

You Were Made to Meet your Maker

Caleb Hofheins

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free?'"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." John 8:30-34

I've been listening to the band Mumford and Sons religiously. Originally, I was very turned off to it because "Mumford and Sons" just

doesn't rank highly on my "cool band name" list. They're brilliant, though. Each song is so lyrically sound and the music has perfect transitions and pauses. The writing in the songs withholds nothing, and the large, egotistical portion of my mind leaves me thinking that these songs must have been written especially for me in this season. The themes of their album *Sigh No More* range from confessional ballads of broken relationships in "Little Lion Man" to choosing to have freedom amidst growing fears in "The Cave." In their song "Roll Away Your Stone,"

an allusion to our lives being resurrected with Christ, they end with the lines:

"Stars hide your fires,
These here are my desires

And I won't give them
up to you this time
around

And so, I'll be found
with my stake stuck in
this ground
Marking the territory of
this newly impassioned
soul

But you, you've gone
too far this time
You have neither reason
nor rhyme
With which to take this
soul that is so rightfully
mine."

There is a response in
their songs which always

follows the confession. I think that is something that we miss a lot. We often see life's tragedies, forgetting the gift, forgetting the hope set before us: Christ Jesus. It is an easy thing to do, but it doesn't ever make it right. We all have histories. We all have things we're trying to work out. We are messed up people in need of a Savior. Let us not forsake our love in order to continue in lies. Surround yourself with people that will stand up to your sin and your part in injustice. Do what is right; be freed from the chains you've lived with for so long.

The truth is still the

only thing that can set us free, and that should always be our response. There is freedom in our confessions. There is also liberty in choosing to see the goodness of God while simultaneously asking that we may know His goodness. He is bigger than our doubts, fears, and notions of impossibilities. As Mumford and Sons would say, "You were made to meet your Maker."

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

Pentecost

Marlene Medefind Van Brocklin

Pentecost is coming! On May 23 the worldwide Christian Church celebrates God the Father sending his Holy Spirit in power on the day of Pentecost (as we read in Acts 2). This is not to say that the Holy Spirit was not active in the world before this event, but at Pentecost believers in Jesus Christ are promised the continual, permanent presence of God's Holy Spirit. But what does it matter that we have this promise?

The promise of the Holy Spirit implies, among many other things, comfort, conviction and power. The apostle John records Jesus Christ's words to his followers: "Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified

in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth" (John 14: 12-17 TNIV). and "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (John 16:13 TNIV). Later John writes, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4 TNIV).

Comfort
Jesus Christ assures us that he is leaving the Holy Spirit as the constant, guiding and reassuring presence in the lives of believers. None need feel alone and bereft if the Holy Spirit is in residence. This week we sent off our dear daughter, Annelies, to be a missionary in Guatemala. We are enormously relieved

that God's Holy Spirit will be with her and will comfort her when we are unable to be with her.

Conviction
The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth so that we can make sense of this world. However, the Holy Spirit also sometimes needs to jolt us when we are mistaken. In Professor Connelly's church history class we are reading *Disciples of All Nations* by African scholar Lamin Sanneh. It is excruciating to read of the way in which some western missionaries unwittingly melded their Christian faith with their cultural presuppositions and assumed that such Modern ideas were Christian ideas. They often preached an intellectual, individualistic faith devoid of spiritual power. Missionaries often failed to realize that the Africans' normal acceptance of the reality of the spiritual realm had much to teach them. "The West insisted that worship must be of a God who was intellectualizable,

because intellectual veracity was the safeguard against mystification and superstition. Yet for Africans...the religious experience is about intimacy, connection, trust, discovery and an ethical life in community and solidarity." (193) This sounds closer to the Gospel we see preached in the New Testament; we have much to learn from our African brethren. The Holy Spirit can give us eyes to see beyond our small cultural boundaries. The Spirit can convict us when we are blinded by our individual or corporate sin.

Power
In the New Testament we see Jesus Christ's followers courageously preaching the Gospel, casting out demons and healing the sick and blind in his name. We read of amazing, supernatural happenings. Peter was changed from a wimp who couldn't even admit to a servant girl that he was a follower of Jesus to someone who "manned up" in front of crowds of people to

proclaim the amazing news that Jesus Christ had been resurrected from the dead and then publicly healed a lame man in the name of the resurrected one. Jesus promises us that all who have faith in him will do even greater things. We, too, can be changed by the power of the Holy Spirit and can dare to ask the impossible of God. No fear, no phobia, no supernatural adversary is a match for the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer.

As we leave Montreat College, whether for a summer or forever, we know we are not alone. We are not powerless wimps. We have comfort, conviction and power through the Holy Spirit of God.