

# TIME FOR A NEW OPERATING SYSTEM

by Paula Leanues

Anyone who works on computers even occasionally knows what an operating system is. For those not of the understanding, here is a brief explanation.

An operating system, also called a platform, is necessary in launching any activity on a computer. Some operating systems are Windows 2000, Windows Millennium Edition, Windows XP. Any activity would involve your current programs, internet browser, types of components installed (printer, scanner, etc.).

Each year new operating systems come out, and we, the consumer, have to keep up or any new programs or components we install either won't work or will malfunction, with the old operating system.

I had a grand old time updating from Millennium Edition to XP. (Sarcasm duly noted?) What followed as necessity to upgrading to XP, in part, was a new printer, scanner and CD burning software, as well as a ditching of several outdated programs. I also had to install extra memory so that my "dinosaur" could keep up with the new programs.

Not being an expert in the area – I seem to just learn everything as I go – I spent several weeks in frustration. I refused to go out and buy a new computer, especially after spending the money on the smaller upgrades.

I realized after fighting the urge to pull my hair out and toss the whole hunk of techno-material out a third floor window (look out below!), this whole experience parallels what a new Christian goes through in beginning to walk with God.

When we're born, if not reared in a Christian home, we learn to operate by the system of the world. Society's views are bred into us and they become our "platform," or operating system.

Our programs and components of ourselves are the ideologies we take on, the ways of thinking according to the flesh, the material things we put so much stock in. Our programs and programming work perfectly in our world, or the operating system which we are given. We function.

For example, a little lie here and there to get us through a situation; the "every man for himself" attitude; gambling; unholy content in movies or TV; fornication; liberal views concerning religion ("all roads lead to one 'god'" kind of stuff).

This is all nothing but a lack of purity in the heart. But if we do not know God, we know no other way to operate but by the system of our society, or “Windows World,” if you will.

What was your life like before you became a Christian? The opinions of mankind mattered to you. Music videos taught you what to wear. The kids you went to school with told you what you needed to do, how you needed to think, to be “in.” The people at your work taught you it was okay to tell and laugh at dirty jokes, to gossip about what’s-his-name in that what’s-it-called department. Hollywood and pro sports defined entertainment for you.

All of a sudden, the old platform just seemed to tire you out. You knew there was something better out there. You weren’t so sure the programming in you, or your programs and components, were going to bring you fulfillment anymore, or even if they ever had. You knew you had something to do out there, some good to bring to society, and the old platform just wasn’t going to bring it to pass.

A friend introduced you to the Gospel. Told you how you need to repent for your sins and how Jesus died to take the heat for all that. You would be clean. You would be new if you would trust in Him as Lord and invite Him in.

So Jesus, your potential new operating system, stood at your heart and knocked. Let’s call Him “Windows JC.”

This warning told you Windows JC would completely take over Windows World if you invited Him in. “Are you really serious about the dramatic change you are about to encounter?”

You accepted Him. You installed your new operating system. What a rush! You felt like you found what you were missing all your life.

Things were simply fantastic – then you rebooted. Your commitment was firm and it would stick.

Well, just as rebooting our PC under a new operating system gives way to the glitches that need debugging, so does a new life under Windows JC have a few glitches in operating what was formerly accustomed to Windows World.

In James 4:4, JC lets us know we are “adulterers” (cheaters on JC) when we go back to World: “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

So here you are, brand new – sort of. You first find your printer is outdated. This can be compared to your speech. You need a new printer that functions with your new operating system. In Mark 7:15, JC tells us it’s not

what enters into a man that defiles him, but “the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.”

Some words you used to say just don't seem appropriate anymore. When you say something out of line, JC will convict you whereas World encouraged you.

Your scanning software fails. There is no rest for you until you upgrade. You are in the world, but no longer of it. The things you used to scan and invite in don't have a home in you anymore. If the light of the body is the eyes (Matthew 6:22), you can be sure JC will be there to filter what comes in. Violence on TV is disturbing, as JC operates a peaceful platform. The platform of World operated on everything against true peace.

You learn soon enough to “love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15)

This also works in reverse. One reason I needed to upgrade from ME to XP is because I purchased the new version of Microsoft Publisher. (We pause for a break from our sponsor: Faith On The Earth looks so snazzy because of Publisher.) The new version did not work with ME. It would not even install.

This can be compared to our pre-JC days. When we were living according to the world's operating system, and we heard something about the Gospel, or any truth in scripture, we did not understand it, and often we rejected it. This Good News, this “something new,” didn't quite fit with our old way of programming, or our old operating system. We had to come to the end of ourselves, and a non-appreciation for the old operating system, before we would even consider the new one.

Once JC was installed, all the new programs fit without a problem. In Mark 2:22, He tells us not to put new wine into old wine bottles, “but new wine must be put into new bottles,” lest the new wine burst the old bottles.

It takes a period of adjustment, a realigning of our thinking process, and sometimes unfortunately, many mistakes, once we come to Christ. But if we keep going forward, we will see that Windows JC works better than any operating system out there. With JC, we walk in freedom. We are saved eternally and on our way to heaven. The Kingdom of heaven itself resides in our hearts. We begin to function according to what is now installed in the heart.

The best part is, Windows JC is never outdated. Once installing Him, you never have to find some new operating system and upgrade again. He does all the upgrading for you, internally. He changes this, improves that,

walks with you all the way, corrects your mistakes automatically. It is His responsibility to check on you and make sure you are operating correctly.

He does not fail. He is the eternal defrag of your hard drive. (And our human drives can be pretty hard sometimes.)

Just have faith in Him. Today's problems and frustrations are tomorrow's victories. With JC, the victory is always ours. Can you say all this about any computer operating system on the market?

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)