

“The JesUS Factor” Week 7 of ‘Like Heaven’ Series
Mrs. Tava Brice | Sunday, 25th 2022

A few months after our oldest son Caleb (who was 27 at the time) graduated to heaven). I found myself stuck in deep sadness that exceeded what I felt was “normal” grief. I sought counsel here at CL. In my appointment we asked Holy Spirit to reveal why I’d stalled out in deep sorrow. Toward the end of the beautiful appointment we were sitting in God’s presence and suddenly I was aware that I was flying through space so quickly that I couldn’t make out anything until I realized I was looking down (roughly a mile up) and saw gigantic gates swinging open as I flew over. As I crossed over the gates God began to say (quote) Next, I saw what looked to be a rolling sea alive with movement. As I looked closer, I realized it wasn’t an ocean but a vast assembly of worshippers singularly transfixed on God. Almost immediately I realized He was letting me know that Caleb was in the midst. As I was thanking f Him but realizing I was too high up to actually make him out amongst the others, a telescopic view brought Caleb’s figure into view. Describe and detail what happened next.

I share this divine look into heaven to bear witness of Rev 7 that a multitude is harmoniously gathered in the throne room and worshipping as one body!! We have such an exhilarating existence awaiting us that merits our intentional investment toward achieving.

As we continue our study in the Like Heaven Series, today we will examine what I call the JesUS Factor. Of course we know who Jesus is. In addition to being the Son of God; He is the One sent in human form to live amongst us and do so with every temptation you and I will ever have yet without sinning. As Son of God and Son of Man (a human) He was the only one worthy to take our place and to bear the punishment for our sins so that we would be restored to Sonship with our Father.

Jesus is our Savior and the one who rescued us from isolated, desperate lives and set us into Oneness with He, The Father and the Holy Spirit AND WITH ONE ANOTHER. We are now each members of the Body of Christ! Again, it’s what I call the JesUS Factor

Next, let’s consider who Us is:

Us: - “a group that includes me”. “US” is divine synergy.

Divine means proceeding directly from God.

Synergy is the Interaction of two or more (agents) to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

Factor: - one that actively contributes to the production of a result

- one that manages another's affairs
- Latin word for Factor simply means “doer

The US Factor is encoded into the very fiber of our humanity. We find this in God’s first conversation quoted in scripture. This is His first mention of “US” (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and then embedded His image into humanity through Adam and Eve as He extended the US Factor to Man and Woman.

Genesis 1:26-28 AMPC: 26 God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth.

Sadly, strife and division soon disrupted God's plan for unity. Amazingly, right as this sad plight of the human condition was unleashed God declared His plan that Jesus would come and crush the head of Satan and the power of division he would be wielding until Christ's victory over him.

Of course Jesus DID come and fully achieved the plan of God to live sinlessly and die as our sacrifice and was raised on the 3rd day so that we are raised with Him.

He said He was going to prepare a place for us in heaven so that we would all be with Him forever. At CL we are praying what Jesus taught us to pray. That God's Kingdom would come, and that His will would be done "on earth as it is in heaven". We aren't just mindlessly echoing His words. We believe we are authorized to ask this and to actually live accordingly.

He put it like this in His passionate prayer to the Father just before going to the cross:

John 17:13-26 NASB : 13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.[a] 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them[b] in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself,[c] that they also may be sanctified[d] in truth. 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

This sounds so beautiful and romantic. The challenge is that we can never attain to this kind of love and unity amongst ourselves without relying on divine synergy!!

WHO PROVIDES THIS ABILITY? Holy Spirit Who lives in us!

Ephesians 4: 1-5 ESV: I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

He provides His powerful attributes to overcome our human shortcomings! God's plan isn't for us to fake it or stuff our emotions. He has gifted us with Holy Spirit so that we can draw from His divine synergy to accomplish what we never could. We are to ask Him for insight about what is really going on with a person or a frustrating situation so we can pray accurately and powerfully. We should be honest and say...HELP! I'm feeling this way but You are my strength and I'm relying on YOU! Love through me! Guide my actions and my words.

What IS our JesUS Factor mission?

Our united purpose is to re-present the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by loving the world as Christ did. We are summoned to love the world. Especially to love the ones in our sphere of influence and also by lovingly praying for the ones we won't likely meet.

1 Peter 3:8-11 AMPC: Finally, all [of you] should be of one and the same mind (united in spirit), sympathizing [with one another], loving [each other] as brethren [of one household], compassionate and courteous (tenderhearted and humble). Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For know that to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection]. For let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days [good—whether apparent or not] keep his tongue free from evil and his lips from guile (treachery, deceit). Let him turn away from wickedness and shun it, and let him do right. Let him search for peace (harmony; undisturbedness from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts) and seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]

Do not be ignorant of Satan's strategies to divide us!!

Isolationism, criticism, resentment, comparisons and so forth. We must ask ourselves if these come from Christ. Since we know they are not, we must resist Satan's strategies which often parade as self-centeredness. We are all subject to these feelings as we are pollutants in the air. In the case of these toxic attitudes though, we can look away from

these distractions and into Jesus' perfection and His finished work He has blessed us with and thereby resist satan!

Is it worth how costly it feels to surrender to Love when our emotions and desire for comfort can seem so strong?

ABSOLUTELY!!

Any suffering we endure as Christ did on our behalf will be richly rewarded in heaven. With an eye on loving God and pleasing Him, we do all we will do as unto the Lord.

Romans 8:16 ESV The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Colossians 3:12 ESV: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.