

The Secret of Fulfillment

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Main Scripture Text: Matthew 5:17-18

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Introduction

Now, we've been in the Sermon on the Mount, and would you open to Matthew chapter 5. Be finding verses 17 and 18. The theme for our entire study is "Building on the Rock," for Jesus said, "When anybody hears these words of mine, and he does them, he's like a wise man who builds his house upon a rock. The winds and the floods and the rain may come, but that house will stand, for it is built on a rock" (Matthew 7:24-25).

Today I want to talk to you about fulfillment. How many truly fulfilled people do you know? How many people do you know who are satisfied, filled with joy and peace, assurance, spiritual satisfaction? How many? Well, I want to talk to you today about "The Secret of Fulfillment." And, we're reading here in chapter 5, verses 17 and 18. Jesus Christ said, *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"* (Matthew 5:17-18).

My heart has been blessed as I have meditated on these scriptures. They speak of the Lord Jesus, the great fulfiller. And, whoever you are today, if you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ, you are behind in your education. No one is truly educated who is ignorant of the Lord Jesus Christ. You may know biology and the study of life, but how sad if you don't know Jesus, the giver of life! You may know astronomy and how the heavens go, but how sad if you don't know Jesus and how to go to Heaven! You may know botany, the study of flowers, but how sad if you don't know Jesus, who is Sharon's sweetest rose

and the lily of the valley (Song of Solomon 2:1)! You may know geology and the ages of the rocks, but friend, it is sad indeed if you don't know Jesus Christ, who is the Rock of Ages! You may know history and all of the record of mankind, but how sad if you don't know Jesus Christ in whom we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)! It is said of history that history is His story. So all of Bible points us to the Lord Jesus Christ, and I want you to look at these two verses today that have been such a blessing to my heart.

I. Jesus Prophetically Fulfills the Word of God

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the great fulfiller. Jesus prophetically fulfills the Word of God. Look again, if you will, in this verse, verse 17: *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil"* (Matthew 5:17). Now, Jesus is the fulfillment of all that the prophets wrote about. Do you want to understand the Bible? Would you like the Bible to burst aflame in your hand? Would you like for the truth of God's Word to leap off of the pages into your heart? Would you like to find a key that would help you to unlock all of the rest of the Bible? Well, the key is a person, and His name is Jesus Christ. He is the One who fulfills the prophets.

Now, put these verses in your margin. They are great and wonderful verses. The first is a verse that comes out of Luke chapter 24. Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, and after His resurrection He's on His way to Emmaus. And, there are two weary, forlorn disciples who are walking along that road, and Jesus joins them. He catches up with them, and He gets into a discussion with them. They don't know who He is. They don't recognize Him in His resurrected form, and so they're walking along. It's about a seven-mile journey, and Jesus begins to talk with them about the Word of God. I would like to have a tape recording of that conversation, that seven-mile Bible conference. And, the Bible says, in Luke chapter 24 and verse 27—here's the verse—*"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets..."*—now, that's what we call here in this verse "the law and the prophets." *"Moses and all the prophets"*: that just means all the Old Testament—*"Beginning at Moses and all the prophets..."*—that is, He stepped into the Bible at Genesis 1:1, and He began to talk—*"Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself"* (Luke 24:27).

Wouldn't you have loved to hear that? Wouldn't you have loved to hear the Son of God just open the Bible, walking along for seven miles, talking to them and expounding to them in all of the Scriptures the things concerning Himself? Can you imagine what that would have been like to hear the Son of God? I only say that to say this: that, friend, if you don't read the Bible, and you don't see Jesus, you'd better go back and re-read the Bible. Standing somewhere in the shadows you'll find Jesus.

And then, the Apostle Paul said, in Acts chapter 10, verse 43, *“To him”*—to Jesus—*“give all the prophets witness”* (Acts 10:43). All of the prophets spoke about the Lord Jesus Christ. Prophecy centers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Prophecy is not primarily about some thing; prophecy is about someone.

The Bible says that, *“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”* (Revelation 19:10). And, the Lord Jesus Christ challenged the crowd. There in John chapter 5 and verse 39, He says, *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think that ye have eternal life.”* Jesus said, *“[these] are they which testify of me”* (John 5:39). And, I want to remind you that when Jesus said this He was not talking about the New Testament. It had not yet been written. He was talking about the Old Testament. Don’t get the idea that the Old Testament is about something else, and the New Testament is about Jesus. Every scripture that I have been giving you has been telling you that the Old Testament is about the Lord Jesus Christ. When you step into the portals of God’s Word, in Genesis 1:1, you begin to meet the Lord Jesus Christ.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). And yet, the Bible says that all things were made by Jesus (John 1:3). And, you see, it’s all about the Lord Jesus Christ. You know, in Genesis, He’s the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15). In Exodus, He’s the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:21). In Leviticus, He is our atoning sacrifice. In Numbers, He is the smitten rock (Numbers 20:11). In Deuteronomy, He is that prophet who is to come (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18). In Joshua, He is the captain of the Lord’s hosts (Joshua 5:14). In Judges, He is the deliverer of God’s people (Judges 3:9, 15). In Ruth, He is our kinsmen redeemer (Ruth 4:5–6). In 1 Samuel, He is the anointed One (1 Samuel 16:13). In 2 Samuel, He is the king enthroned. In 1 Kings, He is the glory of the Lord filling the Temple (1 Kings 8:11). In 2 Kings, He is the royal seed. In 1 Chronicles, He is the glorious king. In 2 Chronicles, He is the Lord who appears to Solomon (2 Chronicles 7:12). In Ezra, He is *“the LORD God of our fathers”* (Ezra 7:27). In Nehemiah, He is the restorer of Israel. In Esther, He is the advocate who pleads for His people. In Job, He is my Redeemer that I know lives and shall stand upon the earth (Job 19:25). In the Book of Psalms, He is the Shepherd (Psalm 23:1); He is the King of glory (Psalm 24:7–10). In Ecclesiastes, He is the significance of life. In Song Of Solomon, the Lord Jesus Christ is the heavenly bridegroom. In Isaiah, He is Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14). He is *“Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 9:6), the virgin-born Son of God (Isaiah 7:14). In Jeremiah, He is the divine potter who is molding and making our lives (Jeremiah 18:1–6). In Lamentations, He is the brokenhearted Jehovah who weeps over us. In Ezekiel, He is the glory of God. In Daniel, He is that stone cut out of a mountain without hands that will smite the image of this ungodly world upon it’s feet and then become a kingdom that

will fill this earth (Daniel 2:34–35). In Hosea, the Lord Jesus is the child called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1). In Joel, He is the Lord that roars out of Zion (Joel 3:16). In Amos, Jesus is the judge of the nations. In Obadiah, He is the Lord of the coming Kingdom. In Jonah, He is God’s messenger to the Gentiles. In Micah, He is Bethlehem’s baby, the One who is going to be the ruler of Israel (Micah 5:2). In Nahum, He is “*a strong hold in the day of trouble*” (Nahum 1:7). In Habakkuk, He is the Lord in His holy temple (Habakkuk 2:20). In Zephaniah, He is the king of Israel (Zephaniah 3:15). In Haggai, He is the Lord of hosts. In Zechariah, He is the Lord coming into Jerusalem riding upon a colt (Zechariah 9:9). In Malachi, He is the coming messenger (Malachi 3:1), the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2).

All of the Bible—all of the Bible—is about the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, “I didn’t come to destroy the law and the prophets.” When He said, “the law and the prophets,” He meant the Old Testament. He said, “I didn’t come to destroy it. I came to fulfill it. It is all about Me” (Matthew 5:17). Such a wonderful book is the Bible! Oh, the prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the Lord Jesus.

The other day Joyce and I picked up the phone and called our son David, who is a missionary in Spain. Well, that’s an amazing thing that we in Memphis, Tennessee, can pick up a telephone and push some numbers, and on the other end one person will answer. Well, maybe two. Jonathan may answer. But, one household answers. There are five and a half billion people on the earth, and we can just push some numbers, and we eliminate everybody else.

Did you know I was thinking that the Bible is that way, prophecy is that way, that by the process of elimination all prophecy centers in the Lord Jesus Christ? For example, let me tell you how Jesus is prophesied in the Bible. You step into the Bible, and in Genesis chapter 3, verse 15, you find the first prophecy of the coming of our Lord. And the Bible says that He is to be the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15). That is, the Messiah is not going to be an angel. He is not going to be God sitting in Heaven. But, it is going to be someone of the human race. So, right away you eliminate all the billions of angels and all of the other created beings. None of them are the redeemer. So, first of all, a certain race.

And then, you go to Genesis chapter 9 and verse 26, and you see that there’s a certain section of that race. You see, you push the next number, and you eliminate the sons of Japheth, and you eliminate the sons of Ham, and you just come to the sons of Shem. Out of that section of that race the Messiah is going to come (Genesis 9:25–26). And then, you punch another number, and it brings up a nation of that section, because the Bible tells us, in Genesis chapter 12, that this Messiah is going to be a descendant of Abraham. So, what you have now is a race, and you have a section of that race, and then you have a nation out

of that race (Genesis 12:1–3). And then, you push another number, and up comes a tribe of that nation. Genesis chapter 49 and verse 10 tells us that Messiah is going to come of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10).

And then, you continue to dial, and you push another number, and you find out that the Messiah is going to come out of a certain family of that tribe. And, 1 Samuel chapter 16, Messiah has to be a descendant of Jesse (1 Samuel 16:1). Then, you push another number, and you find out that the Messiah is going to be of a woman of that family—Isaiah chapter 7, verse 14—a very unusual woman; she is going to be a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). You push another number, and you find out where this woman is going to be when Messiah is born. In Micah 5, verse 2, it must be in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Then, you push another number, and you get the time where Messiah is going to be born in Bethlehem of this woman of that family of that tribe of that nation of that section of that race. The phone rings, and Jesus is on the other end. I mean, dear friend, God just keeps on tightening the focus. It's incredible how the Scripture is fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I didn't come to destroy the Old Testament. I came to fulfill it."

It is amazing how these Old Testament prophets painted a portrait of the Lord Jesus. Could you paint a portrait of somebody, having not seen Him? Well, they painted a portrait of Jesus and filled in such detail it's incredible. And, not just one person worked on that portrait; 20 to 25 people painted that portrait centuries before the Lord Jesus Christ ever came, and they painted a word portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ and filled in all of the details.

Did all of that happen just by chance? Peter Stoner has written a book called *Science Speaks*. And, he takes the prophecies of the Lord Jesus Christ—and, by the way, let me tell you in the Old Testament there are about 333 precise details that tell about the Lord Jesus Christ; 333—he, Peter Stoner, just takes eight of these—not 333, but just eight of these. And, he's a mathematician, and he figures out the probability, the likelihood, that all eight of these prophecies could have been fulfilled in one person by chance. Do you know what that chance is? It is one in ten to the seventeenth power. You just keep on adding 17 zeros. I don't even know what number that is. I don't even know how to pronounce the number. I can't even figure it out. Just put 17—one and ten—followed by 17 zeros. How do you do it? Well, Peter Stoner said for people like me who are not mathematicians—I can picture this—he said, if you were to take the state of Texas and cover it with silver dollars two feet deep... Now, I'm sure the Texans would like this, but if you were to take the state of Texas and cover it from border to border with silver dollars two feet deep, and then blindfold a man and let him walk as far as he wanted after you've stirred all of those silver dollars, and he were to pick out the one silver dollar that you had marked, that is approximately the

same chance that he's talking about that these eight prophecies could have been fulfilled by chance.

But, my dear friend, it is not one in eight; it is one in 333 exact precise details about the Lord Jesus Christ. It's amazing. When you study the Bible, friend, it's about Jesus. You know, the Bible speaks of God creating the heavens, the stellar heavens, the great galaxies that sweep across velvet blackness and night and from this direction to that direction and that direction on into infinity; the billions and billions and billions of stars. You know how God describes that in His Word? He made the stars also. That's it. That's it. I mean just five words. He made the stars.

But, He takes a little tent in the wilderness, the tabernacle, just a little tent, and He takes about 50 chapters describing that little tent. Why is that? Because that tent, that tabernacle, is a picture, a prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ. And, as you study the tabernacle, you understand what the Bible means when it says, "*And the Word was made flesh, and [tabernacled] among us*" (John 1:14). You see, all of that Old Testament, all of it, was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. He didn't come to destroy the law and the prophets; Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets.

II. Jesus Practically Fulfills the Word of God

So, put it down. Jesus, number one, prophetically fulfills the Word of God. Number two: Jesus practically fulfills the Word of God. Now, not only did He fulfill the prophets; He fulfilled the law. And, the law is God's demand on us. The law speaks of God's righteous demands, because not only was the Old Testament full of prophecy; it is full of requirements. And, Jesus, to the letter, fulfilled the law.

A. Jesus Fulfilled the Moral Law

Jesus fulfilled the moral law. The law is full of moral demands, but Jesus Christ was the only man who ever lived who absolutely, totally, to perfection, kept every point of the law. No one could point to the Lord Jesus Christ and say He broke the law of God. Jesus Christ could stand before them all and say, "Who can convict me of sin?" (John 8:46). "*Sin is the transgression of the law*" (1 John 3:4), my dear friend, and Jesus fulfilled it in spirit and in letter. He fulfilled the moral law.

B. Jesus Fulfilled the Ceremonial Law

Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law. All of those Old Testament ceremonies were about the Lord Jesus Christ. All of the Old Testament sacrifices pointed toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a Russian psychologist that I studied about when I was in school, and I'm sure you did: his name was Pavlov. And, Pavlov did experiments on what we call conditioned response. You remember that? What Pavlov did, he got some dogs, and he put them in a pen. And, before he would feed his dogs he would ring a bell, and then he would put down the dog food. Each day he'd come in and ring the bell and feed the dogs. Now, the time came when all Pavlov had to do was just ring the bell, and the dogs would begin to drool; they'd just salivate. He had built into those dogs what he called a conditioned response. And, the ringing of the bell meant food.

God, in the Old Testament, was building into His people a conditioned response. And, every time one of those animals was slain, and the blood was poured out, and that animal was offered on a smoking Jewish altar, what was God doing? God was building into His people a conditioned response. God was teaching them that sin means death. "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). "The soul that sinneth, it must surely die" (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). And, the Lord Jesus Christ—the Lord Jesus Christ—was the answer to the conditioned response that God had been building through the centuries. Every Old Testament sacrifice, every Old Testament ritual, was God's bell ringing, teaching that sin meant death, and man needs a redeemer.

Jesus, my friend, fulfilled the moral law. Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law of the Old Testament. And so, it's been filled up in the Lord Jesus. We don't need that anymore. My dear friend, in Christ, it's fulfilled. I don't need a high priest anymore. He is my high priest. I don't need a bloody altar anymore. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses me from all sin (1 John 1:7). I don't try to keep the Sabbath day, Saturday, which is the seventh day, because every day for me is a holy day because Christ is my rest.

C. Jesus Fulfilled the Judicial Law

You see, Jesus fulfilled the moral law. Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law. And, oh, my dear friend, Jesus fulfilled the judicial law of God. What is the judicial law of God? The judicial law of God is that "*the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). "The soul that sinneth, it must surely die" (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). And so, the Lord Jesus Christ took my sin, your sin, carried that sin to the cross, and Jesus fulfilled the law by dying for our sin. And, the Bible tells us, in Galatians chapter 3 and verse 13, that He has redeemed us from the curse of the law, because He was made a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). He carried my sin to the cross. And, you see, He paid and met the righteous demands of the law, and that's what He meant when He hung His head when He died and said "*Tetelestai*" (John 19:30). That means, "It is paid in full. I have fulfilled the judicial demands of the law. I've fulfilled the law. I've paid in full. Man's sin has been paid for." Therefore, the Bible says, in Romans chapter 10 and verse

4, *“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth”* (Romans 10:4). Why? Because He fulfilled the law. We’re not under the law anymore, because Jesus has fulfilled the law.

The law says, “Do this, and thou shalt live.” The gospel says, “Live, and then thou shalt do.” The law says, “Pay me all that you owe.” The gospel says, “I freely forgive thee all.” The law says, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”* (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30), but the gospel says *“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation”—the satisfaction—“for our sins”* (1 John 4:10). The law says, *“Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them”* (Galatians 3:10). The gospel says, *“Blessed [is the man] whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered”* (Romans 4:7). The law says, *“The wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23). The gospel says, *“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). The law demands holiness. The gospel gives holiness. The law says, “Do.” The gospel says, “Done.” The law makes blessing the result of obedience. The gospel makes obedience the result of blessing. The law puts the day of rest at the end of the week. The gospel puts it at the beginning of the week, because we have new life in Christ. The law says “If.” The gospel says, “Therefore.” The law says, “Run,” but it gives us no legs. The gospel says, “Fly,” and it gives us wings.

Why? Why? Because Christ fulfilled the law. He said, “I didn’t come to destroy the law and the prophets. I came to fulfill it.” And, when God forgives my sin, God doesn’t overlook His law. God doesn’t say the law doesn’t matter. Oh, my dear friend, listen. Jesus paid in full for my sin debt. Now, listen. Jesus fulfilled the law for me, and now He fulfills it in me—in me. He paid my failure. He paid my sin debt. And now, the righteousness of the law is worked out in every one of us who love the Lord Jesus Christ and love is the fulfillment of the law. How wonderful that is!

III. Jesus Perfectly Fulfills the Word of God

You see, Jesus prophetically fulfills the Word of God. Jesus practically fulfills the Word of God. One last thing: Jesus perfectly fulfills the Word of God. Look at it again in verse 18: *“For verily...”*—and, by the way, when Jesus says *“verily,”* that’s the time to put up your antenna. That means, “Pay attention.” That means, “truly.” That means, “I am emphasizing this.” Now, listen—*“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass...”*—friend, one day it will, and if this world is your hope, you’re just arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic—*“Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”* (Matthew 5:8).

Now, what's a *jot* and a *tittle*? He's talking about an *iota* and a *yod*, the smallest Hebrew letter and the smallest little marking, little stroke of the pen. Jesus said, the smallest part of all of this, none of it's going to pass. The Word of God stands. Did Jesus believe in the inerrancy of the Scripture? You'd better believe He did. Did Jesus believe in the infallibility of the Word of God? You'd better believe He did. Did Jesus believe in the indestructibility of the Word of God? Of course He did! Did Jesus believe in the authority of the Word of God? Of course He did! My dear friend, if Jesus is your Master and your Lord, then your Master and your Lord's view of Scripture must be yours. And, remember, we're not talking about the New Testament here. The New Testament is inspired too, but you know the battle is today over the Old Testament. This is what Jesus is talking about. Jesus here is talking about the Old Testament. And, He is saying, not the smallest pen marking will fail till all be fulfilled.

I heard about a man who absentmindedly in a meeting after he read the Scripture—he had been used to presiding—said, “If there are no additions or corrections, the Scriptures stand approved as read.” Well, friend, they do. And they don't need your additions or your corrections. Jesus said, not a jot, not a tittle, not an iota, not a subscript, will fail from the law until all be fulfilled.

Now, friend, if there are errors in the Bible—listen to me—if there are errors in the Old Testament, you must conclude one of two things about the Lord Jesus Christ. Put this scripture down in front of you, verse 18, and to conclude this, if there are errors in the Old Testament, either Jesus Christ was ignorant of those errors, therefore He was not omniscient, could not have been God in human flesh; or else Jesus knew there were errors and pretended there were not, and therefore Jesus was dishonest and a fraud and a fake; or else the Bible is exactly what Jesus believed it to be: the inerrant, infallible Word of God.

Now, Jesus said—listen—“Not a jot, not a tittle, shall fail from the law till all be fulfilled.” That is, there's more yet to be fulfilled. You see, Jesus, who came the first time—and I said there are 333 precise details that prophesy His first coming; there are many more that prophesy His Second Coming—and Jesus said, “You can bank on it. Not a jot nor tittle will fail till all be fulfilled.” That encourages me, because the Old Testament says somebody is coming, but it also says somebody is going to come again.

I was talking to a man with the newspaper the other day. He called me up to interview me, and he asked me about the coming election. He said, “Do you have any prognostications? Do you have any prophecies? What's going to happen?” I said, “Well, there's an old Chinese proverb that says, “Never make predictions, especially about the future.” Now, my dear friend, we have people today telling us that Jesus is going to come on this date, or Jesus is going to come on that date. There's one man who is saying that Jesus is

coming in a few days, some Korean prophet. Well, if I were God, and had intended for Jesus to come on that day, I'd just change my mind, wouldn't you? The Bible says, "That day and that hour knows no man, not even the angels" (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32). But, oh, my friend, I am telling you He is coming. It will all be fulfilled, and our Lord is coming, and "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as waters that cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). And, you can put it down big, and you can put it down plain, and you can put it down straight, that the same Bible that was minutely and gloriously fulfilled will be fulfilled in the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Now, I said I wanted to speak to you about the secret of fulfillment. Listen, friend. The Christ who fulfilled the prophecies, and the Christ who fulfilled the law, and the Christ who will come again to fulfill history, is the One that you are longing for, that God made you for, the One that you are hungry to know. You may not know it, but He's what you're longing for. He really is.

Friends all around me are trying to find
What the heart yearns for, by sin undermined;
I have the secret, I have know where 'tis found:
Only true pleasures in Jesus abound.

...

Jesus is all this poor world needs today.
Blindly they strive, for sin darkens their way.
O to pull back the grim curtains of night,
One glimpse of Jesus and all will be bright! (Harry D. Loes)

Christ is what you long for. Christ is what you hunger for. He fulfilled the prophecies and He fulfilled the law that He might fulfill the deepest need of your heart.

If I could give my heart to Jesus Christ for you, I would. If I could trust Him on your behalf, I would. But, I cannot. If I could walk down this aisle and openly stand for Jesus on your behalf, I would. But, I can't. Nobody can do it for you. And, I don't think anyone could keep you from doing it. I know there are not enough angels in Heaven to drag you down this aisle, because God wouldn't allow it. There are not enough demons to keep you from doing it, because God would not allow that. He simply says, "Whosoever will may come." Are you saved? Are you a child of God? I didn't ask if you were a Baptist or Methodist or Presbyterian or something like that, Jewish or Roman Catholic. Are you saved? Does God's Spirit bear witness with your Spirit that you're a child of God? You can be saved by trusting

Him right now. And, you can be fulfilled, and realize why God made you, and for the first time in your life have the deepest longing of your heart met.