take back what we've lost.
The thing in us that says we can take things back,
And make things right,
By depending on ourselves.

Pride is the biggest bully and liar.
And the hardest to spot because it lives inside us.
It is a blindness we can't see to get rid of,
And yet we are still under its power. It has made us selfish.
And it is called Sin.

And so, in addition to
The devil's accusations
The world's provocation
The mind's intimidation, and
The bodies anticipation.
There is also
Sin's domination.

So we are wounded by loss, bullied by lies, and suffer from troubles, and pride does not help?

No, pride only deepens the losses that wound us,

Strengthens the lies that bully us.
And makes more trouble for us.

Why is life like this?

There is mystery to how things have fallen apart.
What we know is that we are
Under the dominion of powers we have no power over.
We are in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil.

In the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil, do trouble, loss, pride, and lies take turns destroying us?

No, they are happening all at once. And pile on top of each other.
We do not feel them separately, but feel tangled up in all of them.
And feel that we are stuck and trapped.
That all is lost, nothing matters, and nothing makes sense.

So how do we tell the difference?

In my experience, this is what it is like in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil.

In my experience, it is like there is a Shrieking Fog
called Pride and Lies
A Shrieking Fog we can't make our way out of.

In my experience, it is like there is an Impenetrable Wilderness
called Trouble and Loss
An Impenetrable Wilderness we can't make our way through

In my experience, it like there is a Simple Table,
called Meaning and Purpose,
A Simple Table we cannot make our way toward
In the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil.

And who are we in the land of Sin, Death, and the Devil?

We are wounded, selfish people.

Strangers and gods.

Lost souls with hardened hearts.

Lost souls because we don't have what we need to be okay.

We have lost things that make us feel lost.

Hardened heart because we only know how to count on
wrong thing to be okay.

We only know how to trust in pride and lies to

To be okay.

What hope do wounded, selfish people have in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil?

Mercy is the only way for wounded, selfish people to be okay

In the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil.

The only way forward in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil,

The only way out if we are stuck or trapped

The only way

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies.

Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss.

To a Simple Table Meaning and Purpose.

How? How will Mercy do this?

In the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil,

Mercy rescues wounded, selfish people from that Fog,

Leads them through that Wilderness,

And gives them that Table

Mercy is Safe Passage through what life is like.
Mercy is Safe Passage in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil

Mercy is the rescue from Pride and Lies,
The way through Trouble and Loss.
And the Meaning and Purpose we're headed toward.

Does Mercy takes turn? Rescuing, then Leading, then Giving?
All three are happening at the same time.

What is the difference between being rescued, led, given?
This Safe Passage is based in rescue.
Being rescued is the gift.
Being led is its vindication.
Being given is the fulfillment.

How do I get Mercy?
Mercy is a gift for wounded, selfish people
It can only be received.
And to receive Mercy
Is to claim Safe Passage
Out of that Fog
Through that Wilderness
To that Table

How do we know we have received Mercy?
If we are Christians we have received Mercy.
Because that is what a Christian is.
A Christian is a wounded, selfish person who has received Mercy
A Christian is a wounded, selfish person who has claimed Safe Passage.

That is all a Christian is?

That is all a Christian is.

If we have to receive Mercy to be rescued, led, and given, then what is Mercy anyway?

In this life we are wounded by loss, selfish from pride, bullied by lies, and suffer from trouble.

That is what life is like in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil.

It is like being in a Shrieking Fog
and an Impenetrable Wilderness
with no way to a Simple Table.

That is what life is like,
but that is not what life's about.

Life is about receiving Mercy.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
and claim Safe Passage out of that Fog, through that Wilderness, to that
Table.

This can happen because Mercy is What God Is Like.

Mercy is about

Who God Is

Where God Goes

What God Does

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to to receive Mercy
and be changed by What God's Like

Being

Rescued by Who God Is

Led Where God Goes

Given back by What God Does

Out of a Shrieking Fog Called Pride and Lies
Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss
To a Simple Table Called Meaning and Purpose

What is it that God does?

God gives us a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose by giving us
back to Himself, ourselves, and others

*Is there a difference between Who God Is, Where God Goes, and What
God Does?*

What Gods Like is based in Who God Is
The gift is Who God Is
It's vindication is Where God Goes
It's fulfillment is What God Does

Is that all Mercy is?

Yes and No
We are always talking about Mercy
But there is more than one way to talk about Mercy.

Like what?

Life is about receiving Mercy.
The point of living is for wounded selfish people to receive Mercy
and claim Safe Passage out of that Fog, through that Wilderness, to that
Table.

This Mercy is What God's Like,
But this is something that has to be revealed to us.
Mercy, then, is the Revelation of God
The Revelation of

His Truth
His Goodness
His Beauty

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy and
behold this Revelation,
Being
Rescued by His Truth
Led by His Goodness
Given back by His Beauty

Out of the Shrieking Fog Called Pride and Lies
Through an Impenetrable Wilderness Called Trouble and Loss
To a Simple Table Called Meaning and Purpose

Is there a difference between His Truth, Goodness, and Beauty?

This Revelation is based in His Truth
His Truth is the gift
His Goodness its vindication
His Beauty it's fulfillment.

What else are we talking about when we talk about Mercy?

Life is about receiving Mercy.
The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
and claim Safe Passage out of that Fog, through that Wilderness, to that
Table.

This Mercy is What God's Like.
This Mercy is a Revelation, but what it reveals is
The Reality of God,
The Reality of

His Steadfast Love,
His Involvement,
His Making Things Right.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And accept this Reality,
Being
Rescued by His Steadfast Love,
Led by His Involvement,
Given back by His Making Things Right

Out of the Shrieking Fog Called Pride and Lies
Through the Impenetrable Wilderness Called Trouble and Loss
To a Simple Table Called Meaning and Purpose

Is there a difference between His Steadfast Love, His Involvement, and His Making Things Right?

This Reality is based in His Steadfast Love.
His Steadfast Love is the gift,
His Involvement its vindication,
His Making Things Rights its fulfillment

What else are we talking about when we talk about Mercy?

Life is about receiving Mercy.
The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy
And claim Safe Passage out of that Fog, through that Wilderness,
To that Table.

This Mercy is What God's Like.
This Mercy is a Revelation and Reality,
That is also the Story of God

The Story of
The Divine Claim who pulls people out of bondage
And leads them in Solemn Procession
Toward the Final End.

This Story doesn't just tell us something,
it does something to us,
it draws us into Mercy itself.

The Final End of what?

The Final End of pride, lies, trouble, and loss.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And become a part of this Story,
Being
Rescued by the Divine Claim
Led by the Solemn Procession
Given back by the Final End

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies,
Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss
To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose

Is there a difference between the Divine Claim, the Solemn Procession, and the Final End?

This Story is based in the Divine Claim.
The Divine Claim is the gift.
The Solemn Procession its vindication.
The Final End its fulfillment.

What else are we talking about when we talk about Mercy?

Life is about receiving Mercy.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And claim Safe Passage out of that Fog, through that Wilderness, to
that Table.

This Mercy is What God's Like.

This Mercy is a Revelation, Reality, and Story

That is also the Promise of God,

The Promise that

God is for us,

God is with us, and

God will give us back to Himself, ourselves, and each other.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
and inherit this promise,

Being

Rescued by the God who is for us,

Led by the God who is with us,

Given back by the God who gives us back to Himself, ourselves, and
each other.

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies,

Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss

To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose

*Is there a difference between God being for us, with us, and giving us
back to Himself?*

This Promise is based in God being for us.

God being for us is the gift.

God being with us is its vindication.

God giving us back to Himself, ourselves, and each other is the

fulfilment.

What else are we talking about when we're talking about Mercy?

Life is about receiving Mercy.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And claim Safe Passage out that Fog, through that Wilderness, to
That Table.

This Mercy is What God's Like.

This Mercy is a Revelation, Reality, Story, and Promise

That is also the Gift of God

The Gift of

His Forgiveness,

His Company,

His Joy

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And take this Gift,

Being

Rescued by His Forgiveness,

Led by His Company,

Given back by His Joy

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies

Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss

To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose

Is there a difference between His Forgiveness, His Company, and His Joy?

This Gift is based in His Forgiveness

His Forgiveness is the gift.

His Company its vindication

His Joy its fulfillment.

What else are we talking about when we talk about Mercy?

Life is about receiving Mercy.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And claim Safe Passage out of that Fog, through that Wilderness,
To that Table.

This Mercy is what God's like.

This Mercy is a Revelation, Reality, Story, Promise, and Gift
That is also, and maybe most importantly, the Word of God.

This Word is not just something we would come up with ourselves,
and not something we are used to telling ourselves.

This Mercy has to be spoken to us.

We talk about Revelation, Reality, Story, Promise, and Gift all
At once when we say that Mercy is the Word of God

A Word of
Cleansing,
Provision,
Rest,

What needs Cleansing, Provision, and Rest?

Our hardened hearts need to be cleansed, cleansed of Pride and Lies.
Our wounded souls need provision, provision for Trouble and Loss,
And we need rest from the things that destroy us and make life feel
meaningless. A Rest that gives back Meaning and Purpose.

This Word will have to overturn the verdicts of Sin, Death, Devil.
Sin's Domination, Death's Devastation, Devil's Accusation.

Mercy is the Overturning Word in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And become the creation of the Overturning Word,
To be
Rescued by this Word of Cleansing,
Led by this Word of Provision,
Given back by this Word of Rest,

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies,
Through the Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss
To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose.

Is there more than one Word? A Word that Cleanses, Provides, and Gives Rest?

It is a single Word based in Cleansing.
Cleansing is the gift.
Provision its vindication.
Rest its fulfillment.

II. THE ASCENDED CHRIST

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

1 Peter 2:24-25

Is that all it means to receive Mercy?

No, it means something even stranger to say we have received Mercy.

Life is about receiving Mercy.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And claim Safe Passage out of that Fog, through that Wilderness,
To that Table.

This Mercy is What God’s Like.

This Mercy is a Revelation, Reality, Story, Promise, Gift,
And above all Word. A Word of Cleansing, Provision, and Rest.
But this Word is also a single Person.
And this Person is Jesus.

So Jesus is everything we talked about, all at once?

Yes,

Jesus is What Life’s About. Life is about Him.

He is What God’s Like: Who God Is, Where God Goes, What God’s

Doing

He is the Revelation of God: God's Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

He is the Reality of God: God's Steadfast Love, Involvement, and Making Things Right.

He is the Story of God: the Divine Claim, Solemn Procession, and Final End.

He is the Promise of God: God for us, God with us, and God giving us back to Himself, ourselves, and each other.

He is the Gift of God: His Forgiveness, Company, and Joy

But mostly, and more particularly,

He is the Overturning Word of God.

The Cleansing of Pride and Lies,

The Provision for Trouble and Loss,

The Rest, the Meaning and Purpose given back to us.

The way out of the Shrieking Fog

The way through the Impenetrable Wilderness.

The Simple Table we are headed to.

Every Revelation, Reality, Story, Promise, Gift, and Word

Is summed up in a single Person, Christ Himself.

Who is He?

The Man who died, rose, and will come again.

The still crucified, now risen, one day returning Christ.

We say all this at once—that has died, is risen, and will come again—

When we say He is the Ascended Christ.

It is the Ascended Christ who is alive, in charge, and can be trusted.

It is the Ascended Christ who rescues, leads, and gives us back.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy, and
know this Person, being
Rescued by the Crucified Christ.
Led by the Crucified and Risen Christ.
Give back by the Crucified, Risen, and Returning Christ.

Out of the Shrieking Fog of Pride and Lies.
Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss
To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose.

*Is there a difference between the Christ who died, the Christ who's
risen, and the Christ who'll come again?*

We know this Person because He died.
The Crucified Christ is the gift.
The Crucified and Risen Christ is the vindication.
The Crucified, Risen, and Returning Christ is the fulfillment.

But in all this there is only one Person—still crucified, now risen, one
day returning.

So who is the Ascended Christ supposed to be for us?

The Ascended Christ is the Overturning Word
The Ascended Christ is Mercy.
The Ascended Christ is Safe Passage.
The Ascended Christ is our Shepherd.
The Divine Claim who leads us in Solemn Procession toward the
Final End.

How does He Shepherd us?

The Ascended Christ shepherds
by giving Himself to wounded, selfish people.

The Christ who died, who's risen, and will come again, give us
His Life—His Dying, Rising, and Coming Again.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
and partake of His Life,
Being
Rescued by His Dying,
Led by His Rising,
Given back by His Coming.

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies.
Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Meaning and Purpose
To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose.

Is there a difference between His Dying, Rising, and Coming?

His Life to us is based in His Dying.
His Dying is the gift.
His Rising its vindication.
His Coming the fulfillment.
But there is only one Life we partake of. The Life of Christ Himself.

*So Mercy is a Word, this Word is a Person. This Person is a Shepherd. Who
Shepherds by giving Himself to wounded, selfish people. A Man whose life is
Safe Passage?*

Yes, His Own Life is the Overturning Word.
His Own Life is Safe Passage in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil. .
Out of that Fog,

Through that Wilderness,
To that Table.

*How can he shepherd us if he is not here? How can he give us Himself if he is
Ascended and gone?*

The Ascended Christ shepherds us,
giving Himself to a wounded, selfish people
Through His Means of Grace,

Put another way:

We receive Mercy, behold this Revelation, accept this Reality, become a
part of this Story, inherit this Promise, take this Gift, know this Person,
Become the creation of this Word,
And partake of His Life,
By counting on the Means of Grace.

What is the Means of Grace?

The Means of Grace is
His Gospel
working through His Spirit,
In His Fellowship

His Gospel is the News, Promise, and Announcement,
of Who Christ Is and What He Has Done.

It is the News, Promise, and Announcement of His Dying, His
Forgiveness, His Steadfast Love, His Cleansing.

Wounded, selfish people are changed by this News, Promise, and
Announcement. And by this News they partake of His Life.

His Gospel is an inexhaustible light held out to wounded,

selfish people in the Shrieking Fog and Impenetrable Wilderness, so they may sit and find a Simple Table.

His Spirit is God's own personal presence in us, bringing Christ near to us, and leading us with His Rising, His Company, and His Provision, leading those who've heard His News in His Way, overturning our disobedience with his obedience, our faithlessness with His faithfulness.

His Spirit is the unbreakable thread a wounded, selfish people take hold of in the Shrieking Fog and Impenetrable Wilderness to find and sit at Simple Table.

His Fellowship is the people Christ gathers to Himself by His Gospel and His Spirit. A Fellowship Christ promises to be at the center of at His Coming, and whom he gives His Joy, His Rest.

His Fellowship is the unending feast that a wounded selfish head toward in the Shrieking Fog and Impenetrable Wilderness, to find and sit at a Simple Table.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy and count on the Means of Grace,

Being

Rescued by His Gospel

Led by His Spirit

Given back by His Fellowship

Holding out the light of His News

Taking hold of the thread of His Way

Heading toward the feast for His People

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies,
Through the Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss,
To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose.

Is there a difference between His Gospel, Spirit, and Fellowship?

The Means of Grace is based in His Gospel. Based in the News,
Promise, Announcement of Who Christ Is and What Christ Has
Done.

His Gospel is the gift.

His Spirit its vindication.

His Fellowship its fulfillment.

III. A CONSECRATED LIFE

“...conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.” 1 Peter 1:17-19

But how does this change us? What does the Means of Grace do to us?

The Ascended Christ shepherds us,
giving Himself to wounded, selfish people
Through His Means of Grace,
By which we have a Consecrated Life

I wish Christ's Dying, Rising, and Coming was
The same as special feelings or superpowers,
But what we have because
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
And Christ will Come Again,
Is a Consecrated Life
In the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil

But what is a Consecrated Life?

It's a life that is set apart from the power of Sin, Death, and the Devil,
And set aside for God by His Means of Grace.

The Consecrated Life is made up two things:
A New Heart and the Same Kind of Day.
The two are tied together, tethered.

What is a New Heart?

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And claim Safe Passage out that Fog, through that Wilderness, to
That Table.

This Mercy is What God's Like.
This Mercy is a Revelation, Reality, Story, Promise, Gift, Word,
In a single Person.
Who gives Himself to wounded, selfish people,
Through His Means of Grace,
By which they inherit a New Heart.

A New Heart that trusts in Christ instead of Pride and Lies.
A New Heart that trusts Christ with Trouble and Loss
A New Heart where Meaning and Purpose is found in entrusting
Ourselves to others for the sake of their trust in Christ.

A New Heart of Faith, Hope, Love.

Faith is the trust rescued by His Gospel. So that we trust in Christ
instead of Pride and Lies. Our trust is rescued by the light of His
News.

Hope is the attention led by His Spirit. So that we trust Christ with
Trouble and Loss. Our attention is led by the thread of His Way.

Love is our own selves give to His Fellowship. So Meaning and Purpose

is found in entrusting ourselves to others for the sake of their trust in Christ. We are given to the feast of His People.

Faith is led in Hope and ends in Love.

The trust He rescues becomes the attention He leads and the intention To be given in His Name.

Those who hold out that Light take hold of that Thread and head toward this Feast.

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive a Mercy,
That makes and cultivates this New Heart.

So that

Our trust is rescued,

Our attention is led, and

We are given.

Out of the Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies
Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss
To a Simple Table called Meaning and Purpose.

Why is trust so important?

Trust is about what we'll count on to be okay.

It is trust that partakes of Christ.

And by the Means of Grace, Christ feeds our trust in Him.

So what is the goal of the Consecrated Life?

The goal of the Consecrated Life is to become

More rescued,

More led,

More given.
By His Gospel, through His Spirit, in His Fellowship.
Until Christ has all our trust, all our attention, and all of our selves.
So that Life is about Him.
And He is What Life is About.

Is there a difference between Faith, Hope, and Love?

This New Heart is based in the Faith rescued by the Gospel.
Faith is the gift.
Hope its vindication.
Love its fulfillment.

It is all trust.
Trust is the gift,
Attention its vindication
The Gift of ourselves its fulfillment.

How will we become more rescued, led, and given?

It is painful to become more rescued, led, and given
and we only gradually become more rescued, led, and
given and only by His Means of Grace: by His Gospel,
through His Spirit, in His Fellowship.

If it's gradual and painful, how does it even happen?

It happens because the Consecrated Life is
Both a New Heart,
And the Same Kind of Day

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to receive Mercy,
And claim Safe Passage out that Fog, through that Wilderness, to
That Table.

This Mercy is What God's Like.
This Mercy is a Revelation, Reality, Story, Promise, Gift, Word, and
But above all a single Person.
Who gives Himself to wounded, selfish people,
Through His Means of Grace,
By which they inherit a New Heart.
And have the Same Kind of Day.

The Same Kind of Day is a Day of Hearing, Prayer, and Offering.

Hearing is the daily rescue of our trust by the proclamation of His Gospel. So that we trust in Christ more and more instead of Pride and Lies. By hearing, Christ feeds our trust in Him.

Prayer is the daily leading of our attention by the guidance of His Spirit. So that we trust Christ more and more with Trouble and Loss.

Offering is the gift of ourselves to the building of His Fellowship. So that more and more Meaning and Purpose is found in entrusting ourselves to others for the sake of their trust in Christ.

Why does this sound so ordinary?

Because it is.

Mercy is an ordinary life.

Mercy means ordinary life is possible.

Mercy means it possible to have an ordinary life in
Land of Sin, Death, and Devil.

An ordinary life with an Overturning Word.

The Same Kind of Day is how we are rescued, led, and

given. And become more rescued, led, given.

The Same Kind of Day is the Ascended Christ taking
us somewhere,
Out of Shrieking Fog called Pride and Lies,
Through an Impenetrable Wilderness called Trouble and Loss,
To a Simple Table Meaning and Purpose

*But didn't Jesus say "It is finished." Is salvation all at once or over time? Are we
already rescued, led, given, or are we being rescued, led, and given?*

It is has already happened, and it is still happening.
Christ has died, but his death is not done with us.
Christ has risen, but his resurrection is not done with us.
Christ will come again, but his coming is already doing something to
us

The point of living is for wounded, selfish people to
Receive Mercy and have this Same Kind of Day,

Being
More and more rescued by the Gospel
More and more led by His Spirit,
More and more given to His Fellowship

More rescued by hearing,
More led in prayer,
More given as an offering

Hearing is led in Prayer until it becomes an Offering.

Is there a difference between Hearing, Praying, and Offering?

The Same Kind of Day is based in Hearing Who Christ Is and What Christ Has Done.

Hearing is the gift.

Praying is its vindication.

Offering is its fulfillment.

If you make it sound so easy, how come its not? How do I learn how to do this?

The Ascended Christ shepherds us

By giving Himself to wounded, selfish people

Through His Means of Grace,

By which we have a Consecrated Life

That we take hold of with a Simple Rhythm.

To put it another way.

We

Receive Mercy, behold this Revelation, accept this Reality, inherit this

Promise take this Gift, become the creation of this Word, know this

Person, partake of this His Life, count on His Means of Grace,

As we take hold of a Simple Rhythm.

We partake of His Life

As we take hold of this Rhythm.

What is the Simple Rhythm?

This Simple Rhythm is

The contemplation of Scripture,

The attempt of Prayer,

The sacrifice of Service.

Why is Scripture so important?

Scripture is a collection of stories, poems, prophecies, and letters, a bunch of written words that want to reveal this Word to us. Scripture wants to reveal Christ to us so we can know Him, trust Him, and be changed by Him. We can partake of His Life through Scripture because by Scripture we can hear His News, Pronouncement, and Promise

But isn't Simple Rhythm just a Habit?

Yet, but this Habit is our friendship with His Means of Grace.
It is we learn to count on His Means of Grace to be okay.
And how we learn the Consecrated Life.
This Simple Rhythm is the Habit of being with Jesus.
How we learn that its going to have to be enough to be with Jesus.
This Simple Rhythm is our Ordinary Life with the Overturning Word in the Land of Sin, Death, and the Devil.

Receiving Him through the Contemplation of Scripture.
Staying with Him through the Attempt of Prayer
Working with Him through the Sacrifice of Service.

We cannot learn how to be with Jesus without some Rhythm of Scripture, Prayer, and Service.

Is there a difference between Scripture, Prayer, and Service?

This Simple Rhythm is based in the Contemplation of Scripture
The contemplation of Scripture is the gift.
The attempt of Prayer its vindication.
The sacrifice of Service its fulfillment.

How will we know we're reading Scripture right, praying right, or serving right?

We have the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments as our guide.

The Apostles' Creed is the summary of all Scripture, and guides our contemplation.

The Lord's Prayer is the summary of all Prayer, and guides our attempts.

The Ten Commandments is the summary all Service, and guides our sacrifices.

But doesn't this Simple Rhythm start to feel repetitive?

Yes, and yet it is a crucial part of time we're in, the time of the Ascended Christ and His Spirit.

Is the time of Vindication and Preparation.

This Simple Rhythm is how we learn what every day is.

That each day is a Vindication and Preparation.

The Vindication of the Christ who died and our Preparation for the Christ who'll come again.

The Vindication of His Forgiveness and our preparation for His Joy

The Vindication of His Cleansing and our preparation for His Rest

The Vindication of His Gospel and our Preparation for His Fellowship.

The Vindication of our Faith and our Preparation for Love

The Vindication of our hearing and our Preparation for offering.