

We all long for fullness but experience emptiness.

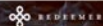


Jesus (who is the fullness of God) can alone fill your emptiness.



Why we experience emptiness:

1. Wrong approach



Why we experience emptiness:

1. Wrong approach
2. Wrong perspective



Once a person was asked, "What did you gain by regularly praying to God?" This person replied, "Nothing...but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, insecurity, depression, and fear of death." Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing, which ultimately is the gain.



Why we experience emptiness:

1. Wrong approach
2. Wrong perspective
3. Wrong thing





CS Lewis: “This heavenly fruit is instantly redolent of the orchard where it grew. This sweet air whispers of the country from whence it blows. It is a message. We know we are being touched by a finger of that right hand at which there are pleasures for evermore (Ps 16:11)...Gratitude exclaims, very properly, ‘How good of God to give me this.’ **One’s mind runs back up the sunbeam to the sun.**”



Jesus is the fullness of God who has come to us!

1. Why this is significant
2. **How we can experience the fullness of God in Jesus**



How we can experience the fullness of God in Jesus:

- 1) **By relating to God not by way of performance which can be exhausting and unsettling but by grace.**



Verses 16-17: For from his fullness we have all **received, grace upon grace.** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



Ann Voskamp: “Honestly, we really don’t want a Christmas that we have to produce, or perform, or perfect – we want a Christmas that holds us – that revives us, remakes us. We want a Christmas that whispers JESUS. A Christmas that restores and re-stories us with a new story, especially this year. A Christmas that whispers: no matter what feels beyond fixing, one came from beyond the walls of this world because his heart is fixed on you,



and you are loved far beyond your wildest hopes and deepest needs, and his arms will carry you far beyond the arms that any of your problems can reach. A Christmas that whispers that miracles still happen, and no matter what happens, hope happens. A Christmas that whispers to all your unspoken Broken: don't give up, because HE came down. You get the Christmas you've always wanted and dreamed of - because you get Jesus - and he wants you and loves you more than you could ever dream."



How can we experience the fullness of God in Jesus?

1) By knowing God personally.



Verse 18: No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.



Out of Darkness, Light

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