

JESUS QUENCHES YOUR HEART'S DESIRE

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There are some famous personalities in this world that we also desire to be like. Bill Gates is one, one day he died in a car accident. He found himself in Purgatory being sized up by God...

"Well, Bill, I'm really confused on this call. I'm not sure whether to send you to Heaven or Hell. After all, you enormously helped society by putting a computer in almost every home in the world and yet you created that ghastly Windows 95. I'm going to do something I've never done before. In your case, I'm going to let you decide where you want to go!"

Bill replied, "Well, thanks, God. What's the difference between the two?"

God said, "I'm willing to let you visit both places briefly if it will help you make a decision."

"Fine, but where should I go first?"

God said, "I'm going to leave that up to you."

Bill said, "OK, then, let's try Hell first."

So, Bill went to Hell. It was a beautiful, clean, sandy beach with clear waters. There were thousands of beautiful women running around, playing in the water, laughing, and frolicking about. The sun was shining, the temperature was perfect. Bill was very pleased.

This is great!" he told God. "If this is Hell, I REALLY want to see Heaven!"

Fine," said God and off they went. Heaven was a high place in the clouds, with angels drifting about playing harps and singing. *It was nice but not as enticing as Hell.* Bill thought for a quick minute and rendered his decision.

"Hmm, I think I prefer Hell" he told God.

"Fine," retorted God, "as you desire." So, Bill Gates went to Hell. Two weeks later, God decided to check up on the late billionaire to see how he was doing in Hell. When God arrived in Hell, he found Bill shackled to a wall, screaming amongst the hot flames in a dark cave. *He was being burned and tortured by demons.*

"How's everything going, Bill?" God asked.

Bill responded - his voice full of *anguish and disappointment*, *"This is awful, this is not what I expected.* I can't believe this happened. What happened to that other place with the beaches and the beautiful women playing in the water?"

God said, "That was the screen saver".

The wicked man does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward. - Proverbs 11:18.

Dear Friends! What is your one desire?

As Human beings we often get tempted or enticed to the desires of this world and it's often later that we realise we chose the wrong thing out of temptation.

What is your one desire as you go past 2023 and enter 2024?

THEME: JESUS QUENCHES YOUR HEART'S DESIRE

Dear Friends! Even Simeon had one desire and we heard it in Luke 2:29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation.”

The moment Simeon held Jesus in his arms at the temple, He said “Now my soul is prepared to depart in peace for my eyes have seen your Salvation”. Simeon’s desire was fulfilled. His eyes have seen God’s Salvation. Simeon’s desire was to glorify God.

What does your desire glorify?

There was peace within Simeon. He experienced the fullness of life. He was ready to depart in peace.

Dear Friends! As we go past 2023, we enter the New Year with God’s only Son Jesus born in our hearts that we may experience the fullness of life.

In Galatians 4:4-7 Paul says “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God”.

Hear the good news! We are redeemed by Jesus Christ our Saviour and now we are God’s children who are no longer under the law but under the righteousness of God. We are no longer slaves struggling to love our neighbours, but we are filled with joy and covered with the robe of righteousness so that we may love joyfully our neighbours and live the Gospel.

This is God’s promise that each of us from Isaiah 61:10-11 as we enter in 2024. We are no longer slaves but “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden cause what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations”.

As we enter into a New Year, there is nothing to fear or worry for God is with us and He will give us the strength we need to bear whatever the New Year brings. God Immanuel is with us. Let us depart in peace according to God’s word; ³⁰for our eyes have seen God’s salvation, ³¹which God has prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to all nations.”

The Holy Spirit gives us the desires of a child of God to rejoice in the Lord always. God promises in Isaiah 62:3 as we enter 2024 “You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God”. And like Jesus and in Jesus we will also become strong, wise and will be favored by God to live in his righteousness. Amen