



45: HOLY SPIRIT MAINLINED (Luke 12:1-12)

Back when I was between the ages of eight and eleven years old, I was addicted to soda. If you're a true Ohian you call it "pop". If you're cool like people in New England you call it "soda". 😊

Much like Forrest Gump¹ when he met JFK, every day "I must've drank me about five or six Dr. Peppers". Forrest drank fifteen in one day! But seriously- I drank pop. I liked Dr. Pepper, Mr. Pibb, Mountain Dew, Jolt Cola, Pepsi, Coke, Pepsi Clear (remember that?), Fanta Orange, Fanta Grape, Faygo Red Pop. I loved it all.

And as a result, I ended up having a total of nine cavities, two root canals, and two teeth pulled from cists above them. These were all baby teeth fortunately. And even more fortunately, my Mom worked as a receptionist at the dentist during much of that time! We needed her employee discount and our insurance to cover this decaying metal mouth that I developed.

I wouldn't recommend over-drinking soda. I don't ever drink it now- just coffee and tea with milk and honey in em, in moderation. I've got only one small cavity now in my adult teeth.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forrest_Gump

But when it comes to the presence of God, like Forrest Gump did with Dr. Peppers, we should go ahead and overdo it! C.S Lewis wrote;

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

We’re looking at Luke 12:1-12 and how much better it is to be fixated on Jesus more than anything in our lives. The last time I spoke to my Grandma, while she was in the hospital and dying, she told me “Ben, follow the Word of the Lord, and believe it more than the Word of man.” That sums it up! I hope I honor her words all the days of my life on earth.

And it also sums up what Jesus was saying in Luke 12:1-12.

In 12:1 - 48 as a whole chapter, Jesus called people to discipleship. The disciple needed to look to God and pursue one’s calling with an undistracted eye. Knowing God meant we had nothing to fear, so we could walk confidently with him.²

Let’s dig into this powerful, convicting text!

1 Meanwhile, a crowd of many thousands came together, so that they were trampling on one another. He began to say to his disciples first, “Be on your guard against the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 There is nothing covered that won’t be uncovered, nothing hidden that won’t be made known. 3 Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in an ear in private rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. (Luke 12:1-3)

Jesus turned His attention to the disciples in 12:1 - 12, as they dealt with the huge crowds pressing around them. People were almost walking on top of each other. Their press raised an issue that became a temptation to the disciples: hypocrisy.

An effort to maintain popularity easily leads to hypocrisy. Jesus warned them not to follow the example of the Pharisees, whose record Luke had just noted (11:37 - 52). He called them to be on guard against “the “yeast” or “leaven” of the Pharisees.” Yeast

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referred to their teaching and its hypocrisy, which could permeate in a community like the substance people put in bread.³

The word for leaven is ζύμη (zymē), and means yeast, leaven, or a culture which grows in dough⁴ Do you know how yeast works? Yeast "takes over" dough through a process called fermentation, where it consumes sugars and starches, releasing carbon dioxide and alcohol as byproducts, causing the dough to rise and develop flavor.⁵

Hypocrisy in a Church community starts as a little thing that's introduced, then it gradually "takes over" the whole population, consuming all that's good, right, and of the Spirit. It flavors and affects the whole batch of dough. That seems like a positive thing, but it's actually not. In fact, there's something called "Latecomer Killing", and it's when yeast experiences glucose starvation, and releases toxins into its environment to kill other microorganisms that might compete for resources.⁶ Yeast of hypocrisy is Latecomer Killing yeast for sure. It burns away the fruit of the Spirit.

To enhance the warning, Jesus emphasized that everything would be disclosed before God in the coming day of judgment (Rom. 2:15; 1 Cor. 4:5), when our lives would be evaluated. Nothing will be concealed on that day. The reference to "inner rooms" in verse 3 describes the innermost location in the house. God's omniscience penetrates every locale and every thought. Even what is whispered will be known. On that coming day, disciples will have their stewardship of God's gifts and opportunities examined, and they will be rewarded accordingly (1 Cor. 3:10 - 17), though forgiveness and eternal life come only through drawing on the forgiveness Christ provides. Those who do not truly know the Lord will have their actions condemned (Rev. 20:11 - 15; 21:27; 22:15).⁷

My wife, Sarah White, is the safest, most supportive, loving, truthful person that I have in my life for sure. I've also got Mark, Kali, Zach, Paul, Justin, B, Chad, Byron, Mike, J, Holly, James, Kyle, C, Jess, K, and Chase. Thank God for how safe, supportive, loving, and truthful these people are in my life! But man, my wife is amazing.

And I just think about the fact that every conversation I've ever had with my wife, in all the inner rooms of our house, is going to be brought under the Lord's judgment!



Jesus said that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak. (Matt. 12:36) Wow. Does that convict you? So even with all

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⁴ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁵ <https://www.ifst.org/lovefoodlovescience/resources/raising-agents-biological-fermentation>

⁶ https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/focus/en/press/z0508_00259.html

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of the safe people in my life (and by the way almost all of them, but not all of them, are outside of my Church community!), I am still going to have to give an account for every careless thing I've said. And I have struggled plenty with saying careless things throughout my life, especially in my past. God is continually convicting me of having a "loose tongue", and even in the safest spaces of my life, He wants to refine me!

And by the way, I learn more and more that not everyone is safe! My counselor gave me a list of boundaries that I'm learning to put into practice and they're positively changing my life in the best way.

We all need to let James 3:1-12 do its work of conviction in our tongues!

1 Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body. 3 Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we direct their whole bodies. 4 And consider ships: Though very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So too, though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts great things. Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a large forest. 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness. 10 Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. 11 Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.

The big point is that we can't hide anything from God! God sees our every move! Our every moment! He hears every word out of our mouths! He knows every thought we think! Why not seek to be completely tethered to Him at all times?

Isn't our God greater than our life? Jesus said further to His disciples;

4 "I say to you, my friends, don't fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. 5 But I will show you the one to fear: Fear him who has authority to throw people into hell after death. Yes, I say to you, this is the one to fear! 6 Aren't five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. 7

Indeed, the hairs of your head are all counted. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

A being who knows all our secrets should be feared. Therefore, Jesus declared, we should fear the One who has the power to place us in hell, not someone who can merely kill the body. The latter alluded to the end of this life, while the former alluded to permanent separation from God. As Jesus asked in Luke 9:25, what good is it to gain the whole world and lose one's soul? Jesus discussed the issue of whom to fear because the world's rejection for identifying with Him was a real prospect — so real that some would back off from coming to Him. But to fear the multitude and to turn away from God is to make the wrong choice.⁸

Disciples of Jesus are supposed to be bold and fearless!

Now before I was a follower of Christ, I was fearless about getting into fights. I'd try to beat up kids bigger than me and let them whup me and make me stronger. I was a bully in Middle School and constantly getting into fights. When I was in my high school criminal and party days I definitely got into physical altercations often. That's not the kind of bold fearlessness that Jesus was talking about!

As a new follower of Christ in my twenties, I was bold and fearless in verbal confrontation. I wasn't afraid to say intense things that set people off and exposed their motives. Often it was insensitive and inappropriate, or hurtful to the person I was speaking to. I wasn't afraid to call people out on their sin if I really believed they were sinning. That's not the kind of bold fearlessness that Jesus was talking about!

The kind of bold fearlessness that Jesus was talking about is in Matthew 5:38-48 taken from His Sermon on the Mount:

38 *"You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. 39 But I tell you, don't resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

43 *"You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who*

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love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

And the early followers of Jesus practiced this bold fearlessness in the face of enemies.

The Didache, also known as The Teachings of the 12 Apostles, is a very early Christian document written around 85 AD. The words don't sound too different from what Jesus himself taught:

"Bless those who curse you, pray for your enemies, and fast on behalf of those who persecute you... But love ye those who hate you, and ye shall not have an enemy."

A few years later, one of the foremost defenders of the faith, Justin the Martyr, said this:

*"We who formerly hated and murdered one another now live together and share the same table. **We pray for our enemies** and try to win those who hate us."*

Aristides, in explaining the non-violent actions of Christians to the Emperor wrote these words around 137 AD:

*"It has become their passion to **do good to their enemies**.... This, O Emperor, is the rule of life of the Christians, and this is their manner of life."*

Tertullian (160–220 AD), the founder of Western theology, taught that Christians refused to harm others:

"The Christian does not hurt even his enemy."

Cyprian, the Bishop of Carthage who died in 258, shows that these teachings continued well into the second century after Christ:

"None of us offers resistance when he is seized, or avenges himself for your unjust violence, although our people are numerous and plentiful...it is not lawful

for us to hate, and so we please God more when we render no requital for injury...we repay your hatred with kindness.”⁹

Now that I’m forty three and have been seeking to be a genuine disciple of Jesus for twenty three years of my life, I realize that the bold fearlessness Jesus is talking about is a supernatural love for enemies. That kind of bold fearlessness totally ignores the flesh, and boldly speaks the truth in love, with charity and generosity, to the person figuratively spitting in one’s face. That’s the kind of bold fearlessness I want! How about you? ***We gotta mainline the Spirit to get that kind of faith and action operating in us!***

And guess what? The fear of God and His presence brings incredible ***comfort***. Our Lord is aware of the needs of those who belong to him, just as He is aware of and cares for birds that are sold for a few small, cheap coins. God knows even minute details like the number of hairs on our head. Someone who knows us so well will certainly care for us. So in fearing God, we have nothing to fear from anyone else, for we are worth more than the sparrows.¹⁰

Do you have a storm swirling around you right now? Do you feel like all is lost? Do you feel like all the odds are stacked up against you? Are you in a dark tunnel and just can’t see the light at the end of it? Guess what? You’ve got the Holy Spirit of God in you and He is the “Flashlight!” (🎵I want you to sing that word like George Clinton from P-Funk! 🎵)

The Holy Spirit really does bring an ***inner, supernatural joy*** that penetrates through ***any*** trial! Have you experienced this? Ask God to give it to you! That’s why James, the half brother of Jesus wrote;

2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)

The joy that the Holy Spirit fills us with is something out of this world! This entire year of 2025 I’ve been through testing and pruning at a level I hadn’t ever been before. It’s truly felt, at times, even like a “dark night of the soul” because there have been so many challenges. But I’ve been through these seasons in the past, and even let them derail my faith a bit. Now, the Lord has taught me better. Going through this season I have

⁹ <https://www.craiggreenfield.com/blog/nonviolence>

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clung on to Jesus for dear life, and I'm telling you, I'm starting to learn what it actually means to *Consider it a great joy whenever I experience various trials!*

Only the Holy Spirit can actually lead us to a point where we are saying crazy things in faith like,

"Thank you God for this person who is mistreating me, it's making me rely on You more!"

"Thank you God for this sickness, it's making me rely on You more!"

"Thank you God for my lack of finances, it's making me rely on You more!"

"Thank you God for this person who is threatening me, it's making me rely on You more!"

Sounds nuts, I know, but we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28) I'm not talking about being oblivious or naive. I'm not talking about hyper-spiritualizing everything. I'm talking about a supernatural inner-joy from the Holy Spirit. Do you want it today? It's available. Ask for it! Beg for it! Tell God you'll do whatever He leads you to do to make room for it!

We have this joy in God, and we must fear Him, which in the setting of Jesus' words in Luke 12 means to respect his authority as judge and his knowledge of us. We sometimes like to think that we have moments of privacy when no one sees what we do or knows what we think. That may be true with reference to people, but this is not true of God. He sees in the inner room, even when the lights are out and when no one else can see. Respect for his knowledge and our accountability to him means we will conduct our lives like an open book, where we have nothing to hide.¹¹

Use discretion, be shrewd, have boundaries, be wise in the Lord, but don't be a chameleon! Be whoever the Lord has made you to be, everywhere!

If we are righteous before God, we have nothing to fear from him. As 1 John 3:1 - 3 suggests, those who live in light of the hope of the return of God, knowing that he knows everything, will purify themselves with the hope of his return and the responsibility it puts on us to be faithful. If we do fail, we remember the grace of God and the forgiveness Christ offers us rather than fall into a hopeless despair. The availability of forgiveness is part of what makes grace so amazing and God's love so divine. We fear

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God without being afraid of him when we rest in his grace, draw on its resources, and pursue righteousness through the enablement he so graciously gives.¹²

Jesus continued on in Luke 12:8;

8 *“And I say to you, anyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God, 9 but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. 10 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. 11 Whenever they bring you before synagogues and rulers and authorities, don’t worry about how you should defend yourselves or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what must be said.”* (Luke 12:8-12)

This message about fearing God is reinforced in remarks about Jesus as the Son of Man (vv. 8 - 9). To acknowledge this being is to be acknowledged by God; to disown him is to face disownment later. This juxtaposition of fearing God with the Son of Man again shows the close connection between his ministry and God’s call.¹³

When we mainline the Holy Spirit, we become inescapably devoted to Jesus. We don’t sell Him out. We can’t help but speak about Him when the opportunities arise, because the Holy Spirit drives us into this. We need to remember too that Jesus was stating the words about acknowledging or denying Him before others in a context where all the disciples of Christ would be brutally persecuted. Jesus was issuing a challenge here to live for Him and honor Him no matter the cost, no matter how it would affect one’s job, social status, freedom, finances, relationships, and even the existence of one’s precious life.

Jesus will certainly convict us and drive us into places of faith where we’ll give up status, popularity, finances, comfort, security, ease, and more for Him. I’ll never stop reminding us that there are more in the world today who are dying for their faith in Christ than ever before, and the number keeps rising each year.

Verse 10 is one of the most enigmatic in Luke. The sin of denying the Son of Man can be forgiven, but to the person who blasphemes the Spirit there will be no forgiveness. There are four choices as plausible definitions for this blasphemy: claiming that Jesus has come from Satan (11:14 - 20), renouncing Jesus because of persecution (that is, apostasy), rejecting the preaching of the apostles, or persistently rejecting the message of the gospel. The final choice is the most likely, since it fits the warning about being

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thrown into hell and the warnings in Acts about what is at stake for rejecting the apostles' message (Acts 3:22 - 26; 13:38 - 41), but all four choices apply to some degree. Speaking a word against the Son of Man refers to a specific act of rejection, while rejecting the testimony of the Spirit refers to a permanent rejection of that message of salvation. The best example of this principle is Saul, who stood at Stephen's execution in Acts 7, but who later came to faith and thus received forgiveness for his previous acts against preaching about Jesus. He had spoken against the Son of Man, but ended up not rejecting the Spirit's call to believe in Jesus. This decision about the testimony the Spirit gives is the key issue for Jesus.¹⁴

To be clear, just so none of us slip into spiritual paranoia, the rejection of Jesus's offer of forgiveness, and leading in one's life is "blasphemy against the Spirit". I have met far too many people who have taken this verse to mean that they've done something sinful that can't be forgiven. Anything we do that we didn't intend to do, and even things we may have willfully done, but then realize are wrong and repent, never to do them again, are forgiven at the cross! As David wrote:

12 *Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.* **13** *Moreover, keep your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule me. Then I will be blameless and cleansed from blatant rebellion.* **14** *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.* (Psalm 19:12-14)

Jesus wants to fully forgive you of everything, past present and future! You just gotta come real to Him! You gotta be repentant! I'd say further that we've got to seek Him at a level where, like David, we even want Him to expose and cleanse our "unintentional sins", and far more so, to "keep us from willful sins" that are deliberate!

On a spiritual level, there is nothing to fear in persecution, trial and difficulty. The Holy Spirit would teach His people what to say before the synagogues, rulers, and authorities. Their message would be His message. If they rejected them, they rejected Jesus, but He would serve as the source of strength and wisdom for His people. Thus, by fearing God, disciples had nothing to fear from people.¹⁵

And I want to tell you that the Lord is with you when you're being mistreated while living in Him and for Him! the Lord is with you when You're facing difficulty and conflict! The Lord is with you while you're battling depression, anxiety, sleeplessness, lack of resources, lack of support, lack of clarity, lack of wisdom, and a lack of hope! Contrary

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to much garbage American theology He doesn't want to ***pull you out*** of the difficulty, He's standing ***with you*** in the difficulty! Do you know Him?

How do we really ***know*** Him? How do we possess the kind of faith the early disciples and apostles of Jesus had? They were, in fact, brought before synagogues and rulers and authorities, and didn't worry about defending themselves or what they should say. The Holy Spirit taught them at that very hour what to say, and they said it!

I used to be a drug addict before Jesus saved my life. I've been sober for twenty five years now, praise the Lord! Sobriety is so, ***so*** much better than intoxication!!! But I know what the life of the addict looks like.

An addict starts by dabbling. A drink here, a drink there, a toke off of a blunt or a dab pen here and there. They start by messing with it once a month. Then that turns into once a week. Then all weekend they find themselves drunk and/or high. Then the intoxication creeps into their week. They're getting high and drunk on weekdays when they should be focusing on what they've gotta do. The boundaries get blurred. They abuse more and more alcohol and weed, trying to get the first high or first buzz of drunkenness again, but their tolerance has grown.

Then they figure they might as well try something stronger. So they eat mushrooms and trip for six hours. They eat LSD and trip for eight hours. They do mescaline and trip for a day. They do peyote and trip for multiple days. They do ayahuasca and tripe for multiple days. They smoke DMT and have an out of body experience. They ingest molly and roll for hours. They snort ketamine. They move into pills- percocets, oxies, valiums, and more. That gets real physically addictive and wears them down. They combo all of this with weed and alcohol. If they're truly addicts they don't care, they just want to see how inebriated they can get and how often they can be so.

And then, all of this stuff wears out too. Bad trips happen. Bad experiences go down. The hunger for the high is still there but weed barely works at all, and one can only do so much crazy stuff to their brain. So why not start doing things that destroy the body for that next level of a high?

And then in comes the methamphetamine, in comes the powder cocaine and crack, in comes the heroin, in comes the fentanyl. They want as big of a high as they can possibly get, and they no longer care if they live or die, overdose, black out, or lose everything, they just live for the high!

When one becomes a believer in Jesus, they dabble in the Bible. They show up at Church once and a while. They pray when they have needs. They might even go to a small group once and a while or a midweek thing in the Church.

Then they start digging into worship music, and great books by authors who follow Christ and write relevant stuff to the times. They might commit to coming to Sunday gatherings regularly. They might start trying to read their Bible daily. They might commit to coming to a discipleship group or DNA group, and a midweek thing here and there. They might attend Christian concerts or conferences. Why? Because they're just hungry! They just want more of Jesus!

And then trials come and test the faith. They know they'll need a deeper fix of Jesus. They get on their knees on their own. They cry out to God for hours at times. They learn to fast and seek God. They cultivate their own prayer life. They start reading books throughout history written by Christ followers who lived, died and were even martyred for their faith. They simply can't survive a day without the Word of God and prayer.

Then they want more of the Holy Spirit, so they ask for divine encounters, speaking in tongues, visions, supernatural healing, Holy Spirit boldness, and the ability to prophesy in the power of the Spirit. They get bolder. They want to give more of their resources away, they want to live on mission to tough people and even put themselves in danger for the gospel.

And eventually, so many trials cave in on them, so much pressure comes, that there's nothing left to do but surrender absolutely all of themselves. They're like, "Lord God in heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I need the divine needle! I want a direct line! I want more of You than I can even begin to handle! Go ahead and overdose me with Your love, Your truth, Your grace, Your kindness, Your conviction, Your holiness, Your pain, Your discernment, spiritual warfare, battles against the enemy, intercession, Your mission, the insatiable thirst to see people's lives rescued! Mainline me! Make me insanely hooked on You! Insanely addicted to You! You're all I need! You're all I want to want!

Oswald Chambers wrote these powerful words;

I must cleanse myself from all filthiness in my flesh and my spirit until both are in harmony with the nature of God. Is the mind of my spirit in perfect agreement with the life of the Son of God in me, or am I mentally rebellious and defiant?

Am I allowing the mind of Christ to be formed in me? (see Philippians 2:5). Christ never spoke of His right to Himself, but always maintained an inner vigilance to submit His

spirit continually to His Father. I also have the responsibility to keep my spirit in agreement with His Spirit. And when I do, Jesus gradually lifts me up to the level where He lived—a level of perfect submission to His Father's will— where I pay no attention to anything else. Am I perfecting this kind of holiness in the fear of God? Is God having His way with me, and are people beginning to see God in my life more and more?

Be serious in your commitment to God and gladly leave everything else alone. Literally put God first in your life.

Get addicted to Him. Have more of Him than you can handle! He's worthy of our all! Did Jesus not live perfectly for us? Did He not willingly, brutally die for us? Did He not defeat hell, sin, death and the devil on the cross? Did He not rise again from the grave and appear to many? Did He not ascend into heaven and sit at the right hand of God? Did He not send the Holy Spirit to live in all who belong to Him and live for Him? Will He not invite us into sinless eternity with Him where He will rule forever? Will He not banish sin, hell, death and the devil forever into eternal fire?

Then why don't we want to mainline Him and stay absolutely connected to and hooked on Him?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Even though it's not humanly or theologically possible, just imagine for a moment what it would be like to always be connected to the presence of God! How would that affect your life and your perspective on things?
2. Jesus said that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak. (Matt. 12:36) What are "careless words"? What does it mean to have God's control over what we say?
3. What does it mean to be "bold and fearless" in Christ? How does this play out in life and interactions with others?