

## **The Pearl of Great Price**

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a  
merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:  
Who, when he had found one pearl of great price,  
went and sold all that he had, and bought it.  
Mat 13:45-46,*

The following is a compilation of articles I wrote on my  
Blog over the past few years.

I pray they may be a blessing to you.

Becky Hayes

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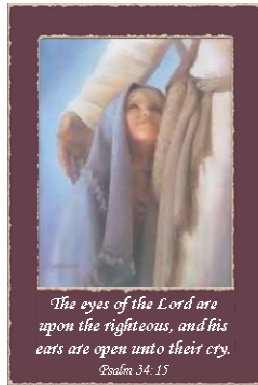
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## **...and God Shall Wipe Away Our Tears**

AUGUST 12, 2011

We are shown in Acts 14:22b “...***that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God***”.

Growing up in the Lord can be so very painful at times. But recently the Lord showed me some wonderful promises for us as we go through this process in the book of Revelation. Traditions of men had taught me that the book of Revelation was all about future events, but when the Lord showed me this was not true, it opened up the book to me like never before; not just seeing things to come, but to also see things the Lord was doing in us now as well.

One such passage is found in Revelation 7:13-17 “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (15)Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (16)They shall hunger no more, ***neither thirst any more***; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.(17)***For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.***”

What a beautiful picture of the Lord’s love for us and what His nature in us will do, we don’t have to wait until some future time to find the fountains of living

waters, or for God to wipe away our tears; this is for us now as we go through and come out victorious through our trials and great tribulations!

We are required of the Lord to pick up our cross and follow Him. We must die to our old self which is our old nature so it can be replaced with His glorious nature. This is a painful process, but the Lord CARES for us through all our trials. When we go through these rough times, whether it is physical challenges, financial needs or suffer mistreatment by others, the Lord uses it to expose to us our heart and our old nature.

We may be able to outwardly control our anger or hide hurt feelings; we can cover up our disappointment or the “I didn’t deserve this” attitude, but it takes the Lord to remove the old nature that produces these emotions. When these responses to the trials well up within us, if we would turn to the Lord and place them at His feet, turn away from them, knowing that they came from our old nature and ask Him to take them away from us and replace them with His nature, He will begin to do this wonderful work in us.

No matter how many times we fail, if we continue to submit to Him in faith, we will find, little by little, these old reactions are dying out in us and an indescribable peace and joy will begin to well up in us like rivers of living water just as Jesus said, “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”. (John 7:38) and “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”. (John 4:14)

As we die to self, the “heat” of these battles will not have the same effect on us as they did before, His nature will begin to change all that. We will not “hunger” or “thirst” for the ways of the world to satisfy us as they did before. As the old nature is dying, it will not be as easy for it to produce hurt feelings, anger or any other “fruit” of self. The fruit of the Spirit will become more and more evident in us as the Lord becomes the **substance** of our life.

This is confirmed in Revelation 7:16-17. (16)“They shall hunger no more, **neither thirst any more**; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.(17)**For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**”

How sweet to know that God wipes away our tears, he knows our trials and our pain and He cares!



## The High Calling of God

FEBRUARY 01, 2011

Let us look at some questions about the goal of our faith. What are the desires of our heart? What is it that we hunger and thirst for? Do we hunger and thirst for righteousness? Or has there become some other goal we have been seeking? What are our dreams? Has the goal become an important position in the Kingdom of God, one with power? Have we become distracted from our true goal and calling of God?

Jesus said we are to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. In the Kingdom of God there is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Any true teaching or word from the Lord is meant to increase this desire for His Kingdom Life and His righteousness to be manifested in us and to point us to Christ. The Holy Spirit will never lead us to seek high positions, rank or a place of honor. **And it will never make us feel equal to Christ.** I know it is strange, but there are teaching out there that implies this. That is what Lucifer wanted. He said "*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*" (Isa 14:14)

The Kingdom of God is not about seeking the next "revelation" or "experience"; it is about being changed and conformed into the **life** of Christ. While we seek Him, He will reveal more and more of Himself to us, but **He never said we would be omnipotent**, to know all and be all. To be conformed into His likeness is to be

changed in character, life and love, as He displayed it to us in His life, but not in position or equal to.

The heart attitude of one that seeks the Kingdom of God in this manner (no matter how far advanced they might come) will never see themselves as equal, they will remain subjected to Christ. Jesus never sought His father's position. Jesus came for a purpose and when that purpose is complete the scriptures tell us that He will turn ALL back to His father. (1 Corinthians 15:28) *"And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."*

Matthew 20:28 *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, **and to give his life a ransom for many.***

There is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost because of Love. Jesus explained to His disciples that His food was to do the will of His father, it satisfied His hunger. His father's will was to lay down His life for the good of others; this is love in the highest form. He loved the Father more than His own life. There can be no pride, self-will or self seeking motives in us if we are going to love as Jesus loved. This is our goal...to walk as Jesus walked, to love as Jesus loved.

Jesus said, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* (Matthew 22:37-40)

There has been much emphasis placed on positioning and of becoming "Sons of God", "experiences" and new "revelations". Again, what are we seeking? What is our heart's desire? Should it not be to do the will of our Father no matter the cost? Should this not be the "food" that satisfies our hunger? There is no "higher" place than to be on our face at the feet of our Father, to be in His presence seeking His will no matter where it takes us.

The world seeks positions and honor. But Jesus said, *"...it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant); and whosoever will be chief among you, let*

*him be your servant (slave): Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28*

There are teachings that talk about "the deep work of the cross" and "dying to the Adamic nature", but no real substance on what this means. The focus seems to be more on experiences, and "levels" rather than the love of God and doing His will. The true sons of God are those that have grown to a place where they have laid down their own lives for the Lord. They have given up self will and self love, and their only motivation and "food" is to do the will of their father. These are the ones that are raised into Christ's life of pure love that He displayed on this Earth. They will be constantly laying down their own "rights" for the good of others. This is an incredible love that can only come from the Lord as we submit to Him in ALL things. The more we grow, the more we will become dependant on our Father, just as a child is dependant on their mother, until we become as dependant on the Lord as a new born baby is. This is true humility.

Let our eyes not be on "positions" or the great things the Lord could do through us, but rather let our eyes be upon Him, so our joy will be to do His will and suffer for Him if need be for the good of others. Let Him become our substance; let doing His will be our food. This is the life He wants to give us, let us be willing. Let us seek the Kingdom of God where there is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost!

A friend wrote the following:

God is love. It is a self-sacrificing love. He cannot help Himself. He must give of Himself. He even gave His only Son for us. That is what self-sacrificing love looks like. And what His intentions are in redemption, is to make us like Him in that same nature of self-sacrificing love. That is how the world was to be won over to God's kingdom.

The power that comes from heaven should not be thought of in terms of a force that enables us to do miraculous things for God or have "unique" experiences. Rather, we must look for it as a power that will enable us to enter into that sacrificial life of love. And it is a love that "doesn't count the cost" but rather is a poured out life in the same



extravagant way that Mary anointed Jesus with the costly perfume. Not that it {true Christ-like love} desires or even tries to act extravagantly, but when one becomes a vessel empty of the fallen "self"-centeredness in a true circumcision of the heart by the power of the Spirit (Romans 2:29, Colossians 2:11), it is a life that God's Spirit can pour the life and nature of Jesus through in abundance! Coming to any other conclusions as to what our redemption is all about are misguided conclusions I believe and keep the Body of Christ on a low spiritual level or completely in error and deception.



## **My Sheep Know My Voice**

JANUARY 02, 2011

Jesus said in John 10:27: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me"

How can we be deceived? It seems the voice we have heard at times sounded like the voice of the Lord, in fact was very sure it was the Lord. But later found this voice had led us in the wrong direction. What went wrong? Does God lie?

The scriptures say. "God is not a man that he should lie" (Numbers 23:19). Yet we see in 1 Kings the 22nd chapter what seems to be a contradiction, we see the Lord sending a lying spirit to deceive Ahab. (1Ki:22:23) "Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee."

Paul explains in 2 Thessalonians 2:10b-11, "...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie"

These scriptures are showing us that God does not lie, but he will give us over to a lie if we do not want to believe or obey the truth. In this way, it is our own hearts that is lying to us.

In 1 Kings chapter 22 mentioned above, God only gave them the answer they were looking for. God saw their heart and knew they didn't want direction from him; they wanted God to bless what they wanted, not what God wanted.

Ezekiel:14:3-4 Says, "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols"

In the 22nd chapter of Numbers there is the story of Balaam who wanted to hear a word from the Lord to curse the children of Israel. The Lord told Balaam that the Israelites were blessed and cursed. But Balaam was not satisfied with that answer. Balaam had been offered a bribe to go with the Princes of Moab and curse the children of Israel. So he went back to ask of the Lord again, this time God gave him the answer he wanted. God told Balaam to go with the Princes of Moab. But when Balaam left to go with the men from Moab "...God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him" (Numbers 22:22) and would have slain him if his donkey hadn't gotten out of the way of the angel.

Ezekiel 14: 4 says "...I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols"

An idol is anything that is placed above God and His will, including preconceived ideas with self-will being the most dangerous and evil idol. Should we ask the Lord for direction if we are not willing to believe it or follow it? It is the most dangerous thing if we have self-willed motives "before our face and inquire of the Lord". We may get the answer our flesh wants rather than the truth that could have been used in the process of conforming us into His image. "...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (2Thessalonians 2:10).

We should examine our own hearts by asking ourselves if we would be as willing to go in the opposite direction of what we thought and wanted if that was the Lord's will. If we would not, then we have an idol. We should ask the Lord to deal with our idol first.

We need to be careful not to put our religious beliefs, "good works" or assumptions of what is right before the true direction from the Lord; these are also idols and can be a "stumblingblock" for us. This is why there are so many different beliefs in the "Christian faith" and they all say that they have "heard from the Lord".

Not to be confused, there are different reasons why we don't all hear the same things from the Lord at the same time; it is not always the "idols" of our heart that can cause this. We all have our place in the Kingdom of God and He leads us in His timing giving us what we need in relationship to where we are in Him and what our individual needs and callings are.

Years ago the Lord began to teach me how to trust Him in all areas of my life. He began by leading me to total dependence on Him for my health. The word was so loud and clear to me I would have thought all Christians would see it and live it this way. I also thought it meant the Lord would always heal me if I got sick and keep me in good health. But as I grew in the Lord He taught me that He didn't always lead His children this way, some He would, but others He would never require it of them. As I learned to trust in Him more and more in different areas of my life, He also showed me how to trust Him even if He didn't always heal me; I just needed to trust Him in whatever state I was in. He showed how we have been bought with a price and we are His to do with as He pleases. He has a purpose for us that is much larger than our health or happiness that comes from the things of this world. His purpose is to transform us more and more into His image and He chooses the course it takes to get us there. Let Him bring us to a place where we will say in EVERYTHING, "not my will Lord, but your will be done", just as Jesus prayed, "not my will, but thine be done".

God assures us, if we really want to know the truth, no matter where it takes us, he will give us the truth. There are so many preconceived ideas and self-willed ways that must be laid down at His feet, allowing Him to rebuild the truth in us so we can have confidence that "if we ask we will receive"!

M't:7:7,8: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh

receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

Lu:11:9,10: “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

Above all we must truly desire the Lord to lead us in every aspect of our lives in spite of our own “wisdom”. We have to be willing to wait on Him even if He doesn’t answer right away and resist the temptation to return to our own understanding for answers and get ahead of the Lord; we need to trust that He will lead us. The ability to hear the Lord comes from Him, we do not have this ability in ourselves (thank God it doesn’t rest on us, only our willingness and desire for Him) as this is only done through Him in the Spirit. This too is a process through trials and tribulations as He teaches us to depend on Him and not our own understanding as we learn to wait on Him. He will lead us more and more to recognize His voice and “not follow another”.

## The Despised of the World

DECEMBER 27, 2010

“Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” (1 Corinthians 1:20).

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and **God hath chosen the weak things of the world** to confound the things which are mighty; **And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen**, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, **He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**” (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and **hast revealed them unto babes.**” ( Matthew 11:25).

“In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast **hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes:** even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.” (Luke 10:21).

“Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.” (James 1:9-10)

“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” (James 2:5).

God's ways are not our ways. What seem to be most valued assets in this world are not valued in God's kingdom. Paul said "not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty and not many noble are called." But those that are wise, mighty or noble must become nothing in themselves.

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, **let him become a fool, that he may be wise.** For the **wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.** For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, **The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.**" (1 Corinthians 3:18-20).

Paul was highly educated and could have spoken with "excellency of speech and wisdom" but he said he "*counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ,*" (Philippians 3:8).

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. **And my speech and my preaching [was] not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:** That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Do we judge each other the same way the world judges, using the same measuring stick they use to determine worth? Do we "grade" each other out, making some more worthy than others depending on what is important to us? Do we want to be seen walking down the street with someone in rags? Do we care if they have the right hair cut? Are we embarrassed? What makes us like that? Is it pride?

James addresses some of this:

"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor

man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: **Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?**

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, **Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor.** Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: **But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.**" (James 2:1-9).

Zephaniah prophesied in chapter 3 verse 12, "*I will also leave in the midst of thee **an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.***" Wow, what a testimony, the poor and the weak shall TRUST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. Would we not rather be poor and weak and have a testimony from the LORD saying we trusted in His Name? No better place to be!

Would we rather be loved by this world's kingdom or loved of God in His Kingdom?

Coming out from the world and its ways has many aspects of which we have not always been aware of. Our thoughts and attitudes towards one another and of ourselves should be of the Lord and not by human reasonings, understandings or feelings. When we can see as the Lord sees, we will also love as He loves.

Reading the opening scriptures again, we can get a real picture of how much God loves those that seemingly have no earthly value; do we really want to be among the "abased" ones? **Paul did!**

The world admires greatness and those with talents and abilities, but Paul warned "*...not to think of men above that which is written, that*



*no one of you be puffed up for one against another.”* (1 Corinthians 4:6b) He was speaking of himself as well, not wanting to be praised as if he had anything of himself. He said *“For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?”* (1 Corinthians 4:7).

*“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”* (Proverbs 13:10).

Pride is an awful thing, if you could see it for what it really is, it would be a horrible thing to look at, a slimy cesspool of filth, but this is what the world runs on, it is the world’s fuel. Pride fuels our selfish wills to fight against the Lord’s will. Pride does not want to be seen as the “abased ones”, pride causes embarrassments and hurt feelings to well up when it has been crossed.

*“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”* (Romans 12:3).

Pride can show up in many different places. If we are what the world would call inadequate in some area, we could become embarrassed or ashamed if these inabilities or short comings are seen by others. But let us remember, we are not of this world, ours is the Kingdom of God where these things do not matter, we are to be nothing in ourselves so He can be our all in all. The shame we may experience is **nothing** compared to the **“glory which shall be revealed in us”** (Romans 8:18b). All those in the Kingdom of God will see each other in the same way and not judge according to this world’s standards.

*“Let your conversation (manner of life) be without covetousness; **and be content** with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**”* (Hebrews 13:5).

So let us learn to be content in our state, this is where the Lord would have us be. All these things are for a reason and the Lord has us in His hands. Those who are not wise, rich or talented must learn to depend

on the Lord for everything they have or do, as Paul said “*when I am weak, He is strong*”.

We have no ability to change this prideful Adamic nature in ourselves any more than a Leopard can change his spots; we can only try to control our response to it. But the Lord wants to remove it from us and replace it with His own nature if we will submit to Him and His will. He does it by bringing it to the surface with trials and tribulations in these areas so we can “see” how our pride has held us. Rather than condemning ourselves for our pride, let us see that it is the Lord working these things out in us and we are helpless to change it. As it shows up, submit to the Lord’s leading, thanking Him for His dealing with us, give it to Him and ask Him to remove it from us and give us His nature in its place. This is His plan; this is what He wants to do in us. This is the salvation that must come from Him and is not of ourselves. The Lord will cause us to reflect His nature rather than our own, from glory to glory. This is part of what Paul was speaking about when He wrote “*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.***” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

This salvation is a process, (from glory to glory), more of His glory in place of our own “glory”. The meaning of glory can be summed up with “nature”, “image” or “substance”. The more we submit to Him in these trials and tribulations that come to us periodically exposing our fleshly nature; He will remove it and give us more of “Himself” in exchange, changing us more and more into His image.

“*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, **worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory***” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

“*And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather **glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.***” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

“***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***” (Ephesians 6:10).

## Following Christ unto Salvation

NOVEMBER 27, 2010

*For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**. (Rom. 1:16)*

*Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the **high calling of God in Christ Jesus**.*

*Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto **a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**:*

The enemy has had many devices that have been used to discourage and distract us from this 'high calling' in Him "*unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*". His purpose is to keep us from hearing the voice of the Lord speaking to us in our spirits. If we cannot hear him, how are we to *follow* Him? He will even use the scriptures to take the place of following Christ who IS the Spirit of Truth. Knowledge of the scriptures alone is unable to lead us; we need to be able to *hear* CHRIST who IS the Word, only He is able to lead us into a "perfect man".

The Pharisees could not accept who Jesus was even though they had *memorized* and *knew* the scriptures because they could not *hear* the voice of the Father in their spirits speaking to them of His Son. Read what Jesus said to them:

*(John 5:37-40) And the Father himself, which hath sent me, **hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.***

The scriptures are meant to *point* us to CHRIST to be led of HIM. Scriptures are a witness of Christ just as WE should be a witness of Christ, but WE are NOT the Christ and neither are the scriptures. Apart from Christ neither we, nor the scriptures can pierce the hearts of men nor can we or the scriptures discern the thoughts and intents

of the heart, ONLY CHRIST the Living Word can do this. We and the scriptures are a dead word without Christ.

Christ can *use* the scriptures or one of His servants to speak, but He is not limited to either of these tools. He has to be HEARD in the hearts of men no matter what means He chooses to use. He wants a relationship with His people that will *hear* his voice, recognize it and follow Him; this is how he will lead His own into the Sons of God that He desires for His people. This has been His plan since before the foundation of the world.

You can understand why Satan would not want us to hear the voice of the Lord. If he can keep people using our own understanding of scriptures, following men and their doctrines he has defeated them and they are no threat to his kingdom of darkness. But any that would be more spiritual and have a desire to hear from the Lord and to be led by him, Satan has to defeat them in other ways. There are so many different devices at his disposal, the desire for the things of this world, the approval of men are just a couple, but all of these can be traced back to our flesh and the lack of the cross in our lives.

If we are to hear a clear word from the Lord we must die out to our own wants and desires. Just as Jesus prayed in the garden let us pray, “*Not my will, but thy will be done*”, and pick up our cross and follow Him. We are warned in scripture that if we keep any hidden desire in our hearts apart from Christ’s will, we risk His answering us according to these “idols of our hearts” and He will allow us to believe a lie while the whole time thinking we have heard from the Lord. (See Ezekiel 14:4 2 and Thessalonians 2:10-11)

We should always be praying as David did. - *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting* (Psalm 139:23-24). If we earnestly pray this kind of prayer to our Lord, let us TRUST that He has heard us. Let us BELIEVE if we “asked for bread, He would not give us a stone” (Mat7:9-11) and “*He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him*” (Hbr 11:6)

After all this, the biggest hindrance we face is TRUSTING that we will be able to hear from the Lord. Satan comes at every opportunity to

discourage us, reminding us how wretched we are, how undeserving we are, making us feel that we are not able to hear from God. This has caused many to fall back to relying only on other people to teach them, reading scriptures and so forth. But thanks be to God that he judges the intents of our hearts and He is long suffering, bearing with us. He gently guides us in these things until we are able to come to the faith in Him that He desires for us.

We have to remember that this is HIS plan and not ours. Can we believe that since this is His plan that He is also able to perform it? He said His sheep will hear his voice and they will not follow another. Thank God it does not depend on us; we do not have this ability in ourselves. But, He will cause us to hear His voice if we will deny ourselves and seek Him with our whole heart, for indeed He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. And if we miss this mark from time to time, this is part of our learning process. Get back up and go to Him again with our whole heart trusting in Him and He will soon be there leading us again.

Let us encourage one another in this. We have an enemy that is constantly putting us down discouraging us, (remember he is called the accuser of the brethren) let us not agree with the enemy and end up fighting against the Lord. It will steal our faith to believe the Lord is able to perform this perfect work in us he spoke of in Ephesians 4:13. In doubting we can only see our own inabilities in reaching such high places in the Lord, never realizing it is not our responsibility to “achieve it” as it can only come by hearing and following the Lord in faith. In reality, we are judging God in His ability to work out His plan in those that will submit to His will. But, "With men, these things are impossible, but with God all things are possible". If we trust Him, it is HIS responsibility to “get us there”. Remember, it is HIS plan!

Yes, it is a process, as we learn to depend on the Him, He will teach us through many trials and tribulations. He uses these to burn out our old nature and replace it with His life and His nature. He is loving and he comforts us through these trying times and gently leads us along. Let us trust Him that He is able to do it, giving Him everything, for He is trustworthy! And then **STAND AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD.**

## Question: “What is Sola Scriptura?”

OCTOBER 17, 2010

Answer: The phrase sola scriptura is from the Latin: sola having the idea of “alone,” “ground,” “base,” and the word scriptura meaning “writings”—referring to the Scriptures. Sola scriptura means that Scripture alone is authoritative for the faith and practice of the Christian. The Bible is complete, authoritative, and true, i.e. "closed canon". “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”

The scriptures do not support the idea of “scripture alone”. The scriptures teach us that Christ is STILL ALIVE today and is more than able to speak to us as clearly and as powerfully as He did two thousand years ago unlike any other "religion" on the face of the Earth.

*"...from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works". 2 Timothy 3:15-17*

This is the Scripture that is most usually used to support this belief. Those who would use this passage to advocate Sola Scriptura argue that this passage teaches the "all sufficiency" of Scripture because it says it is "thoroughly furnished unto all good works";

The scriptures Paul was referring to here was the Old Testament as the New Testament had not been written when Timothy was still a child, so if this passage is going to be used to set the limits on “inspired authority”, the entire New Testament would have to be excluded.

Sola Scriptura teaches scriptures alone is the rock in which they stand

and use only the scriptures to discern the truth with their own understanding but these very scriptures testifies against them saying Christ is The Word and He is the Rock and not the scriptures. (John 1:14, 1 Corinthians 10:4) I have read that there are over 30,000 different Christian sects today and this is the reason. Everyone views scripture through their own eyes rather than being led by the Holy Spirit. If it was meant to stand alone why are there so many books to explain it and why can't all those that read it come to the same conclusions? Interesting to note that before the Bible was published in 1516 there was far less than 100 Christian sects. It took 1500 years to get 100 different sects, but only 500 years to get to 30,000 "Christian" sects, most of them strongly defending the doctrine of sola scriptura!

**Let me be clear, this is not to take away from the inspired scriptures we are so blessed to have today. The Holy Spirit moved on men to write the scriptures speaking of Christ who is the Word.** (John 5:39)(John 1:14) It is so precious when the Holy Spirit starts opening up the scriptures to us, shedding wonderful Light in our spirits. We can then truly understand and "see" with our spiritual "eyes" what the writer saw as the Holy Spirit inspired them to write it. Our spirits soar as we are in communion with the Holy Spirit seeing these things, a new Truth, a new Light that we had never seen before. This is one of the ways we hear His precious voice as he promised in John 10:4-5-27-28. We can also hear His voice in the same way while listening to a sermon or to a teacher, but it is the Holy Spirit i.e. the Spirit of Truth that is giving us Light.

The scriptures without the Holy Spirit are just words written on paper, there is no life in them of themselves. Only Christ can give life, for He is the Life giver. He IS the Word. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life only HE can pierce and divide asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and only HE is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, as Hebrews 4:12-13 says.

*For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that*

*is not manifest IN HIS SIGHT: but all things [are] naked and opened unto the EYES OF HIM with whom we have to do.*

Jesus told His disciples that there was much more He had to say to them, but they were not able to hear it yet, they needed the Holy Spirit i.e. the Spirit of Truth to be able to “handle” those things. He does not tell them to studying the scriptures to learn of these things, yet when the Spirit of Truth came He was able to show them the true spiritual meaning of the scriptures as ONLY HE was able to do. Trying to do that in our flesh will only bring us under the law of sin and death.

There was none that was more schooled in the scriptures than Paul had been, yet through them, he felt justified in persecuting the Christians. It took Christ through the Spirit to teach him the truth. He spent three years alone in the wilderness and was taught by the Lord through the Spirit. He did not learn these things through the writing of the apostles that we are blessed to have today as scriptures, but directly through the Holy Spirit. But when he finally did meet with the apostles he found that what he had learned was confirmed in them.

In Acts chapter 10 starting in verse 9 we see the account of a great struggle Peter had. He had been shown a vision that was obviously contrary to the scripture he had known and faithfully followed. He had “doubted in himself” about this. But in the end he followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and in the process Peter learned the meaning of the vision. This would have been a stumbling block for those that hold to doctrine of “sola scriptura” which teaches them that it is the scriptures alone that is to guide them in these things. It would have required them to immediately declare the vision as being false not waiting on the Holy Spirit to speak, and would not have allowed them to follow His leading rather than the scriptures.

But Peter would have been in disobedience to the Lord if he followed what he “knew” of the scriptures and had not followed the leading of the Holy Spirit.

But, Peter had an advantage; he had seen Jesus do this very kind of thing time and time again. There are countless times that it “seemed”



like Jesus was disobeying scripture. They did not understand that those things that were once done in the flesh in the Old Testament were just “pictures” of what is now being done in the Spirit. Your mind can not understand this, it is only spiritual understood. Only the Spirit of Truth can open this up to any of us.

Paul said in Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”. It is clear in the scriptures that we are to be led by the Spirit of God and not in the scriptures themselves. The scriptures are a witness of the Spirit and written by Him, but it is NOT the Spirit.

Those that would stand on scripture alone would rather follow a set of laws found in them rather than submitting their lives and their wills to the Lord to be led by Him, in this way it is easier, it doesn't cost them as much. They cannot hear a clear word from the Lord because their own fleshly/carnal life drowns out the voice of the Lord. To be led by the Spirit, one must be willing to die to their fleshly/carnal life submitting their own will to the Lord with its wants and desires, leaning not on their own understanding any more but trusting only in the Lord for His guidance. Then He is able to reveal truth to them by His Spirit and open up the scriptures to them and He will lead them in His paths.

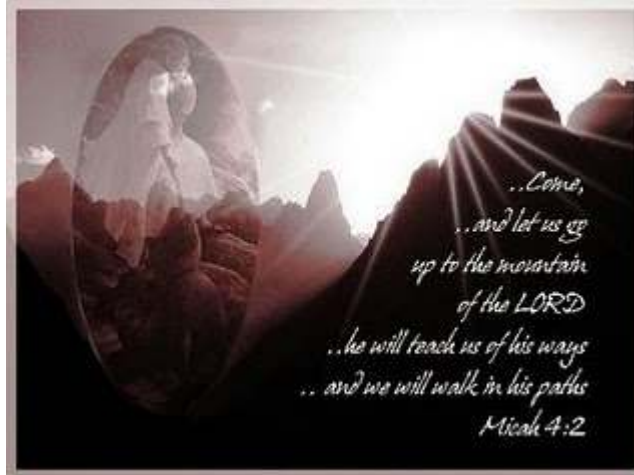
Those that subscribe to the views of sola scriptura do not believe that Lord will continue to speak a pure word to His people today. It is said by them that anything the Lord has to say He has already said in the scriptures and it is “closed now”. They believe there will be no more inspired word from the Holy Spirit. While it is true that types and shadows of the truth are in the scriptures but not all have been expounded or understood through the Holy Spirit yet. To believe that we now know everything there is to know about the Lord and His scriptures is not true. If John 21:25 says the world could not hold in books all the things Jesus did, how much more can they not in the natural hold all there is to know about him? But by the Spirit, He able to continue to shade light to us, precept upon precept as he did with the apostles in the first century.

As stated above, any servant of the Lord that would be willing to die to self and all pride, and die to their own thoughts, wants and desires,

as Paul did, the Lord is able to bring forth a pure word from them. The reason it is not done or “seen” as much in today’s “Christianity” is not because the Lord would not do it (or has become too weak to do so), it is because there has been no death to self and putting aside all wants and desires apart from what the Lord would give them. And when they do see a pure word spoken through the Holy Spirit they do not believe it and want to “crucify” those that it came by because they have nothing to discern it with, they choose to be led by the “letter” rather than the Holy Spirit in the exact same way the Pharisees did. That is exactly what Jesus said they would do.

These “Christians” only “see” their own inabilities and make judgments on that, no faith that the Lord is able to conquer their flesh and bring them into perfection hearing His voice clearly and following Him. They then turn and judge other people in this same way. They cannot afford to believe others can come to this place in the Lord; it would expose their own evil hearts.

This is the same sin of unbelief that the Children of Israel had. They did not trust in God and could not believe that through God they could conquer their enemies and enter into the Land of Canaan where milk and honey flowed. God was angry with them and they had to spend 40 years in the wilderness because of it. Important to remember that all those that did not believe, died in the wilderness and never entered into the Promise Land.



## Let Us Go Up To the Mountain of the Lord

FEBRUARY 28, 2009

***But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. (Micah 4:1)***

There is a place that has been prepared for us by the Lord himself. It is a place that will not be recognized by those that are caught up in the things of this world or depend on the world for their well-being. This place we seek is a place whose builder and maker is God. It is the mountain of the Lord that Micah 4 speaks of. It is the Kingdom of our God! "...The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." Jesus said he went to prepare a place for us there, let us now enter in, rejecting this world let us seek our Lord's. We cannot live in both kingdoms....we will love the one and hate the other.

Jesus said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." And he prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;" (John 17:16-18, 20) Jesus said we are not of this world any more than he is of this world.

This is not our kingdom any more than it is his. Just as the father sent him into the world so he has sent us. We must crucify the flesh. The body of the flesh that loves the world and the things of the world; it can not receive the things of the Spirit. *“.....There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”* (1 Corinthians 15:44) Until we have put to death that body of flesh as Paul said, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me:..”*(Galatians 2:20) we will not be able to fully comprehend what the Lord said. *“...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* (1 Corinthians 2:14) Peter said we were, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”* (1 Peter 1:23)

Reading in Mathew the 6th chapter....

*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

*“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”*  
(Matthew 6:19-24, 31-34)

These are the words of our Lord. It is his instructions on how we are to live our lives if we are to follow him. It should be obvious to us that the Lord did not want us to be wrapped up in the things of the world. John 17:16 he says, "*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*" Whether we are willing to live this way or not tells us a lot about our commitment to the Lord and the attitudes of our hearts. Are we willing to follow hard after our Lord at the cost of everything?

We don't hear the song "I surrender all" sang much any more. Just like the rich young ruler, there is far too much to surrender. Many would much rather hear that God has blessed them with everything they have and therefore he would never ask them to give anything up or trust that when we might lose some of the comforts of this world, it is still God that is in control and directing our lives. Paul warned about our time in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: "*For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.*" These are the teachers who are "*.....destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*" (1 Timothy 6:5)

The true message of the Gospel is preached very little today. People don't want to hear about dying to self and picking up our cross to follow the Lord. They don't want to hear that those who truly follow the Lord will care very little for the things of this world. Preachers who are after large crowds can not afford to preach the truth. And by now most don't even remember what the true Gospel of the Kingdom is. These words of Jesus' are foreign to most who would call themselves Christians.

But the truth is, if we are to be true followers of Christ, our lives are no longer our own, we have been bought with a price and we are his to do with according to HIS purposes, not ours. (1Cr 6:20, Rom 8:28, Eph 1:5, Eph 1:11)

If the truth be known....most do not trust God to provide for them as he said in Mathew chapter 6. And in the same way they do not trust Him with their spiritual life either.

If we cannot grasp these things now, how will we be able to suffer for the Lord? *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* (2 Timothy 3:12). *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”* (Revelation 2:10) How will we be able to trust our lives to him, even if it means death?

Let us look at the parallel between taking care of our physical needs and our spiritual needs.

Jesus said not to worry about money, what we would eat or what we have to wear. He said that was His responsibility. He is able to give to us what is needed according to his purposes, whether it is a job to help support our needs or a raven dropping food to us as He did for Elijah (1Kings 17:4). Our eye....our focus, is to be on the Lord and not on the needs of this world.

In the same way, our “self” righteousness is of no value either. It is not about what we do in our own strength. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that conforms us in to the image of Christ. (Romans 8:29) *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* This is why it can be said in 1 John 4:17 *“... we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”* It is impossible for us to do this in our own strength, but the “Just shall live by faith” and ***“all things are possible with God”***

The Kingdom of God is not what “we” can do for the Lord....it is all about HIM. If he so chooses to take these vessels of clay and use them for his glory, they belong to him to do the works as he pleases.....it is only at his choosing and it will be him that performs the works in us....so no flesh can glory! In the mean time.....we are only to follow hard after him...spending time with him...learning about him.....knowing him.....hearing his voice.....and loving him with everything in us! This is striving to enter into the Sabbath rest of the Lord. Ceasing from our own works and allowing Him to take the reins of our life, bringing us into the very imagine of Christ.

Hebrews the 4th chapter tells us about this rest.

*"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."* (Hebrews 4:9-11) This is the only "labor" that is required of us!

When Christ was on the cross, paying the price for our sins, He said, "It is finished"....no other sin offering would ever be needed....no other ritual....no other tradition of men and no other works of our flesh would be needed because.....IT IS FINISHED!

The only thing required is our eye is to be single and fixed on him.....to fellowship with him....to be in his will...In no other place is there freedom. Complete trust in him as we give him our all. Whether we live...we live unto him....whether we die....we die in him.

Our eye is to be single.....as He brings us to the place where we have but one true desire...and that is to follow hard after thee, O Lord...in Him we have fullness of life...He will complete the work He began in us.....as we seek Him with our whole heart. Our true desire is to be conformed into his very image. Only he can perform this work in us...so no man can boast. It is not our good works, trying to "put off" sins in our own strength. These works done in our flesh is only wood hay and stubble and will be burned up in the fire of God....for there is NONE good but the father! But if we walk in the spirit as he is in the spirit....seated in Heavenly places with him.....we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me."* (Galatians 2:20)

Amen! Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus!

## Can You Handle the Truth?

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

(John 16:12) *I have yet many things to say unto you, **but ye cannot bear them now.***

Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2:10 people are deceived because they did not receive the love of the truth. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

Have we thought about **receiving** the **love** of the **truth**? This is not something we are born with. We are born with the sinful adamic nature (self will) which is an enemy of God. Since our old nature or flesh must die, the natural thing for it to do is **fight** the truth.

Unless God gives us a **real** love for the truth, we **will** be deceived. Our flesh will make a lot of sense to us; it will twist the Word of God to fit our comfort zones.

Since Jesus preached that few would find it and Paul warned of great deception in the last days, this is something we shouldn't **assume** we have. Just because we have always been taught a certain way to believe in our religious organizations and denominations we have grown up with, doesn't make it true. **If we trust these things we will be deceived!**

Only God can keep us from deception not our religious leaders. Only He can give us the love of the truth. This is part of our daily cross that we must pick up. We must be willing to lay down our own reasoning, wants and desires and ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into **His** truth.

(John 16:12-13) *I have yet many things to say unto you, **but ye cannot bear them now.*** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.



Our flesh cannot **handle** the truth. The truth is, **no flesh** will see God and live. Since our flesh does not want to die it will easily believe the lie.

Paul pleaded with us...(Romans 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable** service. And be **not conformed to this world**: but be **ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Being conformed to this world is to think the way the world thinks, our minds need to be renewed. Our natural mind will naturally think the way the world thinks. There are many “good” moral people in the world, their ways may seem right to our natural minds, but they are far from God.

The only thing for us to do is present ourselves to God giving ourselves totally to him. All our own wants and desires placed at his feet, allow him to do as **He** pleases, **this** is our **reasonable** service. “For we have been bought with a price, we are not our own”. Be **willing** for him to lead us into truth **no matter what it cost us**.

Knock and it **shall be opened**, seek and **ye shall find**. If you ask for bread he will not give you a stone. All things are possible with God, but we **must** be willing! Have this same mind that was in Christ Jesus that said, “Not my will, but thy will be done”.



## **The Sovereignty of God in Our Lives**

MAY 24, 2009

In Genesis we read God made man in his image: “...*in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*” Genesis 1:27

We also read the story of how man fell and sinned against God by disobeying his one commandment to them, to not eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Then God said “...*Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil...*” Genesis 3:22. This may seem like a paradox....first God said he created man in his image, then after they fell, he said they became “as one of us” to know good and evil. But the words “as one of us” here, speaks of them becoming their own God or another God with their own understanding.

The carnal mind and self will that Adam and Eve fell to that day when they went their own way, has lead man to do what was right in their own eyes...deciding for themselves what was good and evil. God said “...*in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*” (Genesis 2:17). Their union with God was broken and their spirit life died that day. They had been covered with the Glory of God, (which is the image of God) but it could no longer rest upon them, they had gone their own way. Without union with God, they were now naked and sought the covering that only union with God could give them. Man has tried everything imaginable since that time to substitute that covering. Every pleasurable thing the world can offer has been tried to fill that spot, but it all leaves them empty in the end and looking for the next “covering”

But Paul knew what he was looking for and it could only be found in the spiritual realm with spiritual life in union with God: *“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.”* (2 Corinthians 5:2-4)

In Genesis....God said they were going to create men in their image, and that is what he has been doing these last six thousand years. God is creating Sons of God, a people who are just as he is. Like a mirror, the image has no separate life of its own; it only reflects the life in front of it. It doesn't seek its own will; it only does what it sees life in front of it doing. This is what the Sons of God will be like.

Everything that has transpired since God formed Adam out of the dust of the ground has been to this end. Giving Adam and Eve the opportunity to fall, giving man the law, yet allowing man to do what seemed right in their own eyes. In one form or another every law and every commandment has been a picture of what union with the father should be. It is the evidence of whether we are in union with him or not. The law was our school master. But without the spiritual life from God, we could not be in union with him. We could have forgiveness of sins through the sacrifices of the lambs and fulfilling the rituals of the festivals, but they could not give us back the life that was lost in the garden and the Glory that rested on them. Without this life there is no union with the father. It took Jesus death for forgiveness of sins, and his resurrection life in us to make it possible to be once again in union with the Father.

God is not looking for just modified behavior that is able to keep the law, but desires to impart a new life in us, born of an incorruptible seed by the Holy Spirit that will grow up into a perfect man made in his image.

We have to understand that not everyone born into this world or even those who call themselves Christians will submit themselves to God to be formed into the image of him and become true Sons of God. 2 Timothy 2:20 speaks of vessels of honour and vessels of dishonour. 2

Timothy 3:12 says “...all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” If any desire to follow the Lord and live their life through him will suffer loss. The words “in Christ Jesus” in this scripture is Christ living in us, giving us the power to live Godly. In order for that new life to be formed in us, we must die to ourselves. Any good works done in our own strength apart from the power of God working in us is only self righteousness, and God HATES self righteousness. It is still the same thing that Adam and Eve did in the garden; apart from God they had their own idea of what was good and evil.

Why do I speak so much about unity or union with God? This is the part he has shown us of himself and he is requiring that of us. Philippians 2:5 says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” As we study the words of Jesus, he says things like....I and my father are one....I can do nothing apart from my father.....he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.

John writes: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”  
1John 5:7

I believe it is save to say that none of the three, the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit, does anything apart from each other, they are always in union. That is why they are called “One”. He is calling us into this same unity with him, “one” perfect man, the body of Christ, whose head is Christ Jesus.

Jesus prayed “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17:21

Since no flesh can glory in God, our flesh must die.

We can know these things; we can quote the scriptures and talk about it. We can have a sincere heart that desires to live this way, but until it is worked into us by God through trials and tribulations, it can not be formed in us. Scriptures tell us that even Jesus learned obedience through the things he suffered. (Hebrews 5:8)

If we have a true desire to be a vessel of honor for our Lord, to be conformed into his image, if we belong to him, we have to believe he is working in us. No matter what happens or comes our way, it is for our good and his purpose in us. We must believe he is sovereign in every part of our lives. As Roman 8:28 says: *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.”*

People like to rebuke the Devil when persecution comes, but we need to get that out of our minds, there is no solid scripture for it. Quite the contrary, persecution is an instrument by which we are conformed into the image of Christ. As our flesh is being crucified with trials and tribulations, our will, pride and our own sense of what we feel is “right” and “wrong” is being nailed to the cross. This is how we are blessed when Jesus spoke of it in Matthew 5:11, *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”* All of this is necessary to burn away our old “life” so the new life in Christ can grow up into a new spiritual man and his glory can be revealed in us. Everything that Adam and Eve “learned” at the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is carnal and fleshly...it is the enemy of God and we must leave it behind. Our ways are not God’s way.

Peter wrote: *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”* (1 Peter 4:12-14)

Let us read the words of Paul who knew much about suffering:

*“...there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in*

*persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)*

How may we have the power of Christ rest upon us? By taking “pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions.” If we do not have faith or trust in a sovereign God, that all things that come against us are not only known of God, but are ordained of him for our good...and that his grace will be sufficient, we have no real faith in him at all! Trust him completely; he knows what he is doing.

We are here for His purpose, and his purpose is to conform us to his will. The only part we can play in this is to say to the Lord, “not my will but thy will be done” and obey him. When we have done all.....stand. If a battle is to be fought, let the Lord fight it. Only speak or do as the Lord leads. Don't try and figure things out with our own understanding, be led daily of the Lord. He is able to keep us when we hold on to him.

As we do this, more and more of our old self dies away and the power of Christ rest upon us!



## The Glory

JANUARY 29, 2009

One of my favorite passages of scripture is John 17 where Jesus is praying just before he went to the cross. It reveals so much about him and the Father. In verse 22 Jesus says he has given us the glory that the father had given him, and because of that, we can be one as they are one. His glory was the *very image* of the Father, i.e....Jesus had said, “if you have seen me, you have seen the father”. John 1:14 says, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*” Jesus was a perfect picture (glory) of the father for us to see. It was the Father’s life in the son that was seen, it was the power to overcome.

“ *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. **And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.***” (John 17:2-3)

Jesus said that life eternal was to KNOW God and Jesus Christ whom he sent. Jesus Christ *was* eternal life manifested for the world to see. These things cannot be understood in the fleshly realm, with our human reasoning, wisdom or understanding...they are only spiritually discerned. There has only been one man that was worthy to show us the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, any other “version” is a false "god". If you *say* you have eternal life, then you will *know* God because of his son . This eternal life it is the way God chose to reveal him self to us, it is the glory of the Father and the glory of the Son. “*Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the **vail shall be taken away.** But we all, with open face **beholding** as in a glass the **glory of the***

*Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:16,18)*

This is our hope, *"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"* (Colossians 1:27)

Jesus said in John 17:22 that he gave us his glory (image), Romans 8:29 says we are to be conformed into his image, 1st John 2: 6 says we can walk as he walked. It is the mystery that Paul spoke of “Christ in us, the hope of Glory”. The same way Jesus had the Glory of the Father in him, we can have the Glory of the Son.

And with that 2nd Corinthians 3:18 makes so much more sense to us, *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

As we grow in him, our very nature is being changed from Glory to Glory to reflect the image of Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit in us. 2 Peter 1:4 says we can be **partakers of this divine nature**. This is completely a work of the Holy Spirit in us. We can not change our nature, no matter how much we try; we will only make a mess of it. The only thing we can do is submit to him, pick up our cross and follow him. Considering ourselves to have been bought with a price, we are no longer our own, we have no “rights” apart from following the Lord. We now live for God and not man. (1 Peter 4:2) *“That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”* The disciples had given up all to follow the Lord and he gave them power to become Sons of God.

The just shall live by faith! We have been crucified with Christ; we longer live our own life, the life we now live is Christ and we live it by the faith of the Son of God. (Gal 2:20) Without faith it is impossible to please God. We have faith that God will perfect us and bring us into the very image of Christ just as he said he would do. That is the only hope we have to please God, anything we try to do in our own strength is of the flesh and NO flesh will glory.

Have you ever tried to live as Jesus said to live? For instances, the



beatitudes or for that matter the whole "sermon on the mount" is a pretty high water mark to try and live out day by day. We try to accomplish this to the best of our abilities and many times God will let us go along for quite some time until we have come to the end of ourselves and to the end of our strength. Then... when we are weak, he can be strong! *Let us not receive the grace of God in vain.* All the things Jesus said for us to do will be evident in us as his divine nature starts working in us, not through our own strength but through his. Let us not frustrate the grace of God by not allowing this work to be done in us. The beatitudes are the results of this new nature that Christ is forming in us.

When we begin to manifest the nature of Christ in us we will KNOW it was not done by our own efforts and "Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:9) That is why the Lord will let us struggle along in our own efforts failing time and again until we become hopeless in our own strength. As long as we have some confidence in ourselves, we cannot surrender to the Lord, this is the "self righteousness" that God hates. And again, let us not frustrate the grace of God by then falling back on the false gospel that says, "Grace is there hide our sins, there is no way we can be perfect in this life, we have to wait until we get to heaven for that". But 2 Timothy 3:17 says, *"That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."*

This is a process; we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Just as God led the Israelites into the promise land, they did not have to face all their enemies at one time, but little by little, battle by battle more of the enemy was defeated and more land was taken. God will not put more on us than we can handle. But as he brings up more that needs to be removed, we are to submit, obey and most of all BELIEVE that he is able to remove it from us. The just shall live by this faith!

*"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* (Romans 8:29)



## Learning To Be Taught of the Lord

JANUARY 23, 2009

*Isaiah 42:16) And I will bring the blind by a way that they know not; in paths that they know not will I lead them; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things will I do, and I will not forsake them.*

I believe Paul was an example for us today of what the remnant of God will go through. He was different than the other 12 apostles who had walked in the flesh with the Lord. He was a "Pharisee among Pharisees", very steeped in his religion. Paul said he "profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers." (Galatians 1:14)

But when it pleased God to call him, he separated himself from all and "conferred not with flesh and blood" but went into the wilderness for three years to be taught of the Lord.

You can imagine what it was like for Paul, to find out that everything he had been taught about God, every thing he knew was now in question. On the road to Damascus he was confronted by the Lord himself and had to face the fact that he had been persecuting God's people. Paul was blinded by the bright light of the Lord, he was instructed to go to a man that he would have persecuted earlier to have him pray that the scales would be removed from his eyes and his sight restored. Can we imagine what that was like for Paul? Like Paul, we too have been born into a time when the majority of our religious system is as far from the truth as the Jews were in Paul's

time. We are in a time of “blindness” Isaiah 42:16 speaks of. There has never been a time like we are in today. We have types and shadows from the past, like Paul as an example, but today we are in the fulfillment of these things. God is birthing forth his man-child and there is much travailing in the process.

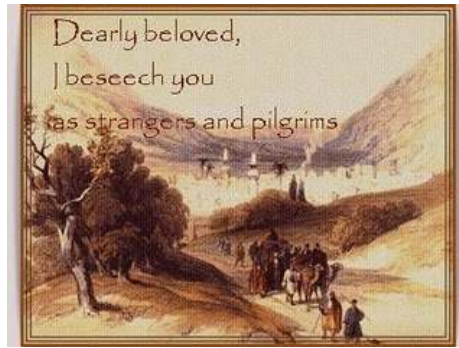
Many of us have realized the apostasy of the traditional Christian churches today and have come out from among them as the Lord commanded us to do in 2 Corinthians 6:17. At times God will lead us to others that are outside the church, various teachers and ministries to help us along with our walk with him. But, we should not think it strange if God doesn't allow us to stay with a particular teacher or ministry for very long. If we are part of the true remnant of God, we will be taught of Him. He will not allow us look to any *one* person for our “spiritual food”, he will have no one between him and us.

Paul spent three years alone in the wilderness to be taught of the Lord. We have to have our own wilderness experience so that God can burn out all of the religious thinking we have. Just when we think it is all gone, God shows us more that needs to go. It is as if we have to lay down EVERY thing and let God rebuild the truth in us.

God will use different people from time to time with this process but he will not let us get comfortable with that. He knows the minute we start looking to man we open ourselves up to deception. When I hear of someone getting discouraged because God is separating them from a teacher or ministry that God previously used in their walk with the Lord, they need to know, it is for their good. Be encouraged, God is looking out for us.

We are not in the time of the apostles or the time of our grandparents or even parents, we have never been this way before. God is requiring more from this last generation than ever before. We are in the *last* of the last days.

(Isaiah 42:16) And I will bring the blind by a way that they know not; in paths that they know not will I lead them; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things will I do, and I will not forsake them.



## **Alien and A Peculiar People**

DECEMBER 06, 2008

*"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" 1 Peter 2:11-12.*

We are not of this world, we are aliens. We long for the city whose builder and maker is God. We are citizens of **his** kingdom. *"...The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."* (Luke 17:20-21)

**Definition of alien - anyone who does not belong in the environment in which they are found**

1. a person who is a citizen of a country other than the one in which he or she lives
2. a being from another world
3. a person who does not seem to fit in with his or her environment

Jesus said, *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."* And he prayed, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."* *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;"* (John 17:16-18, 20) Jesus said we are not of this world any more than he is of this world.

This is not our kingdom any more than it is his. Just as the father sent him into the world so he has sent us. We must crucify the flesh. The body of the flesh that loves the world and the things of the world; it can not receive the things of the Spirit. “.....*There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*” (1 Corinthians 15:44) Until we have put to death that body of flesh as Paul said, “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me:..*”(Galatians 2:20) we will not be able to fully comprehend what the Lord said. “*...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*” (1 Corinthians 2:14) Peter said we were, “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*” (1 Peter 1:23)

This is a spiritual rebirth, quicken by the word of God. Peter was there when Jesus spoke of this seed in the parable of the sower in Mark the 4th chapter. “*And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear....Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables*” (Mark 4:9,11)

Jesus was speaking to them of the Kingdom of God and explained the parable to them. “*And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word.*” (Mark 4:13-14)

The seed is the word of God and he is the sower. Most of the seed did not grow up and produce fruit. It is amazing to read the reasons why. Some believed Satan rather than the word of God that was sown. Others did not want to suffer afflictions or persecution that would have caused them to grow strong having deep roots. Others cared about the things of this world. (Mark 4:19) “*And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*” The Amplified Verse reads, “***Then the cares and anxieties of the world and distractions of the age, and the pleasure and delight and false glamour and deceitfulness of riches, and the craving and passionate desire for other things creep in and choke and suffocate the Word, and it becomes***

**fruitless.”**

As Jesus said in verses 9 and 12, it takes ears to hear, and eyes to see.

Many that are in this state where the word has been choked and is unfruitful, they don't even realize it. When I was still in the “Christian” religious system, they said “Do not be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good” But by his grace, my Lord called me out to have a real relationship with him instead of one that is filtered through man's ideas of who they want God to be. He has caused me not to want to be part of this world. Consequently, the world seems strange to me, and I am strange to them. As long as you have one foot in the world and one foot in Christ, you will lose; his seed will be choked out. You can live good moral lives and do a lot of religious works, but if your idea of success is to live the “American dream” and you strive for that, you are missing the truth and you are of the world. For the world seeks after those things. God said in Ezekiel 14:4 he will answer you accord to the idols of your heart, because you do not have a love for the truth “...*God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*” (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

Many well meaning people will fall into deception because they followed deceived leaders teaching a false gospel. But we are not like the world; we do not seek after these things. The Lord knows what we have need of. If we seek the Kingdom of God instead of this world's kingdom, he will supply what we have need of in this world. Yes, we occupy while we are here in this world, doing the work the Lord gives us to do. But our desire is not the wealth of the world; it is the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and to be found in him at his coming. The over indulgence of the things of this world and the mind set to compete and to succeed over another is not found in the mind of Christ who came as a servant. “Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” is one of the most famous phrases in the United States Declaration of Independence. These three aspects are listed among the “inalienable rights” of man, but is NOT listed or found in the mind of Christ.

They are things that the world seeks after, but we seek a higher calling, to become as a servant. The grace of God teaches “..*us that,*

*denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself **a peculiar people**, zealous of good works.” (Titus 2:12-14)*

Yes, we are a peculiar people, the world is strange to us, and we are strange to the world. If we are not, we are not of Christ. The world will not change and we are not called to try and make it change. We can only preach the Gospel of the Kingdom as the Lord gives us utterance, and the Holy Spirit will draw out of the world those that are his. Philippians 3:20 says, *“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*(Psalms 85:13) Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps. (1 John 2:6) He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*



## **Praying In The Name Of Jesus**

NOVEMBER 28, 2008

(John 14:12-14) *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”*

The last few days the subject of prayer has been on my heart. We have heard so many different “formulas” for prayer; we can hear them daily on “Christian” TV. They have formulas for getting out of debt, formulas for healing, formulas for everything. A popular one is trying to convince people to give to certain ministries (sow your seed) so God will reward them with answered prayers. This sounds like trying to buy favors from the Lord.

It grieves my heart and I am sure the Lord’s heart as well that his people are being so deceived. But this only happens when they do not have a real love for the truth. The scriptures say they



perish“...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” (2 Thessalonians 2:10) They are drawn away by their own desires. James 1:14 says: “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust (desire), and enticed.*”

I’m not here to dispel all theological error that man has come up with in these last two thousand years in attempts to get God to do man’s bidding. I just want to share a simple truth of God’s word; it is all about HIM and not about US or our desires.

The above verses in John 14:12-14 taken out of context is just one example. People believe that all they need to do is make out a wish list or a prayer list as they call it, present it to the Lord and finish the prayer with “In Jesus’ name”. They believe this is praying in his name, but saying it that does not make it so. This is not what it means to pray in his name. In fact, doing this is more like taking the Lord’s name in vain. Putting the Lord’s name to something that he has not said, is taking His name in vain.

James 4:3 says: “*Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*” The word “*lust*” here means “*pleasure*”. Things that seem good or right in our own eyes without inquiring of the Lord is praying amiss.

If we read the earlier verses in John chapter 14 Jesus was responding to a request of Philip. Jesus had said: “*If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*”

“*Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? **the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.***” (John 14:8-10)

Jesus said that when they saw him, they saw his father. Philip didn’t understand this. Jesus was the complete representation and the very imagine of the Father. Jesus did not come in his own authority, wants

or desires. He only came to do the will of his father. (see Heb 10:7,9) He is talking about an intimate relationship between himself and the father, they are one. He has prepared a way for us to grow into this same union with him and the father and even to walk as he walked.

(1 John 2:5-6) *“But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. **He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**”*

Continuing on in the 14th chapter he gives us a promise...if we do the same thing and have this same mind, he will send the Spirit of Truth to us; if we live in obedience to him.

(John 14:15-21) *“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall **give you another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; **Even the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. **At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.***

*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”*

Without the Spirit of Truth we cannot know him nor have the mind of Christ for it is spiritually discerned. How then can we pray according to his will as Christ did accord to the will of his father? *“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 2:16)

*“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

*And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the*

*Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints **according to the will of God.***” (Romans 8:26-27)

Prayer should become more about learning from our father and listening to him rather than just giving him a list of request. We would do much better if we were to wait on the Lord, listen for his mind and ask him to place his desires in our hearts. As we yield to him, he places in our hearts the things he would have us pray. Then we can pray with confidence that he hears us. *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”* (1 John 5:14-15)

Amen!

## Keeping Your Eye Single

NOVEMBER 01, 2008

Reading in Mathew the 6th chapter....

*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**”*

***The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.** But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***

***Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.***

***But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Matthew 6:19-24, 31-34)*

These are the words of our Lord. It is his instructions on how we are to live our lives if we are to follow him. It should be obvious to us that the Lord did not want us to be wrapped up in the things of the world. John 17:16 he says, *“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”* Whether we are willing to live this way or not tells us a lot about our commitment to the Lord and the attitudes of our hearts. Are we willing to follow hard after our Lord at the cost of everything?

We don't hear the song "I surrender all" sang much any more. Just like the rich young ruler, there is far too much to surrender. Many would much rather hear that God has blessed them with everything they have and therefore he would never ask them to give anything up or trust that when we might lose some of the comforts of this world, it is still God that is in control and directing our lives. Paul warned about our time in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: *"For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables."* These are the teachers who are *".....destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.**"* (1 Timothy 6:5)

The true message of the Gospel is preached very little today. People don't want to hear about dying to self and picking up our cross to follow the Lord. They don't want to hear that those who truly follow the Lord will care very little for the things of this world. Preachers who are after large crowds can not afford to preach the truth. And by now most don't even remember what the true Gospel of the Kingdom is. These words of Jesus' are foreign to most who would call themselves Christians.

But the truth is, if we are to be true followers of Christ, our lives are no longer our own, we have been bought with a price and we are his to do with according to HIS purposes, not ours. (1Cr 6:20, Rom 8:28, Eph 1:5, Eph 1:11)

If the truth be known....most do not trust God to provide for them as he said in Mathew chapter 6. And in the same way they do not trust Him with their spiritual life either.

If we cannot grasp these things now, how will we be able to suffer for the Lord? *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* (2 Timothy 3:12). *"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."* (Revelation 2:10) How will we be able to trust our lives to him, even if it means death?

Let us look at the parallel between taking care of our physical needs and our spiritual needs.

Jesus said not to worry about money, what we would eat or what we have to wear. He said that was His responsibility. He is able to give to us what is needed according to his purposes, whether it is a job to help support our needs or a raven dropping food to us as He did for Elijah (1Kings 17:4). Our eye....our focus, is to be on the Lord and not on the needs of this world.

In the same way, our “self” righteousness is of no value either. It is not about what we do in our own strength. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that conforms us in to the image of Christ. (Romans 8:29) *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* This is why it can be said in 1 John 4:17 *“... we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because **as he is, so are we in this world.**”* It is impossible for us to do this in our own strength, but the *“**Just shall live by faith**”* and *“all things are possible with God”*

The Kingdom of God is not what “we” can do for the Lord....it is all about HIM. If he so chooses to take these vessels of clay and use them for his glory, they belong to him to do the works as he pleases.....it is only at his choosing and it will be him that performs the works in us....so no flesh can glory! In the mean time.....we are only to follow hard after him...spending time with him...learning about him....knowing him....hearing his voice....and loving him with everything in us! This is striving to enter into the Sabbath rest of the Lord. Ceasing from our own works and allowing Him to take the reins of our life, bringing us into the very image of Christ.

Hebrews the 4th chapter tells us about this rest. *“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath **ceased from his own works**, as God did from his.*

***Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*** (Hebrews 4:9-11) This is the only “labor” that is required of us!

When Christ was on the cross, paying the price for our sins, He said, “It is finished”....no other sin offering would ever be needed....no other ritual....no other tradition of men and no other works of our flesh would be needed because.....IT IS FINISHED!

The only thing required is our eye is to be single and fixed on him.....to fellowship with him....to be in his will...In no other place is there freedom. Complete trust in him as we give him our all. Whether we live...we live unto him....whether we die....we die in him.

Our eye is to be single.....as He brings us to the place where we have but one true desire...and that is to follow hard after thee, O Lord...in Him we have fullness of life...He will complete the work He began in us.....as we seek Him with our whole heart. Our true desire is to be conformed into his very image. Only he can perform this work in us...so no man can boast. It is not our good works, trying to “put off” sins in our own strength. These works done in our flesh is only wood hay and stubble and will be burned up in the fire of God.....for there is NONE good but the father! But if we walk in the spirit as he is in the spirit....seated in Heavenly places with him.....we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”*** (Galatians 2:20)

Amen! Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus!



## **Stand before the Lord**

OCTOBER 22, 2008

*“For even though by this time you ought to be teaching others, you actually need someone to teach you over again the very first principles of God's Word. You have come to need milk, not solid food.” (Hebrews 5:12)*

As we go through rough times in our life, for most of us, in the back of our minds we feel there is someone or something “out there” that can help, guide or comfort us besides the Lord. It might be family, a friend, a doctor, a lawyer, our money, the church or the government. Yet we will sing the song to the Lord that says, “He’s all I need” and to an extent we believe that and it is true, as least for those who that have truly committed their life’s to him and daily pick up their cross to follow him.

But there is coming a time, and I believe it is fast approaching us, when the Lord would have us put aside all the crutches we have used in this life and look only to the Lord. God is looking for a people that will hear HIS voice, trust and follow HIM; even if they are totally alone they will not fail, because they KNOW their God. They will recognize HIS voice, whether it is through another person or directly to them by the Holy Spirit. We need to stop depending on a preacher or a teacher to tell us what is in the Word or what God’s will is for us or what is going on in these last days. While we can share and have



fellowship with one another, our leadership needs to come from the Lord alone!

This is a new concept to many that are in the religious church system today. They look up to a “Pastor” as their spiritual head, and go to him for their spiritual needs. This is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which God hates! The power of the clergy over the laity.

(Revelation 2:6) *"But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the **Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**"*

(Revelation 2:15) *"So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**"*

If you don't think this is true, how many could give a word from the Lord to the assembly they attend without first getting permission? What if God gave you a song to sing? Or would you first have to get permission from the “powers that be” in your assembly? If the Holy Spirit is directing you, why would you need to go to a man for permission in a place that claims to be of the Lord? Let us agree that the church system today is not setup that way, it would not be “practical”. It is not a “normal” thing for them to do; it would be too disruptive and confusing with their large crowds. But their way is NOT the way of the Lord and NOT the way the first assemblies were held in the days of the Apostles. Therefore it does not encourage that kind of personal relationship all members should have with the Lord .....so that problem doesn't arise much. But God is going to shake all that up! And through tribulation, will cause his people to call on him.....and him alone.

The Lord really brought all this home to me the other day...the seriousness of what we are about to see....and what some of us may go through....and the absolute necessity of following the Lord for ourselves. While in prayer the other day the Holy Spirit came on me and I began to pray earnestly in the spirit. Then I heard the voice of the Lord say...."So you want to answer directly to me do you?".....an invitation..... And the fear of the Lord came on me, for a moment I had a real revelation of what it meant to have NO ONE to look to but God! To stand before God all alone. Later, I thought of how the Children of Israel told Moses *"You speak to us and we will listen, but let not God speak to us, lest we die."* (Exodus 20:19)

Even though many of us are outside of the religious system, God has brought us together with others. We learn from each other, encourage one another in the Lord and share sweet fellowship. We, or at least I, have thought of this as a "group" thing and it is as far as the Body of Christ is concerned as a whole....we are fitly joined together in the spirit.....But in the natural there is coming a time that some of us will no longer have this luxury, I think. Have you ever thought who Jesus had to talk to besides the father? All his "guidance" came from the father....there was no contemporary for him to "bounce" things off of. He taught his disciples, but he did not have that kind of a relationship with them at that time....

This has brought me to my knees afresh. I thank the Lord for the growing relationship he has brought me into with him these last few years and his constant love and guidance....but all I can think right now is I need to know him SO MUCH more!!!! We need to know HIM and HIS voice.....and follow him where ever he goes.

*These are they who have not defiled themselves by relations with women (the apostate church?), for they are [pure as] virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These are they who have been ransomed (purchased, redeemed) from among men as the firstfruits for God and the Lamb. (Revelation 14:4)*



## Deceiving....and Being Deceived

OCTOBER 16, 2008

*(2 Timothy 3:13) But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

Satan has been masquerading as an Angel of Light which is the Anti-Christ Spirit and he has been given power to deceive many even the very elect if possible.

*(Matthew 24:24) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

***(2 Corinthians 11:14) And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light.***

The word "light" is the Greek work "phos" to shine or to make manifest. From this root word also comes the word "photizo" as in 1 Corinthians 4:5 "to bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest"

- 1) to give light, to shine
- 2) to enlighten, light up, illumine

3) to bring to light, render evident  
a) to cause something to exist and thus come to light and become clear to all

4) to enlighten, spiritually, imbue with saving knowledge  
a) to instruct, to inform, teach  
b) to give understanding to

So we see from 2 Cor. 11:14 Satan comes as an angel of light, giving “understanding” of spiritual things.

Paul had to deal with the false “angel of light” in his day, but said it would become much worse in the last days. Even as Jesus himself warned: (Matthew 24:24) *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."*

(1 Timothy 4:1) *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**"*

(2 Timothy 3:1) *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."*

We know that in these last days God will be shedding light and revealing truth that had previously been hidden. We know God revealed them to Paul. (Romans 16:25) *"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the **revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,**"*

(Ephesians 3:3-5) *"how that by revelation was made known unto me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ; **which in other generations was not made known** unto the sons of men, as it hath **now been revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;"*

Revelation means to bring to light that which was hidden, disclosure of truth, instruction concerning things before unknown.

(Daniel 12:4) *"But thou, O Daniel, **shut up the words**, and seal the book, **even to the time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall be increased**."*

As Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:1 these are perilous days we are in. As God is revealing truth to his body, Satan will try to deceive "even the elect". Satan has had 2000 years to perfect masquerading as an angel of light. There has been a great falling away from the truth of the Gospel as first preached by the apostles. God is now returning his elect by revealing the truth to his people, for he is looking for that church without spot or wrinkle. It will not be easy to deceive those who seek God for truth; Satan will have to cloak the deception in the midst of much truth. And those who are not willing to lay down ALL things to the Lord for only truth will be deceived in one fashion or another.

(Colossians 2:8) *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*

The word for today is BEWARE. Beware of the traditions or "religions" of men. Beware of the rudiments or "things" and the "ways" of the world. If we hold to these things, even if we see that our traditional way of doing things and our way of thinking are contrary to scripture, then even our "service" to God can be an "idol of our heart". And we will not see the truth and will be deceived. God will give us over to the false "angel of light" and will believe the lie unto our own destruction.

(Ezekiel 14:4) *"Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Every man of the house of Israel that taketh his idols into his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I Jehovah will answer him therein according to the multitude of his idols;"*

In these last days there will be wonderful revelations from the Lord returning us to the pure word of God and holiness. Satan will not be

above using this “light” to cloak his deception in, in order to fool the elect of God. We MUST “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” (2 Timothy 2:15)

If any teacher, preacher, apostle or prophet seems to be offended if you search the scriptures out, seeking the Lord guidance to see if what they are saying is true, beware of them. The Bereans were praised for searching out the scriptures to see if it was true. (Acts 17:11)

In these last days, beware of the one that will come as an angel of “light”, of “revelation” and of “truth”. Judge these things. (1 Corinthians 2:15) *“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, and he himself is judged of no man.*



## **His Voice and Not Another**

OCTOBER 10, 2008

Hbr 5:13-14) ***“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”***

Brothers and Sisters, if there was ever a time to start getting it right....it is now. Many of us have been saved for many years but have not grown past the childhood stage in the Lord. But we will not survive in these last days living on stale milk.

Romans 12:2 ***“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”***

It is time to grow up and forsake the ways of the world. Many believe that just putting away the “fleshly sins” found in Gal 5:19-21 and not “running with the crowd” that live such lifestyles is all there is to “coming out of the world”. But this alone is NOT forsaking the ways of the world. Growing up involves so much more than that, it cuts to the very core of our own understanding. Growing up is truly becoming as a child, depending on our father for everything. (Pro 3:5 ***“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding”***)

(1Co 2:12-14) ***“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom***

***teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.***

Let us put aside our own reasoning and forsake our own ways. Isaiah 55:8 says, "***For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD.***" Man's reasoning's are the way of the world.....We must stop trying to figure everything out with our own wisdom and understanding....if not, we will drown out the voice of the Lord....we must be quiet in our own reasoning so we are able to clearly hear the "still small voice" of the Lord and to be led by him.

When we look at scriptures with our carnal mind and reasoning we will be like Paul said: (2 Timothy 3:7) "***ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. It is the Holy Spirit that was sent to lead us into all truth***".

Jhn 16:13 "***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.***"

Luk 24:45 "***Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,***"

Whether we are reading scripture or listening to someone teach we must depend on the Holy Spirit to open up the word of truth to us. So many times things sound good to our natural understanding, but learning the difference between our own understanding and a revelation from the Holy Spirit is the only way we will not fall into deception.

If we do not have a genuine love of the truth, and a desire to follow the Lord where ever he leads us, we are dead in the water before we even get started. The scriptures tell us that only a small remnant of people will truly seek the Lord in this way. Most will be as Paul describes: (2Ti 4:3-4) "***they will not endure sound doctrine;***



***but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”***

This a dangerous place to be! If we continue to lean unto our own understanding and follow what “seems” right to us, we have opened up a door for Satan to enter in and deceive us. This is what the following scripture is talking about...it is the anti-christ spirit who will be able to deceive and is deceiving many now who call themselves Christians. (2Th 2:9) ***“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”*** They had picked out for themselves teachers that told them only good things and how to live in pleasure. You will notice, the scripture isn’t talking about people in the world, but those in the “church”. And make no mistake....it is happening NOW!

***(2Th 2:10-12) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

We have awesome promises from the Lord if we walk in his light and not our own. Being weak, so he can be strong, even blind so we can see through his eyes.

***Isa 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.***

In our carnal mind this seems impossible, the job too big, how can we know when it is the right voice or not.....especially when it seems to go against everything we know. There are so many voices to listen to. There are our thoughts, then all the advice from other people, and then there are all the religious teachings that is so ingrained in us.

But through the entire maze we find comfort in the scriptures. In John the 10th Chapter Jesus tells us that his sheep will know his voice and will follow him. He said that his sheep will not follow another. That means we will not follow any other man, for we cannot climb into the sheepfold on another's back no matter how holy they are. We are required to have our own relationship with the Lord and hear from him for ourselves.

Though we can hear the Spirit of the Lord through others, it is the Lord that we follow. They are only sign posts pointing to the him. It is God's choice on how he speaks to us and he has been known to use even a donkey (22th Chapter of 1 Kings).

(Joh 10:27) ***“The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.”***

If we seek the Lord with our whole heart, we know ***“he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*** (Hbr 11:6) We have faith to know he will do as he said, he will cause us to hear and follow his voice, it will rest on his shoulders, not ours. For we can do nothing of ourselves.

This is the faith we have, as scriptures say: “The just shall live by faith!” If Jesus said we would hear his voice and follow him.....then we just believe that we will do exactly that. Not because we are so smart, but because the Lord will have mercy on us and perform this work in us because we ARE weak. Praise his Holy Name!

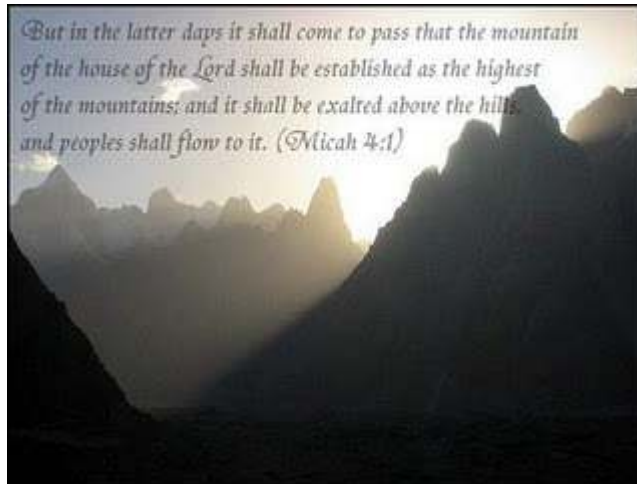
As the world is falling in to turmoil and great confusion all around us, we know these things must come to pass. We are to fear not, he will lead us through.

***“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:***

***Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.***

***The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.” Hab 3:17-19***

**Let us take our rest in him. Amen!**



## **"Come to the Mountain" ...Hid In Christ**

SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

*"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."*  
(Isa2:2-3)

*Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understand.*

The Lord has really been pressing home the need to live in the spirit and not in the flesh. Our ways are not the Lords ways....we must lean not unto our own understanding. The things that are happening in the world today and in particular to our country are all in the hands of the Lord. These things were preordained before our time and the strength of our flesh will not be able to stop it. We are not to look to the arm of the flesh to "save" us.

As in the time of Noah, it is time to enter into the ark, which is Christ and be found hid in him. Come out from among this world and be separate says the Lord, let us not be found fighting for this world that

Jesus said is not our own. As Abraham said, he is looking for a city whose maker is God.

God rises up nations for his own purpose, and again in these last days to “refine” his body through fire. Remember that God rose up Babylon to try Israel. God has vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor. Today Babylon has risen again and not only does it represent the world’s kingdoms with its religious systems of today, but has even entered the very way we think.

Let us put aside this kingdom and seek our real kingdom which is not of this world. Putting aside the cares of this world and it’s possessions and it’s ways. Let us hold things “lightly”, thanking God for the peace and comfort we have while it is here.....but have it settled in our heart, that God and his will is the only thing that matters! Those who love their life will lose it. Let us be found not loving our lives to the end!

*(John 18:36) Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.*

*(Isaiah 30:1) Woe to the rebellious children, saith Jehovah, that take counsel, but not of me; and that make a league, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin,*

*(Isaiah 30:2) that set out to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to take refuge in the shadow of Egypt! (This is the very picture of what we are seeing in our presidential elections)*

*(James 4:4) Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 1:19) For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the discernment of the discerning will I bring to nought.*

*(Isaiah 45:7) I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil. I am Jehovah, that doeth all these things.*

*(Psalms 75:7) But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and lifteth up another.*

*(Jer 51:6) Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this [is] the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.*

*(Mar 8:35) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*

*(Rev 12:11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

*(2 Corinthians 6:17) Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you,*

*(Rev 18:4) And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

### **An Urgent Word to Prepare**

*(Isaiah 52:1) AWAKE, AWAKE, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for henceforth there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. [Rev. 21:27.]*

*(Revelation 21:27) **But nothing that defiles or profanes or is unwashed shall ever enter it,** nor anyone who commits abominations (unclean, detestable, morally repugnant things) or practices falsehood, but only those whose names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.*

***PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE.....Prepare ye the way of the LORD!***

Only a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. (Psa 51: 17) Only a heart that is totally submitted to Him in obedience will he purify and make a clean and Holy dwelling place for Himself.

*(Acts 17:30,31a) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness.*

This appointed day is upon us. Time has almost run out. The time is almost upon us when it will be too late to call on the name of the Lord. *(Revelation 22:10,11) And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.* There is soon coming a time when there will be no more chances to repent and be changed.

Answer Him while He is still calling and He WILL perform the perfect work in you. I have no confidence in the flesh, in our own understanding and might, but I glory only in the mighty work of the Lord Jesus Christ! The hour of purification is here for he cannot dwell in any unclean thing. His desire is for us, to make of us a dwelling place for Him, His resting place. He is building his temple with lively stones, a temple that no human effort could possibly make.

If you commit your way to Him, seek Him early day by day he will direct your paths. He begins to expose what we need to repent of and hand over to him, allowing him to set fire to it and burn it out. Knowing that if we submit it to him, he will cause us to obey him. Without faith it is impossible to please God. We have to believe that He is able to perfect us and cause us walk as He walked (1John 2:6).

He doesn't over whelm us with more than we can handle, in His wisdom HE directs the cleansing, not us. Do not try to figure out what God wants us to do, humbly wait on Him for HIS direction. Seek Him earnestly with your whole heart, holding nothing back and allow Him to do His work. For what measure you give Him, He will give back to you. The only thing you have to give Him is yourself and He requires all of it!



## We Shall See Him As He Is

JULY 29, 2008

There is so much confusion today as to who the real Jesus is. Everyone has their own version of “What Jesus Would Do”. Every denomination stresses a certain characteristic of him. Some say that he is Love and will accept everyone, some say he is Justice and will punish all that disobey him, others say he is there to make them millionaires or he is a "feel good" God. Some believe he came to take away ALL suffering. Some tell us to “come here to see him” or “we have the anointing here” . I have even heard some say he is like a bar that we can belly up to and get drunk by (I know...that one is really out there).

It seems to me, that if we are to walk as he walked and to have the same mind or think the same way as him. We need to know who he REALLY IS!

### **WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP.**

*(1 John 2:6) He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

*(Psalms 85:13) Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.*

*(1 Peter 2:21) For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*



(Romans 11:33) *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways*

*past finding out!*  
(Romans 11:34) *For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?*

(1 Corinthians 2:16) *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

(Philippians 2:5) *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

How can we do this if we don't have a REAL knowledge of him? We have to stop listening to what everyone else has to say about who and what Jesus is, and let God give us a real revelation of the true nature and character of Christ.

(John 8:12) *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light** of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, **but shall have the light of life.***

(John 3:19) *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

(2 Corinthians 4:3-4) *But if our gospel be hid, **it is hid to them that are lost:** In whom the god of this world **hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light** of the glorious gospel of Christ, **who is the image of God**, should shine unto them.*

(2 Corinthians 11:14-15) *And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.***

The scriptures say that Jesus was the light of the world. People didn't like the light but rather they loved the darkness. The false light that came from Satan was easier to handle, it didn't expose their evil

deeds. It gave them what they wanted and what seemed good to them. Because of this it is no wonder there are so many different “Jesus” out there today.

In Matthew the 16th chapter starting in verse 13, Jesus asked his disciples “*Whom do man said that I the Son of man am?*” After they told him what the opinions of the people where, Jesus asked them “*But whom say ye that I am?*” (Verse 16 & 17 )“ *And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: **for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.***

Everyone has their opinions, but it takes a revelation from the Holy Spirit to really know Jesus. (see John 16:13) Without a personal relationship with him, we will never really know him. We cannot get it from going to “church” or to a “revival” Jesus told them many times to follow **him, not man**. He said in “Matthew 24:23” *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

The apostle John walked with the Lord three years in the flesh, but when he saw him as he was, in (Revelation 1:17-18) he said: “*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*” Now THAT is a Revelation of Jesus Christ!

Even after Peter had made the statement of who Jesus was, the veil had not yet been taken out of the way and Jesus said, (John 16:12) “*I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now*”.

Consider what Paul said:

(2 Corinthians 3:14) *But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.*

(15) *But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.*

(16) *Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.*

(17) *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (18) But we all, **with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

There can only be confusion when we depend on someone else to show us who the Son of God is. The above verse 15 shows us that the veil was still on our hearts. Only when we turn to the LORD will this veil be taken away. As he reveals himself to us from glory to glory we are changed into the SAME IMAGE of him.

(1 John 4:17) *Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **because as he is, so are we in this world.***

(1 John 1:7) ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

There can only be real fellowship with one another when each of us fellowship with the true Jesus Christ.

Therefore John could say in (1 John 3:2) *Beloved, **now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.***

## The Mystery That Was Hid in God - Part 1 & 2

APRIL 06, 2008

For the most part we have not fully comprehended the mystery that was hid in God, *"even the mystery which hath been hid for ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to his saints"*.  
(Colossians 1:26)

Paul started to give hints of this mystery in Galatians 4:19 *"My little children, of whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you"*.

But not until Ephesians did Paul start to share and teach the great mystery God had revealed to him. Up until that time he could only teach the "first principles of the oracles of God." (Hebrews 5:11-12) *"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard of interpretation, seeing ye are become dull of hearing. (12) For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one **teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God**; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food."*

Only after Acts 28:28, when he left the Jews and the synagogues was he free to open up the mystery to the Gentiles. This mystery, God's purpose in of all creation, all the examples that went on before, the temple, the nation of Israel, all their Kings, all the prophets, everything was for this end purpose, the Mystery. It was hidden in God for all times until it was first revealed to Paul. It had not been revealed to Abraham, Moses or King David. No prophet, leader or King of Israel knew this mystery. It was hidden for ages and generations in God. Consider the following scriptures:

(Ephesians 1:9) *"making known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him."*

(Ephesians 3:3-5) *"how that by revelation was made known unto me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words, (4) whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ; (5) which in other generations was not made known unto the sons of men, as it hath now been revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;"*

(Ephesians 3:9-11) "*and to make all men see what is the dispensation of the mystery which for ages hath been hid in God who created all things; (10) to the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, (11) according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*"

(Ephesians 3:17,) "*that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (19) and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled unto all the fulness of God.*"

(Colossians 1:25-27) "*whereof I was made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which was given me to you-ward, to fulfill the word of God, (26) even the mystery which hath been hid for ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to his saints, (27) to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*"

(Colossians 3:3) "*For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*"

The latter epistles of Paul and then also of Peter and John shows the growing knowledge of this mystery and the power of it that was not revealed in the Gospels or in the book of Acts. Even the Angels and powers in heavenly places did not know about the mystery, it was hidden in God. (Ephesians 3:10) *to the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God.*

Colossians 1:27 sums up this vast and wonderful mystery which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. This Christ, this anointing, was perfect and fulfilled the whole law in Jesus. Now we do not have to "do" the works of the law, when Christ is manifested in us, we will also become the "fulfillment" of the law. God is building a body of Christ, the very nature of Christ in his people. If the very nature of God is in us, it will cause us to naturally do his will. Our life will show the fruit of his nature in what we do, as we grow in the knowledge of him.

(Ephesians 1:17-19) *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; (18) having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (19) and what the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might."*

Without Christ being manifested in me, I might try to love my enemy as Jesus said to do. I will do that in all the ways I know how, I will try not to think bad thoughts about my enemy, not talk about them and even try to be nice to them. And do good to them as Jesus said to do. I will ask Jesus to give me strength to love my enemy. It might even work for a while; until they possibly do something that I feel is harmful to me. Then I have to "fight my flesh" and put it down again and try to continue to love them. But you see, **God's purpose is not in strengthening me**, for my righteousness is as filthy rages. He said **when I am weak, he is strong**. But, if I ask Christ to be manifested in me in this matter, I will ask God to put **his love** in my heart for my enemy. You see, when this happens, I will not have to try and do the "works" of loving my enemy, it will be **God's** love for my enemy flowing out of me. All the fruit of that love will be shown naturally to my enemy.

As God reveals himself to us, as we grow in the knowledge of him, he will give us his attributes, his nature if we ask him. **If we believe!** In our own strength, we can only **try** to do to the works of the law, but we will **never fulfill** the law. Only Christ can fulfill the law and he wants to fulfill the law in us.

There is so much more to the mystery, the hope of Glory, that I haven't even begun to dig into its depths. But as the Lord leads us by His Spirit of Truth and as He reveals more to us in the scriptures, the eyes of our understanding will be enlightened.

The following are the epistles of Paul that pertain especially to the mystery:

**Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon**

Also 1 & 2 Peter, and 1,2 & 3 John are in the light of the mystery. As Peter said: (2 Peter 3:15-16) *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you; (16) as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."*

Let us pray as Paul did in Ephesians: 1:18-19: *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (19) and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled unto all the fulness of God." (Colossians 1:26-27) "even the mystery which hath been hid for ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to his saints,(27) to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"*

Amen

## **The Mystery that was hid in God Part 2**

### **The First Principles of Christ**

(Hebrews 5:11-6:3) Of whom we have many things to say, and hard of interpretation, seeing ye are become dull of hearing.(12) For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food.(13) For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe.(14) But strong meat belongeth to them that are **full-grown**, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

(6:1) Wherefore **leaving the doctrine of the first principles of Christ**, let us **press on unto perfection**; not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward

God,(2) of the teaching of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.(3) And this will we do, if God permit.

Paul explains that Christians that are only partaking of the milk of the word have not grown up into perfection. This is mind boggling when you consider what the milk of the word is.

Paul wrote that the milk of the word is: repentance from dead works, faith towards God, teaching of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. Paul said to move on from these elementary things and grow up into perfection.

He wrote the book of Hebrews to the Jewish believers, those that knew and understood the law and their customs. They were learning that the rituals and festivals that were done in the law by the flesh, were pictures of what was to be fulfilled in the Spirit and showing signs of things that were to come. (Leviticus 23:4) These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

First came the natural or flesh, then came the spiritual. Speaking of the new birth Jesus says in John 3:5-6 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6)That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Jesus was explaining about our new birth, first came the natural, we were born of the woman by water but then we would need to be born anew by the Spirit of God in order to enter into the kingdom of God.

In Matthew 26:26-29 Jesus was showing the disciples what the Passover feast was really all about. That he was the Passover Lamb, the bread represented his flesh and the wine represented his blood. I don't believe he was initiating a **new ritual** for his followers to observe. In fact we never see Jesus indicate that observing *any* of the Lord's festivals would be required any longer, but he **did say**, “*I have still many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear them or to take them upon you or to grasp them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the Truth.*” (John 16:12-13a)



Now Spirit of Truth had come and Paul was explaining the spiritual meaning of the Passover. Notice how he also connects this with "baptisms".

(1 Corinthians 10:2-4,11) and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and **did all eat the same spiritual food;(4) and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ.**

(11) Now these things happened unto them by way of **example**; and they were written for our admonition, **upon whom the ends of the ages are come.**

(1 Corinthians 10:15-18) I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. (16) The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? (17) seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we are all partake of the one bread. (18) Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

This was an example of those things done in the natural, or "flesh", are fulfilled in the spirit.

The 15th Chapter of Acts shows us a picture of the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. It was 20 years after the descent of the Holy Spirit in chapter 2. Some still wanted to teach the Law of Moses. There was a great dispute among them as to what would be required of the Gentile believers who had never kept the law. But after Peter had spoken: (Acts 15:8-10) "God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;(9) And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. (10) Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"

They agreed not put the burden of the Law on the Gentile believers.

You can see the growing knowledge of Jesus Christ and the mystery (which had been hidden) in the later Epistles of Paul, Peter and John.

So much so that by the time Paul wrote the book of Philippians 12 years later, he considered all his own righteousness that was done in the flesh according to the law was of no value. In fact even “count them but dung”.

He Wrote:

(Philippians 3:3-10) For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence in the flesh.**(4) Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:(5) Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;(6) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. (7) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.(8) Yea doubtless, and **I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:** for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,**(9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

Hebrews 6:1 Paul said not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and faith in God. These are the dead works of self righteousness which is of the law and not of faith in God. He said to move on from there.

Hebrews 6:2 Paul said to move on from the teaching of (1) baptisms, (2) laying on of hands, (3) resurrection of the dead and (4) eternal judgment.

Let's use the example of baptisms.

**The water baptism of John:** {(Mark 1:4) John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (Acts 13:24-25) When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. (25) And as John **fulfilled** his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am

not [he]. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of [his] feet I am not worthy to loose.

**The baptism of Jesus, his death and resurrection** {(Mark 10:38) But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink the cup that I drink? or to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? (Luke 12:50) But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!}

**The baptism of the Holy Spirit** (Matthew 3:11) I indeed baptize you in water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire: (Mark 1:8) I baptized you in water; But he shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Paul did not baptize many people before he wrote 1Corinthians and it appears he didn't baptize anyone since. (1 Corinthians 1:17) For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not in wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made void.

Jesus did not baptize anyone: (John 4:1-2) When therefore the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (2) (although Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples). It was the Lord's disciples that baptized.

Let us grasp the depths of Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Paul said: (Ephesians 4:5) "**one Lord, one faith, one baptism.**" It is all about the Lord. NO flesh will have the glory, it all belongs to him.

We see the progression away from anything done in the flesh by man. **We see man disappearing and Christ appearing.** This is the beginning of perfection. John the Baptist said, "I must decrease so he can increase".

This is the resurrection that Paul wanted to obtain to:

(Philippians 3:10-15) that I may know him, and **the power of his resurrection**, and the fellowship of his sufferings, **becoming conformed unto his death**;(11) if by any means **I may attain unto** the resurrection from the dead.(12) Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus.(13) Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before,(14) I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.(15) Let us therefore, **as many as are perfect**, be thus minded: and if in anything ye are otherwise minded, this also shall God reveal unto you:

Until we are **full grown** and to a measure of the fullness of Christ, (Ephesians 4:11-13) He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ:(13) till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**:

It is no longer about mere forms and rituals done in the flesh; it is about a **new spiritual life** we have in Jesus Christ, worshiping Him in Spirit and in Truth. “I (flesh) must decrease so He (Spirit) can increase”.

## Members in Particular MARCH 30, 2008

[1Cr 12:27](#) *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

Blessed be the name of the Lord! He is good in his mercy, righteous in His judgments, Holy in His actions. Fulfilling his word to each generation (individual). Let us lift up our heads and behold his face, he is shining down on us in holy righteousness, giving us the power to become Sons of God. Give him the Glory that is due him.

I am so struck today with the beginning understanding of how God deals with each of us individually. It is human nature to follow someone. We hear of a good testimony or word of God that someone gives us and through it we might begin to think we too need to do the same thing or have the same type of experience to please God.

We know Jesus, along with being our savior and redeemer; he is also an example for us to live by. John, speaking of Jesus, said in 1 John 2:6 “*he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to **walk even as he walked.***” And Peter also said in 1 Peter 2:21 “*For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, **that ye should follow his steps:***”

And Paul said speaking of himself...(2 Thessalonians 3:7a) “*For yourselves know how **ye ought to imitate us:***” (2 Thessalonians 3:9b) “*but to make ourselves **an ensample unto you, that ye should imitate us.***”

But it is also clear that we can not walk in any one else’s calling.

(Romans 12:3b-6) *but to think as to think soberly, **according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith.** For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and **severally members one of another.** And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith;*

(1 Corinthians 12:12) *For as the body is one, and **hath many members**, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.*

Because we are different parts of the same body, God deals with us in different ways. Not in just the “gift” we have, but in the “walking” as well. God did not create us like drones all walking the same way with the same expression on our faces as a military parade.

*And to those parts of the body which seem to have less honour we give all the more honour; and to those parts of the body which are a cause of shame to us we give the greater respect;*

*But those parts of the body which are beautiful have no need of such care: and so the body has been joined together by God in such a way as to give more honour to those parts which had need of it;*

*So that there might be no division in the body; but all the parts might have the same care for one another. (1 Corinthians 12:23-25)*  
*BBE*

We have a tendency to put on a pedestal those with a “better” or “greater” testimony or calling. Some seem to have “waters parted before them” at every turn as the Red Sea opened up before the Israelites; others seem to have great dreams and visions; and still others seem to always “walk in victory” never in need of prayer.

We have whole denominations and new teachings spring up because ONE time God did something in a particular way. We embrace this “new doctrine” and believe God will always work in the same way, with this new “formula” that we stumbled on to. That is where things like the “prosperity gospel” came from, that is where the “healing ministries” came from, we could go on and on with all the “different” teachings and denominations we have today. How many times in scripture do we find God doing the exact same thing over and over again?

Scripture says we are to follow in Jesus’ footsteps and Paul said to follow his example. Jesus explained he only did what his father told

him to do, only the things his father showed him. I can not hear what God told Jesus to do, I was not privy to the conversations between Paul and God, so how can I do exactly the same things they did? I can't! I can only do what God told me to do! Like Paul and like Jesus, I have to have a relationship with the father, and do the works he gives me to do. I have to live my life by faith, just like Paul did as one of our examples:

*(Galatians 2:20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

How do I have this faith? How do I live it? By hearing from God! (Romans 10:17) *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Each day I need a "word" from God in my spirit! Just as Jesus would separate himself out and go to his father everyday, we follow his example and do the same. Each situation in life will require a fresh word from God. God can (and does) use his written word for this, but it is in communion with him that he will speak this to our spirit. Just because God's answer to an issue yesterday was such and such scripture, doesn't mean he will use the same one today. Yesterday the scripture might have been "by his strips you are healed" but today it is "His grace is sufficient". We can only stand on what God gives us to stand on. We can not stand on the word he gave someone else, we need our own word.

God deals with us individually. Even though we will be part of the one body of Christ in unity, we don't all go through the same experiences to get there. God speaks to each of us in a unique way that we will understand and can respond to. And we all have our own place in the kingdom that God makes just for us. While it can help listening to or reading about someone else's testimony in how God has dealt with them, ultimately it is only us with God alone in our secret place where God deals, teaches and directs us. It is like different parts of harmony in a song, but the same song. Beautifully entwined together, but separate in our individual part we play.

Make no mistake; just because God has us all walk our own walk, it is the same path. We do not have different gospels to follow or a

different Jesus. We all enter in through the same narrow gate with much suffering. We may not suffer the same things, or have the same victories, but we all have to die the same death of our flesh and death to this world. How God gets us there is all up to him, he knows how to deal with each of us and what it takes to get us there. But we are all one body going to the same end! We are being conformed to the image of Christ, God is making for himself, Sons of God, a temple for him to dwell in.

This individual care of each part of the Body of Christ is more wonderful than we can know. David wrote: (Psalms 139:6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain unto it. In fact the whole 139th Psalm is a beautiful picture of the body of Christ and it speaks loudly of each individual part of that body.



## He that restraineth.....restraineth no more!

JANUARY 26, 2008

I believe the Lord has shown us that the restrains are being lifted off the evil one.

*(2 Thessalonians 2:6-7) And now ye know that which restraineth, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season. For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only there is one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way.*

We know we have seen evidences of it in the Church. But since this past Sept, we have seen a great increase of evil every where. Seemingly normal people are going off and killing people in hideous crimes. I have never seen so much of it. It seems it is becoming easy for evil spirits to enter anyone who is not totally dedicated to the Lord.

A young Hollywood Actor dies un-expectantly not long after playing a part in a movie of an evil villain. The actor said before his death, the part had gotten "into my head". He couldn't sleep and was on medication because of it. Demonic? You can bet it was!

No one is immune these days if we don't stay close and obedient to the Lord. If truly the restraints are being removed, here are some things the scriptures say will happen and these things will increase worse and worse as the day of the Lord approaches. (2Ti 3:13)

**The church will be in deception** because they did not love the true of the Gospel. (2 Thessalonians 2:11) This is part of the Great falling away.

(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

*(2 Thessalonians 2:4) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God.*

Jesus referred to His body as the temple of God in the book of John. Paul referred to the Christians at Corinth as the temple of God.

Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; **for it is the number of a man:** and his number is Six hundred and sixty and six. (Revelation 13:18)

One of the things the anti-Christ spirit will do is exalt man above God; it is so subtle that many do not recognize it. But in view of the scriptures we can see how this spirit is sweeping across the Church in America and the Western world.

Today in Churches we hear a lot about self esteem, succeeding in this life, having the things of this world that we want. Self Help books are the most popular books on the “Christian” book store shelves today. Some even say they are written so the unbeliever can also benefit from them. But the true Gospel says if we do not die to self and if God is not our ONLY goal in this life we will not enter into the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said to lose your life. For we cannot serve two masters, we can not have both our life and Christ’ life, we must choose which one we will follow hard after: David said it beautifully: (Psalms 63:8) My soul followeth hard after thee: Thy right hand upholdeth me. (Psalms 73:25) Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee.

Jesus said you couldn’t follow him unless you first went to the cross (your instrument of death) and carry it daily.

*(Matthew 10:38-39) And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

*(Matthew 6:24a) No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.*

In Philippians 3:17 Paul said to follow his example. He gave up everything for Christ, he had no other desires but Christ and to “apprehend” him.

*(Philippians 3:7-8) But those things which were profit to me, I gave up for Christ. Yes truly, and I am ready to give up all things for the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, which is more than all: for whom I have undergone the loss of all things, and to me they are less than nothing, so that I may have Christ as my reward,*

Then the apostle John said:

*Have no love for the world or for the things which are in the world. If any man has love for the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*Because everything in the world, the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but of the world.*

*And the world and its desires is coming to an end: but he who does God's pleasure is living for ever. (1 John 2:15-17)*

In view of these scriptures we can see clearly that there has already been the “great falling away” from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But wait! It gets scarier! With the restrains out of the way of Satan, he is having a hay day in the world of those “outside” the church to do as he pleases. But the worst is what he is doing “inside” the church.

With the power of Satan we will see false miracles, signs and lying wonders in the church. And again, many will be deceived because “*they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved*”.  
2Th 2:9-10

I believe scripture clearly shows that the anti-christ spirit will imamate the Holy Spirit, just like Pharaoh’s magicians did in Egypt duplicating the signs and wonders God did through Moses and Aaron. He will be “Showing himself that he is God”. 2Thess 2:4 It will take discernment from the Holy Spirit to know the difference.

I’m not **just** talking about healings, speaking in tongues and other miracles, signs and wonders. But even to things like praise and worship, causing emotions to rise to the point people think they are “feeling” the Holy Spirit. When in reality they are only experiencing

what the music worked up in their flesh. And if any doubt that music can do that, go to a rock concert sometime and watch the people and see the emotional state they can be “moved” to. Does it look much different than what we have seen in some churches? This, my friends, is not true worshipping in spirit and in truth; this is of a different spirit!

But there is also good news for those who love the truth more than their very lives! For those who walk in the truth and seek God will get closer to him than ever before! These are the times that Abraham looked for. God is building a Temple out of his people that he will dwell in. He is purifying a people unto himself. While the process of purification can be painful while the things of this world and its sins are cleansed from us, it is also Glorious. In the hands of a Loving father he is molding us as the potter molds the clay into a beautiful vessel worthy of service. His hands are carefully on us, ever guiding, protecting, correcting, changing, growing and caring for his beloved. This knowledge is too wonderful to describe. Some have said, “Don’t be so Heavenly minded, you are no Earthly good”. But, truer statement to the Word would be. “Be so Heavenly minded that you care nothing for Earthly goods”. Again, I have to agree with David as he said: (Psalms 73:25) Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee.