

Reflections

Missing Pieces

In

Your Life?



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Reflections

KOLICCIU?

Is your life a big puzzle? Do some of the pieces seem to be missing? Are you having difficulty trying to make the pieces fit? If this is your situation then you are in good company. Joseph, Elijah, Nicodemus, and many others found in the Scripture went through times where they had questions about their lives and circumstances. Elijah had just experienced a great victory over the prophets of Baal, but when he received a death threat from Jezebel, the queen, he ran and hid. The Lord, however, did not allow him to merely hide and feel sorry for himself although that's how he began his conversation with the Lord. *Then he came there to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*¹⁰ *And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."*¹ (1Kings 19:9-10 NAS)

Suddenly the pieces didn't seem to fit. He had been very powerfully used by God to defeat the worshipers of Baal, but now found himself afraid and confused. The Lord then spoke to him and let him know that He had kept 7,000 that had not bowed the knee to Baal. Elijah was not alone.

Joseph had dreams that when shared with his brothers created jealousy and conflict. His dreams indicated that he would rule over them but, instead, he ended up in slavery, prison, and in the midst of those years I'm pretty sure that he noticed that the pieces of his dreams were not fitting together. He was faithful to the Lord, however, and ultimately, in God's perfect time he was elevated to a position that saved not only Egypt but Israel as well.

James writes concerning persecution that Christians should rejoice in them. *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*³ *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*⁴ *And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* (James 1:2-4 NAS) When we encounter problems how often do we view them as part of our growth in Christ? Do we not, instead, cry out to be delivered from them? They simply do not

fit in our view of what should be happening in our lives. How can we who are so faithful to Christ find ourselves suffering? The pieces are either missing or seem not to fit.

Nicodemus, in his conversation with Jesus, had trouble with pieces of his understanding that didn't seem to fit with what he was being told. How can a grown man be born again? It's just not physically possible to be, once again, placed in our mother's womb. The puzzle of his understanding had suffered some loss of key pieces that would make sense of Jesus' statement... *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (John 3:3 NAS) As Jesus explained the plan of salvation to him he began to understand as the pieces fell into place.

The book of Proverbs tells us that we must... *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding.*⁶ *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.* (Proverbs 3:5-6 NAS) For the pieces of your life to fit together it is imperative that we have learned to trust in the Lord. This is not a partial trust rather it is a complete trust that governs our heart, our minds, and our choices in life. His Word hidden in our heart provides the very completeness that we crave. David states the principle in this manner. *...Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* (Psalm 119:11 KJV) and then further he states ... *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* (Psalm 119:105 KJV) When our lives reflect the light of His Word and His Holy Spirit indwells our hearts the pieces of our life always fit perfectly together. It is when we go our own way that pieces seem to be missing.

When we evaluate our lives in the light of God's Word we can begin to see where we have those pieces missing in our own understanding of life, its purpose, and how God has placed each of us in His body to glorify Jesus. In order to have the puzzle of our life reflect the completed picture of our relationship to God in Christ Jesus we must first come to Him and repent of our sinful nature. He has promised that He will receive those who call upon His name for their salvation and that He will make of them a new creation in Himself.

That new creation can walk in completeness in Jesus, His Word and in His work. The picture of our life then will become a work of Christ that can glorify Him in all we do. By choosing to submit to His plan for our life, we can enjoy His peace while living in the completed puzzle of who we are to be in Him. **Pastor Doug**