

# Walking With God

**For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (2 Cor 6:16)**

by  
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The Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted. Italics have been added for emphasis and bracketed comments inserted for clarification. The reader is encouraged to use their own Bible as their original source of truth. But at least be like the Bereans. “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” (Acts 17:11)

## Preface

It was to be one of the marks of the New Covenant that each member of it should walk in personal communion with God. “They shall teach no more every man his neighbor, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least to the greatest of them, saith the Lord.”... The Spirit of God’s own Son...displaces our life and replaces it with the life of Christ in power, to make the Son of God divinely and consciously present with us always.

No one will deny that there are few believers who realize this walk with God, this life in God, such as their Father has prepared for them. And few are willing to discuss what the cause of this failure is. It is also acknowledged on all hands that the Holy Spirit, through whose divine omnipotence this inner revelation comes, is not realized fully in the Church as He should be...

Andrew Murray from *The Spirit of Christ*

There is a liberating secret revealed within the new covenant that is still hidden from many. The apostle Paul referred to it as “the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.” (Col. 1:26) Andrew Murray referred to this mystery in his opening comments. The Son of God has promised to manifest His heavenly life through everyone who will choose to walk by His Spirit.

Here is the very heart of the Gospel of the kingdom of God. To understand the full implications of this truth is to discover the most liberating secret. It is now possible to share with the Son in His overcoming life. As we walk by His Spirit, He will “dwell in” and “walk in” the vessel of our body. “For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, *I will dwell in them, and walk in them...*” (2 Cor. 6:16 KJV)

The Son wants to live through each one of us in the same way the Father lived through Him. This is His promise: “I will come to you... At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” (John 14:18, 20) As Mr. Murray has stated, the Son can now make Himself “consciously present with us always.” Our old form of life can be replaced “with the life of Christ in power.”

The fact that few believers enjoy this “walk with God, this life in God, such as their Father has prepared for them,” does not mean that Christ cannot do what He has promised. We have discussed in the following pages both the reason for the failure and what can be done to restore this glorious relationship.

The first half of the study examines how to enter into Christ’s heavenly life. Following His instructions, we are to “seek first” the fullness of His Kingdom-life of holy love so we may “walk just as He walked.” (1 John 2:6) We will then look more closely at how to enter into God’s specific plans. He created human children for the purpose of having vessels He could use to display both His life and His works.

Some of the later lessons and exhortations were extracted from Horace Bushnell’s classic sermon entitled “Every Man’s Life A Plan of God.” God has a purpose for everyone. And we need to discover His plans so He may do what He has purposed.

## God's Plan for Order

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

(Gen. 1:31)

God made provisions in His original creation to have a heavenly order in all that He made. Everything was designed to work together and remain in harmony with the whole. Because there was no disorder in His completed work, God was able to say, "Indeed it was very good."

He created only two forms of life that were capable of disrupting His perfect order. Both angels and man were given a freedom of will. It would be necessary for them to respond to His guidance if they were to maintain His order. A heavenly harmony would continue to exist while they submitted their will to be led by His Spirit. Walking in His Spirit would also enable them to live in fellowship with Him and share with Him in His eternal life of holy love.

Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

(1 John 1:3)

Just as He chose us in Him {to live through Him} before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Eph. 1:4)

Disorder could only occur if these created beings rose up in pride and chose in some manner to live independently of God. Having two masters inevitably leads to conflicting wills. It is in this sense that "no one can serve two masters." (Matt. 6:24) It is not possible to serve self and God at the same time. God shares His heavenly life with His children as they choose to live for His purposes and glory.

God created these eternal beings as vessels that He could use for the display of His life and works. But He cannot live through either angels or human beings while they are directing their own steps. He requires His creation to unite their will with His divine will. (Rom. 12:1-2) It is the sin of self-will that causes separation. It prevents created beings from walking with God and sharing with Him in His eternal life.

It was Adam's choice to turn away from God's revealed will and the leading of the Holy Spirit that separated him from God's indwelling Presence. The Spirit of God could no longer dwell in Adam and provide Him with eternal life when Adam began to direct his own steps. Man was never given this right. "I know, O Lord, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23 NIV) God will only share His eternal life with those who walk in His Spirit.

My sheep hear My voice...and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life... (John 10:27-28)

I say then: Walk in the Spirit {so you may share in the Son's eternal life} and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)

While Adam's human body continued to live after the fall, he remained separated from God's eternal life. A soul separated from the life of God experiences a sense of emptiness. A deep inward need naturally develops. It is this inward loss of life from God that has led fallen man to become innately self-seeking in his very nature and to lose God's image of holy love. He naturally lives for self because there is a constant need to

find ways to develop a new form of spiritual life. He ends up going to and fro throughout the world looking for sources of spiritual fulfillment.

These simple facts should begin to reveal what is needed to save people from their fallen state. A person experiencing an inner emptiness, known as depravity, will naturally live for himself. In contrast, the spiritual thirst is satisfied when the inner being is filled to overflowing with the everlasting life of God. The Lord's "rivers" of Living Water are able to purge away the inward depravity that naturally leads to self-seeking and the carnal nature. Thus, when the depravity is offset by fullness, the believer is set free indeed to live for God and His purposes.

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (John 7:37-38)

God intended for His children to live for His glory alone. In order to be in a condition to fulfill this purpose, there needs to be a real or conscious deliverance from the old self-seeking and self-exalting nature. The Lord provides this great deliverance from sin by producing His ever-flowing rivers of living water from within the heart. It is then that we are set free indeed to live wholly for the glory of God. "But now having been set free from sin {where we no longer live for ourselves according to our own will}, *and having become slaves of God*, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life." (Rom. 6:22) Thus, if there is within the heart an inner need to continue living for selfish purposes, then we have to assume that Christ's rivers of living water are not yet flowing.

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that *those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him...* (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

Therefore if the Son makes you free {from the old self-seeking nature}, you shall be free indeed {to live for His glory alone}. (John 8:36)

Once our spiritual thirst has been satisfied, it is no longer necessary to waste time trying to find our happiness from the temporal sources of this world. As we live by the Spirit, this endless spring of life rises out of our inner being. It reveals a divine nature of love that naturally and joyously sacrifices itself for the good of others. The life wells up into a display of the Son's nature of holy love.

Whoever drinks the water I give him will *never thirst*. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to {a display of} eternal life. (John 4:14 NIV)

Just as he chose us in Him {to share with Him in His divine life} before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Eph. 1:4)

It is easy to recognize the disorder that now exists. Fallen man, because he has been separated from God's divine life of holy love, spends his time living for his personal pleasures. His love for the world and its things has caused him to become caught up in a deceptive and self-defeating philosophy of life. He separates himself from the everlasting life of God as he looks to the world for his spiritual sustenance. (1 John 2:15-17)

Man was created to be a vessel that God could fill with His life and glory. And there is a reason to be horribly afraid if we have discovered that we too have turned away from this Glory so we may have a few short years of living for the pleasures of this world.

"But My people have changed their Glory {the eternal life} for what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid;

Be very desolate,” says the Lord. “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters {the one Source that can truly satisfy the soul}, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.” (Jer. 2:11-13)

When the Son came as the Second Adam to reestablish the form of life that Adam lost, He emptied Himself of His own Glory to live as a man. However, the Father then filled the temple of His body with His Glory. He was actually displaying His Father’s eternal life. The endless life of His Father was continually flowing out of His inner being. Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father...*the Father who dwells in Me* does the works.” (John 14:9-11) And thus, “The {eternal} life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us.” (1 John 1:2) The nature of the eternal life—the image of God, which had its source in the Father, was revealed through the mortal body of Jesus.

After the Son was glorified, He was then in a place to share the same Glory with everyone who chooses in faith to walk by the Spirit as He did. He would dwell within each of His disciples with His divine life of holy love in the same way the Father lived through Him. There would be an ever-flowing supply of Living Water welling up into a manifestation of God’s heavenly life of holy love.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them {providing access to this life through yielded faith}, that they may be one just as We are one {sharing in the same life and nature}: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one...that the love with which You loved Me {holy love} may be in them, and I in them. (John 17:22-3, 26)

At that day you will know that I am in My Father {sharing with Him in His life}, and you in Me {sharing in the same life}, and I in you {manifesting this eternal light of life in the world}. (John 14:20)

But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. *Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to* {a manifestation of} *eternal life.* (John 4:14 NIV)

Jesus assures us that His Spirit-filled disciples would “never thirst.” The word “never” is a very strong term. We cannot pass over it lightly. Many earnest Christians are still passing through an arid wilderness where they experience only periodic wells of refreshment. In between these “times of refreshing”—the times when the Lord comes to encourage them—they go through long dry spells. And one of the reasons they have not found their way out of this arid wilderness is because they have a tendency to keep relying on temporal things to satisfy their spiritual thirst. This turning to other sources keeps them separated from the fullness of the life of promise. They have exchanged the Glory of the eternal life for what does not profit.

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters... Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. (Isa. 55:1-2)

If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me {and comes to this one heavenly source for life}, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (John 7:37-39)

## **The Gospel of the Kingdom of God**

The world is currently covered with carnal darkness because individuals are selfishly living for their own pleasures. You will find these people looking at each other's possessions and developing envious desires for the things that please their eye. It has truly resulted in a great disruption to God's heavenly kingdom where He intended to have His life of self-giving love abiding and reigning forever. "*For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*" (Jam. 3:16)

We should begin to see how there has been a great falling away from God's divine order. Evil and chaos has spread throughout the world because there are created beings selfishly living for their own purposes according to their independent wills.

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? (Jam. 4:1)

When people choose to live out from themselves according to their own will they are living by the flesh. Again, this is what separates the soul from God's everlasting life and results in the inward depravity that leads to a self-seeking and self-exalting nature. It naturally produces the works of the flesh. "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are...contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions...and the like; of which I tell you beforehand...that *those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*" (Gal. 5:19-21)

The "prince of this world"—the devil—works through the "spirit of the world" to lead people into a self-originated form of life. He was the first created being to take the way of independence and self-sufficiency. And now, "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" because everyone has been led to believe they can direct their own steps according to their own fleshly desires. (1 John 5:19) As the Prophet of old has stated, "All we like sheep have gone astray; *We have turned, every one, to his own way...*" (Isa. 53:6) People who live by the flesh naturally live for their own glory. It has truly ruined the perfect order that God originally set up where He intended to be the source of our life as we walked in His Spirit.

There will be a day when God creates a new heaven and a new earth where everyone shall live by His Spirit in complete harmony with His life and will. It is referred to as the "home of righteousness." The Bible also refers to this eternal place of abode as the "kingdom of heaven" and the "kingdom of God." Both of these latter terms have the same meaning. It will be a place where everyone lives by the Spirit according to God's will and manifests His life of holy love in everything they do. At that point a heavenly order will be restored.

While the fallen angels are without recourse, the people of this world now have an opportunity to enter into this eternal kingdom of God. The Lord established this eternal Kingdom-life in bodily form and He is now prepared to share this heavenly life with everyone who will choose to live by His Spirit. He has the power to deliver His disciples from every enemy that has bound them to the self-seeking and self-exalting ways of this world. Here, then, is the true gospel of the kingdom of God.

Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent {turn back to a Spirit-directed way of life}, and believe in the gospel. (Mark 1:14-15)

I have come that they may have life {the eternal Kingdom-life of holy love}, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

{He came} to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies {everything that binds us to self-will and sin}, *might serve Him* without fear, in holiness and righteousness {in holy love} before Him all the days of our life. (Luke 1:74-75)

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth {with the same kind of submissiveness} as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)

For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom.14:17)

While both the fallen body, with its infirmities and limited mind, and the curse on the world will continue to have detrimental effects on everyone, it is still possible to be filled with Christ's life of holy love. We can now share with Him in His submissive and self-giving nature. In fact, we must choose to live through Him and become like Him in holy love in this world if we hope to stand before Him with boldness on the Day of Judgment.

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, *that we might live through Him...* Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; *because as He is, so are we in this world.* (1 John 4:9, 17)

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness {the eternal Kingdom-life}...that...you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption {the old self-seeking and self-exalting nature} that is in the world through lust. (2 Pet. 1:3-4)

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you {may}...*know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.* (Eph. 3:17, 19)

The world will not understand what it means to be saved from sin and to walk in the "light of life" from heaven until they can see Jesus Christ being revealed through our mortal bodies. Catherine Booth, the co-founder of the Salvation Army, has expressed this principle in clear terms. She has emphasized the importance of giving Christ an opportunity to reveal Himself through our human bodies in each succeeding generation of the church. Teaching the doctrine of perfect love, she knew that "the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh." (2 Cor. 4:11) This is the true Gospel of the kingdom that everyone needs to hear.

It is not a scheme of salvation merely—it is a scheme of restoration. If He cannot restore me [to the life of holy love found in His heavenly kingdom], He must damn me. [The Son has come to share His life with us so we may live in harmony with God in His eternal kingdom.] If he cannot heal me, and make me over again, and restore me to the pattern He intended me to be, he has left Himself no choice...

How do you read your Bible? How do you read the history of the miracles—the stories of His opening the eyes, unstopping the ears, cleansing the leper, and raising the dead? He will heal you [and make you like Himself in His nature of holy love] if you will let him.



These are the sort of words the world wants—the living words, living embodiments of Christianity, walking embodiments of the Spirit, and the life and power of Jesus Christ. You may preach, and sing, and talk, and do what you will. But if you do not exhibit to the people *living epistles*, show them the transformation of character and life in yourself which is brought about by the power and grace of God, if you do not go to them and do the works of Jesus Christ, you may go on preaching, and the world will get worse and worse and the church, too. We want a living embodiment of Christianity. We want *Jesus to come in the flesh again*.

Did you ever notice the tense in that passage, “He that believeth that Jesus is come in the flesh”—not that He *did* come, or *was* come, but that He is come now... They cannot resist such people. This is what the world wants—holy people, and nothing else will do...

Now, I say, God is speaking to you in these things, if only you will hear him. And He is saying that the letter killeth, that circumcision, and baptism, and forms, and ceremonies, and going to chapel, and Bible reading, is all nothing when there is no Holy Ghost in it. You want a real, living embodiment of Christ over again...

If ever you are to know God, it will be by faith, becoming as a little child, opening your mouth and saying, “Lord, pour in.” And then your quibbles and difficulties will be gone, and you will see holiness, sanctification, purity, perfect love, burning out on every page of God’s Word...

The law of the kingdom all the way through will be, “According to your faith.” If you want this blessing, put down your quibbles, put your feet on your arguments, march up to the throne and ask for it, and kill, and crucify, and cast from you the accursed thing which hinders it, and then you shall have it, and the Lord will fill you with His power and glory now, and something will happen...

It is God’s first priority to restore the divine image that Adam lost. He has done everything that is needed to fulfill His plan. He is now in a position to “fill” every vessel with His heavenly life. “He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.” (Eph. 4:10) Each individual can therefore be held accountable for how they have responded to God’s provision.

It may sound like we have gone overboard in what we have said about our Lord’s salvation. But the reader needs to remember that no mind can conceive what God has prepared for those who love Him. And yet, the firstfruits of this heavenly life can now be revealed within the soul through a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 2:9-10) Since He is able to do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” let us not limit Him with our human reasoning. (Eph. 3:19) As S.A. Keen has so clearly expressed, heaven needs to come down to us today.

Before it (the soul) gets there, locally, God transfers His kingdom and glory to the heart, making it a province of the land of light in advance. The whole realm of its inner being is annexed to the heavenly empire, and *its citizenship is transferred from earth to the heavenly city*. O, glorious, wondrous faith, which enables us to know our heaven begun, below.

We must realize that we, in ourselves, are powerless to rend this veil. God must do it for us. We must confess, forsake, repudiate the self-life, and then reckon it crucified. It is a painful process that must not be evaded—the rending of the veil of our carnal self. There must be no lazy acceptance apart from the real work of God. [Do not deceive yourself. You need to press into the fullness of this life of promise where the conscious Presence of His divine life consistently dwells within the temple of your body.] The cross is rough and deadly, but essential to make us ready for spiritual resurrection. [It fits us for the eternal kingdom of God.] There comes that moment when the work of crucifixion is finished. It is then the veil is taken away and we have entered into that fellowship with God in all its richness of communion. God grant that it may be so in your life.

In summary, we can say that Christ has begun a process of restoring God’s original order by establishing the kingdom of God within the hearts of individual believers here on earth. This is what enables us to live as He originally purposed “in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.” (Eph. 5:8-10) “For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 14:17)

The will of God must rule over all matters in His heavenly kingdom. A day will therefore come when He must do away with everyone who has refused to walk by His Spirit. Those who have insisted on living by their independent wills in this world cannot be permitted to enter into His eternal kingdom. He will not permit the kingdom of heaven to be ruined by the same kind of independence that ruined this world. The heavenly kingdom is a place for those who live by His Spirit alone. It is in this sense that we determine our eternal state by the course we take in this world. (Rev. 22:11)

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? *You ought to live holy and godly lives* as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming... But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, *the home of righteousness.* (2 Peter 3:11-13 NIV)

Yes, God is going to remove everything that causes chaos in His universe. Only those who have chosen to live by His Spirit will be permitted to be a part of the new heavens and the new earth where everyone lives in righteousness. This will help us to understand why the creation is waiting for the day when the Spirit-led sons of God will be revealed. At that point, when God has restored His divine order, the curse on the world will be removed and true harmony will exist. Have you prepared for this great day by becoming one of the Spirit-led children of God?

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God...*

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God {those who have chosen to live by His Spirit}... Because the creation itself {all of nature} also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom. 8:14, 19-21)

## Seek First the Kingdom of God

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness... (Matt. 6:33)

There will be a day in the future when God judges everyone based on what they have done with His revealed will. While He does not force His will on anyone, He will hold every individual accountable. Those who neglect to “seek first” the Son’s life of righteousness—His Kingdom-life—are therefore in serious trouble.

The Holy Spirit is now working to “convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” (John 16:8) His purpose is to turn people to the Lord to be the source of their life. Christ is the only means for being saved from Adam’s fallen state.

For if by the one man’s offense death {and sin} reigned through the one {Adam}, *much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.* (Rom. 5:17)

We enter into a justified state by both looking to Christ’s shed blood to be forgiven for our sins and submitting to the leading of His Spirit. His blood continues to cleanse while we remain fully yielded to all revealed light. He calls us out from the darkness of this world for the purpose of leading us into the kingdom of light where everyone becomes a vessel of His “light of life.” Here then is the real Gospel message:

I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. (John 8:12)

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light {by walking in His Spirit}, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh {lives for his own will and ways} will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit {by responding to Him} will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap {a full measure of the eternal Kingdom-life} if we do not lose heart. (Gal 6:7-9)

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while {in dying out to the old flesh-life in the wilderness testing period}, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you {in the Kingdom-life of promise}. (1 Peter 5:10)

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. (Rom. 8:6)

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that

we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:3-6)

God commands us to seek out His kingdom and His righteousness. He also insists that it be our “first” priority. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” We must share with Him in His life before we can actually walk as Jesus did. Unfortunately, many of those who are called out by God through the new birth do not find this heavenly life. “For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matt. 22:14) God does not choose the “many” to receive the life of promise because they neglect to fully yield to His teachings. It prevents the Son from manifesting His eternal Kingdom-life within them.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. (John 14:21)

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance {in the wilderness testing period}, *so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise*: “For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith {those who are justified will remain fully submitted to all revealed light}; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. (Heb. 10:35-39)

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, *much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved* {from our fallen state} *by His* {indwelling} *life*. (Rom 5:10)

I will come to you... Because I live {in the eternal Kingdom-life}, you will live also {in the same life}. At that day you will know that I am in My Father {sharing in the eternal life with Him}, and you in Me {sharing in the same life}, and I in you {manifesting the light of life in the world}. (John 14:18-20)

The Son was specifically sent as the Second or Last Adam to establish God’s eternal Kingdom-life in bodily form. And then, after being resurrected and glorified, He “became a life-giving spirit.” (1 Cor. 15:45) It was then that He could begin filling the vessel of the human body with the life He shares with His Father.

He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. (Eph. 4:10)

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:18-19)

The Son can now share His everlasting Kingdom-life—the heavenly life He established in bodily form—with every true believer. He came to enable us to live in true “holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.” (Luke 1:74-75) Everyone who fully submits to the leading of His Spirit, seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, can expect the Lord to establish His Kingdom-life within their heart in due time.

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God {by fully submitting to His ways}, that He may exalt you in due time. (1 Pet. 5:6)

Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes... I will save you from all your uncleanness. (Ezk. 36:23, 29 NIV)

Love has been perfected among us in this...because as He is, so are we in this world. (1 John 4:17)

Jesus said, "The law and the prophets {the means for constraining sin by written laws} were until John {the Baptist}. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it." (Luke 16:15-16) Today is the day when everyone needs to enter into the Son's Kingdom-life of promise. Only in this way can we become like Him in His nature of holy love and fulfill all the righteous requirements found in His kingdom teachings. He actually fits us for life in the heavenly realms by sharing His life with us.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him {to live through Him and to share with Him in His heavenly life} before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Eph. 1:3-4)

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him {and share with Him in His Kingdom-life}. (1 John 4:9)

*For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son...that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:3-4)*

The kingdom of God does not come with observation {in the natural realm}; nor will they {ever} say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is {to be established} within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

There is such a thing as self-produced righteousness. The Pharisees made themselves look right on the outside. They developed an appearance that led many to believe they were living in righteousness. But Jesus knew their righteousness was self-produced. Their hearts were not perfected in holy love. And because they were not willing to seek out the divine life of righteousness that has its source in God, they were not fit for the kingdom of heaven. He then applied the same principle to everyone. "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5:20) This should help us to see how important it is to seek out the true righteousness that comes from God by faith.

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law {the inward principle} of righteousness. Why? *Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law... For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.* For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Rom. 9:30-32; 10:2-4)

The kingdom of God is the Pearl of Great Price. We buy the Pearl—Christ’s Kingdom-life of true righteousness and holiness—by dying to our old self-originated form of life. God is the source of everything in His eternal kingdom. The independent and self-sufficient ways of the devil will never fit into the kingdom of heaven. Yes, the devil can make himself appear to be an angel of light through his own resources. But that does not mean he has the eternal life within him. If we are to live in true fellowship with God, we must share with Him in His life of true righteousness and holiness. It is in this sense that we must choose with the apostle Paul to count “as loss” our religious heritage, our fleshly zeal for God and even the righteousness that has its source in law-keeping. (See Phil. 3:3-7)

Yet indeed I also count all things loss {everything that has its source on the natural plane} for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...that I may gain Christ {His heavenly Kingdom-life} and be found in Him, *not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith*, that I may know Him {His indwelling Presence} and the power of His resurrection... (Phil. 3:8-10)

Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! {It reveals how we are expected to live.} For if there had been a law given which could have given life {the eternal Kingdom-life of holy love}, truly righteousness would have been by the law... Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ... (Gal. 3:21, 24)

Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise {the eternal Kingdom-life} might be sure to all... (Rom. 4:16)

And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life. (1 John 2:25)

And this is the testimony: that God has given us {access to} eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (1 John 5:11)

We are credited with righteousness when we have the faith of Abraham. It includes the requirement of submitting to all revealed light while depending on the Spirit of God to lead us into the life of promise. It also includes the requirement of remaining “fully persuaded” that God can do what He has promised. (Rom. 4:20-24) Those who are truly walking in this biblical faith can expect to eventually be lifted into Christ’s life in the heavenly realms even if they physically die before receiving the promise in this world. (See Heb. 11:39-40)

But there needs to be a realization that we are now in the age of fulfillment. Today is the day of full salvation. And God is not pleased with anyone who turns back from seeking out His Kingdom-life of promise. Because He intends for His called-out people to manifest His life of holy love in this world, those who neglect to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” are neglecting the one great salvation that would enable them to stand before Him with boldness on the Day of Judgment. (1 John 4:17)

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:5-6)

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away... How shall we escape if we neglect so great a

salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord...? (Heb. 2:1, 3)

### **Preparing Workers for the Kingdom of God**

God's plan for His called-out children has two parts. His initial and universal plan applies to all. He intends to conform each of His children to the image of His Son. The second part entails leading these Spirit-led children into the work He has planned for them to do.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Rom. 8:29)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus {to share with Him in His life of holy love} for good works, which God prepared beforehand *that we should walk in them.* (Eph. 2:10)

God elected or chose from the beginning to have children that He could use as a means to manifest His life and works. The Son, while living as the Second Adam, displayed this way of life so we would know how God intended for us to live. Those who reject this preordained plan are rejecting His purpose for their life. We therefore need to find His heavenly Kingdom-life so we may be saved from our carnal nature after being reconciled through His blood.

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His {indwelling} life. (Rom. 5:10)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us...that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. (2 Cor 4:7, 10)

Later on we will discuss more specifically how to discover God's purposes for our life. But our first priority is to seek out the Son's Kingdom-life. We need to come to an inward knowledge of this great salvation before we can truly lead others into the same heavenly life. It was in this sense that the apostle Paul said, "It pleased God...to reveal His Son *in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.*" (Gal. 1:15-16)

The Lord's first disciples were given the Great Commission before Christ ascended into heaven. They had already received the command to take the Gospel of the kingdom of God to the world. And in human terms, because they had received three years of intensive training from the greatest Bible Teacher who had ever lived, these committed followers of Jesus should have been as qualified as any seminary graduate for this work of the Great Commission. But Christ had another and more urgent command for them. They were specifically instructed to wait until they had received "the promise of the Father." They would not be prepared to preach the true Gospel of the kingdom of God until they had first experienced an abundant entrance into the Son's Kingdom-life.

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one {Adam}, *much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life* through the One, Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:17)

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; *for so an*

*entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:10-11)*

The gospel of the kingdom of God is not like other religions. There are many human religions in this world. Earthly religions are nothing more than a system of beliefs that are put together using mere words. In contrast, the gospel of the kingdom of God offers lost souls a heavenly life that must be lived through the power of God's Spirit. "For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power." (1 Cor. 4:20) We overcome the fallen life that everyone receives from Adam by sharing with the Son in His reigning life.

Many within the church have been deceived by the devil into thinking that Christianity is simply a matter of believing certain facts. But believing certain truths is not the same as sharing with the Son in the fullness of His life. A. W. Tozer once said, "Truth divorced from life is not truth in its Biblical sense, but something else and something less... No man is better for knowing that God in the beginning created the heaven and the earth. The devil knows that, and so did Ahab and Judas Iscariot. No man is better for knowing that God so loved the world of men that He gave His only begotten Son to die for their redemption. In hell there are millions who know that." In other words, your belief in certain words is not enough. The only way you can fulfill God's purpose for your life is by living under the control and power of Christ's Spirit.

The first disciples did not set out to do their assigned work by trying to spread another religion of mere words. They waited until their Lord had come to them in the "power of an endless life" and had clothed them with His life of true righteousness. (Heb. 7:16) Only then did they truly begin to understand the "gospel of the kingdom of God." This blessing provided them with an inward knowledge of Christ's life of holy love—a love that surpasses human understanding. (Eph. 3:17-19)

He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit {immersed into the firstfruits of the eternal life of God} not many days from now."...But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:4-5, 8)

And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life. (1 John 2:25)

We should begin to see why every called-out child of God is required to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." The first disciples had already seen the resurrected Lord in a glorified body. But that was not enough. They did not become living witnesses of His resurrection life until He came back to fill their inner being with His divine Presence on the day of Pentecost. They could not be true "witnesses" of His resurrection life and lead others into His eternal kingdom until He had made the Kingdom-life known within them.

Jesus came to Galilee, *preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God*, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and *the kingdom of God is at hand*." (Mark 1:14-15)

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste {physical} death *till they see the kingdom of God present with power*. (Mark 9:1)



Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you {the promise to establish the Kingdom-life within the heart}; *but tarry* {wait}...*until you are endued with power from on high.* (Luke 24:49)

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. (Matt. 16:28)

I will come to you... Because I live {in the eternal Kingdom-life}, you will live also {in the same life}. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. (John 14:18-20)

Many of Christ's disciples who had received this promise were physically alive when the kingdom of God came to them in power. Although they had previously received the "birthright," they still needed to seek out this heavenly "blessing." Only then were they qualified to carry out the Great Commission.

While the kingdom was near to them for three years as they walked with Jesus—a life they could see in Him, they did not possess this unique quality of life until the day of Pentecost. Can you begin to see how the Gospel of the kingdom of God—the Gospel that Christ wants preached throughout the world—would have been greatly distorted if these earnest followers of Jesus had not first entered into His heavenly Kingdom-life?

The same principle applies today. Most modern Christians are like the first disciples before Pentecost. While they have received the birthright, and have an inward desire to live for the Lord and follow His ways, they know very little about the eternal Kingdom-life that would enable them to reign with Him over the flesh, the world and the devil. (Rom. 5:10, 17) They will not be able to spread the true gospel of the kingdom of God until He reveals His heavenly life within their inner being.

Much of the church has been operating without the power of Christ's Kingdom-life. The world has therefore come to know the Christian faith as just another religious system where people believe in mere words. In fact, there is very little difference between Christianity and the political parties that further the kingdoms of this world. Preachers have become little more than politicians who turn others to their favored system of beliefs. They are attempting to further the eternal kingdom of God without having first experienced for themselves "*the kingdom of God present with power.*"

The church has had a tendency to focus on programs, self-improvement techniques and political agendas in an attempt to further God's cause in the world. In contrast, the apostle Paul expended his life preaching *the gospel of the kingdom of God*. It was his purpose "to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." (Col. 2:28) And it should be obvious that programs, laws and political agendas will fall short of this goal of "the gospel of the kingdom of God." We therefore need to follow Paul's example by expending our lives "testifying of the kingdom of God."

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom *he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God*, persuading them concerning Jesus Christ from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets {using the Scriptures to show how Christ is the Messiah who has come to initiate God's eternal kingdom in the hearts of men} *from morning till evening*. And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved {as they do today}. (Acts 28:23-24)

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, *preaching the kingdom of God* and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence... (Acts 28:30-31)

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.* (Matt. 24:14)

Paul did not speak as a lawyer who presents someone else's case based on what he had heard or read. As an actual witness to the reality of Christ's Kingdom-life, he could speak with the authority of personal knowledge. Unfortunately, we have mostly scribes in the church today. They can only report what they have read in the Scriptures. This kind of message is powerless when it comes to drawing others into the kingdom of God and His life of true righteousness.

The Spirit is given to Christians to open their spiritual sight and to enable them to begin understanding the deeper things of God. The first disciples received the gift of the indwelling Spirit immediately after the Son was resurrected. (John 20:21-22) But even this very significant step in their spiritual progress did not establish the Son's Kingdom-life of heavenly love within their hearts. After they were given the Spirit to help them understand the deeper things of God, the risen Lord remained with them another "forty days" to teach them about "the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3)

We believe this period of "forty days" is significant because this number "forty" always represents a time of trial and testing. It involves the period of salvation that takes place between the new birth and the abundant entrance into Christ's Kingdom-life of promise. God needs time to scourge every son and daughter He receives for the purpose of breaking their old self-sufficient and self-exalting spirit. There needs to be a complete loss of all hope in self, along with this world's humanistic thought processes, before there will be a readiness to die to the old self-originated form of life. It is only in this weakness that God's power can be perfected through our lives. (2 Cor. 12:9)

Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as {dependent and trusting} little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:3)

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit {live through the Spirit}, rejoice in Christ Jesus {for what He is doing}, *and have no confidence in the flesh.* (Phil. 3:3)

It was during these forty days that the first disciples came to a full realization that they were being asked to further a form of life that exceeds human understanding and human power. No mind has ever conceived what God has prepared in the heavenly realms for those who love Him. We are totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit to reveal this heavenly life within our inner being. (1 Cor. 2:9-10) Recognizing this deep need is what prepared the first disciples to wait for the long awaited "promise of the Father." It was only after Christ came to them in the "power of an endless life" that they could serve Him "without fear, *in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of {their} life.*" (Luke 1:74-75) They were radically transformed from the inside out when the Son's Kingdom-life was fully established within their hearts on the day of Pentecost.

What was it that Jesus had been telling them? From the beginning of His ministry He came "preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God." John the Baptist, in a reference to the same kingdom, said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matt. 3:2) Let

us praise the Lord! We can all be “filled” with Christ’s heavenly righteousness and begin revealing His Kingdom-life as we walk through this world.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness {while passing through the testing period}, for they shall be filled. (Matt. 5:6)

It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. (Lam. 3:26)

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:17-19)

*Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. (Ps. 37:5-7)*

For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation.... (Mic. 7:7)

While the way of the cross will entail some suffering—including a scourging that destroys the old self-sufficient spirit—it is absolutely essential to endure this course until the Kingdom-life has been fully established within the heart. Those who turn away, or continue to rely on humanistic psychology as a means for lifting themselves spiritually, will not be permitted to enter into God’s Presence. We therefore exhort you to continue in the faith until you have found an abundant entrance into His eternal kingdom.

And when they had preached the gospel {of the kingdom of God} to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, *exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations {come to the end of the flesh-life and} enter the kingdom of God.”* (Acts 14:21-22)

Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life {this heavenly Kingdom-life}, and there are few who find it. (Matt. 7:14)

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price {when he had a clear vision of what he could possess}, *went and sold all that he had {everything from his old self-originated form of life} and bought it.* (Matt. 13:45-46)

So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has {from His self-originated form of life} cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:33)

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.* (Matt. 24:14)

The church in general has not been preaching this gospel of the kingdom of God to the world. While the Lord has already set up missionary structures throughout the world to communicate this glorious truth, the real message has not yet gone out. May we all come into the reality of the truth by becoming living witnesses of Christ’s heavenly life so we may begin to further this true Gospel of the kingdom of God!

We will close this chapter with some thoughts from I. Parker Maxey’s book, *Man’s Ascent to God*. He helps us to see the importance of earnestly seeking the kingdom of

God and His righteousness. He has also provided some further insight into why many Christians do not enter into this life of promise.

When we look at all those who profess to be Christians, questions arise as to why some persons “find” God and commune with Him in a way others do not. Why does God manifest His Presence so wonderfully to some while others struggle across the years of life with an imperfect Christian experience? God’s will is the same for all. He has no favorites. What He does for one He will do for all...

What is it? Their likeness (as A. W. Tozer points out) is found in their spiritual receptivity. They possessed a spiritual awareness and they were eager, yea, they went on zealously to cultivate it until it became the greatest thing in their lives. In those special times of divine visitation they acquired the life long habit of spiritual response and rose to further spiritual heights... *They avoided the mediocrity that leads to spiritual death by an acquired habit of ready response to that inner voice of God.* They were not disobedient to the heavenly vision...

Fellowship with God as He has designed it can be known in its fullness only by the pure in heart. Matt. 5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Heb. 12:14, “...holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” In both of these passages, “seeing” God means in life here as well as in the life hereafter. Entire sanctification, however, is not an end but an inception. For after sanctification there begins the glorious pursuit, the heart’s happy exploration of the infinite riches of the Godhead...

*God wills that we should push into His Presence and live our whole life there. This is to be known to us in conscious experience...* The greatest fact of the tabernacle was that Jehovah God was there—His Presence was waiting within the inner veil. It is likewise in Christian experience. The central fact in our life is the Presence of God and He invites His children to push on into deeper conscious communion.

So many who profess to know God know Him only in theory. It is sad but true that the world is perishing for lack of the knowledge of God and by and large the Church is famishing for want of His Presence. At the same time, God is everywhere present. (Psalm 139:7-12) However, the Presence of God and the manifestation of that Presence are not the same...

In the face of all this, why are some hearts still cold? Far too many live out their lives in a mechanical, routine existence. A. W. Tozer points out that behind this, however, there is a reason. What is it but the presence of a veil in their hearts that has not been removed... It is but the threads out of which an inner veil is woven, fine threads of a self-life—self-righteousness, self-pity, self-confidence, self-sufficiency, self-admiration, self-love, and a host of other things that dwell deep in their inner being and are so much a part of their natures that they never come to the light until the light of God is focused on them. *That self-life is the veil that hides the face of God from them...*

## Pressing Into the Kingdom of God

After being miraculously born of the Spirit and blessed with a real inward hunger for God's life of true righteousness and holiness, there is still a need to learn how to enter into the Kingdom-life of promise and live through Christ. The Son established the New Man when He came to live as the Second Adam. We are now expected to put off the old Adam and put on the New Adam. Full salvation entails living through the life of Christ. Those who will press forward in their faith until they have truly died to their old self-originated form of life will find His heavenly Kingdom-life of promise. (Matt. 16:24-25)

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. {We are not to live in the strength of the flesh.} For if you live according to the flesh {after receiving the gift of the Spirit} you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body {the self-originated works of the flesh}, you will live {in the eternal Kingdom-life of promise}. (Rom. 8:12-13)

If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and *that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.* (Eph. 4:21-24)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed... But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (Rom. 13:11, 14)

The renewing of our mind involves learning to distinguish between what comes from the “spirit of the world” and what comes from “the Spirit of God.” The two ways are diametrically opposed to each other. In God's kingdom, where He is the source of everything, we are to live in the weakness of dependent faith. It is when we have come to the end of ourselves—the old self-originated ways of the flesh—that we are enabled to perfect God's power by living through His Spirit. We walk as Jesus did by learning to walk in the power of His Spirit.

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)

But let patience have its perfect work {where you learn to wait on the movements of the Spirit and walk in Him}, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (Jam. 1:4)

The only way we will ever be in a place where we truly lack “nothing,” is when we are walking under the control and power of the Holy Spirit. It brings us into the heavenly life of promise where we know that God is in full control of every aspect of our life. Because we are doing nothing out from ourselves, but permitting the Spirit to direct all of our steps, we can depend on the Sovereign God of the universe to make sure everything in our life is working out according to His perfect will.

Jesus said, "I do nothing of Myself... And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." (John 8:28-29) Jesus depended on the Father to be the source of His life and works. He then instructed us to walk as He did so that we may consistently abide in His life. If Jesus had to live by the Spirit to remain in union with the life of His Father, we should begin to see how important it is to learn to walk in the Spirit as He did. As the Father never left the Son alone, the Son never leaves anyone alone when they are truly walking by His Spirit. "And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20)

Can you honestly say with Jesus, "I do nothing of myself"? The Son revealed how God intended for man to live. He did not do anything independently of His Father in His own strength. Everything He did had its source in the Father. "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven." (John 3:27) His responsibility while living as a man was to live through the eternal Spirit. He then instructed us to follow Him.

The only way we can enter into this life of promise is by dying to our old independent and self-sufficient form of life. God is the source of everything in the kingdom of heaven. He expects everyone to walk in the power of His Spirit. And it is by choosing to enter into this life of promise that we can expect the Son to make Himself known within our inner being in the same way the Father lived through Him. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18)

God intends for everyone to live as vessels of His life and works. Not only does He manifest Himself within the temple of our body, but He also supplies whatever is needed to carry out His plans. Thus, it is by living through the Spirit of Christ that we become "perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (Jam. 1:4)

Jesus sent out seventy-two disciples to do the work of the kingdom of God without any supplies. After returning they reported how they never lacked anything that was needed in their assigned work. They could have said with Jesus, "He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." Every child of God who will live in the center of His will is in a position to rely on Him to work out all things for their good. He will work with His power through providence to care for their needs. They perfect His power in their lives through a dependent and trusting faith in Him. "According to your faith will it be done to you." (Matt. 9:29 NIV)

### **Choosing God's Way of Life**

There are numerous biographies on record to show how God works in the lives of those who follow this course of absolute surrender to His will. They give up everything to follow Jesus and to live for His purposes. While everyone is taken through trying periods in this walk of faith, they continue to testify to the fact that God continues to work out everything in His perfect will. Those who are walking by the Spirit according to God's will are in a place where God takes responsibility for insuring they have everything that is needed to carry out His plans.

We say these things because many Christians, out of fear for their future, have been violating God's word by laying up treasures on earth. Many of those in the church have chosen to hold onto their own sufficiency. Lacking a deep faith in God, they insist on relying on themselves and their own works. It is the reason they spend so much time building up their own little kingdoms to protect themselves. It results in a self-sufficiency that keeps them separated from the kingdom of God and His life of righteousness.

Jesus specifically said, “*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...*” (Matt. 6:19-20) Treasures on earth become idols in God’s sight because these things encourage people to live in the strength of their own flesh. They end up attaching their heart and their faith to these temporal things.

The Lord expects us to use His resources in the work of furthering His kingdom. Now is the day to enter into the kingdom of God where He supplies everything we need, including our spiritual life. Thus, in these last days of this current world we should be expending everything we have in furthering His eternal kingdom.

Those who are still following the self-seeking ways of this world are living under the sway of the devil. He is the “prince” of this current world system, and so he leads everyone to walk “according to the course of this world.” (Eph. 2:2) It is in this sense that “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.” (1 John 5:19) These poor lost souls are following his self-exalting and self-seeking way of life. But as they live as a friend of this world system, they make themselves an enemy of God. (Jam. 4:4)

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic {of the devil}. For where envy {with its source in self-exaltation} and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (Jam. 3:15-16)

We need to realize that it was Satan who introduced the way of independence to the world. Jesus speaks of how the devil lives from his “own resources.” (John 8:44) It implies that he lives in his own sufficiency. God originally created a world where He would be the source of everything. It would enable Him to receive all the glory. But Satan wanted to have his own honor and glory. He therefore chose to live out from himself and to build up his own kingdom. And this is the corrupt way of life that he introduced to the world. Everyone is under the sway of the devil because they are now living out from themselves in the flesh for their own gain. This self-originated form of life enables them to build up their own little kingdoms so they may have their own honor and glory. And while they may think it is possible to serve self and God at the same time, they are following a world-system that is an abomination in God’s sight.

Do not love the world *or the things in the world*. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him... And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides {in His life of heavenly love} forever. (1 John 2:15, 17)

“No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and mammon.” Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. *For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*”

The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. (Luke 16:13-16)

God expects everyone to press into His eternal kingdom where He becomes the source of everything. And it is not possible to enter into this heavenly life while following the independent and self-sufficient ways of the devil. This fallen form of life is an abomination in the sight of God. We need to greatly fear everything that leads to a sense of self-sufficiency.

We should begin to see why hoarding resources for the purpose of building up personal kingdoms in this age of fulfillment is evil in God's sight. We are living in the age when everyone can begin living under the control and power of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to store up treasures on earth as a means for supporting our spiritual life when we are walking in the Spirit as Jesus did. In fact, those who walk in the Spirit find they never lack anything. (Jam. 1:4) Let us therefore press into this Kingdom-life of promise even though it will entail doing violence against the old flesh-life which naturally desires to store up treasures on earth as it lives for its own gain. We must avoid the wide road that is taken by the many and leads to destruction.

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. (Matt. 11:12 NIV)

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. *You have heaped up treasure in the last days... You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.* (Jam. 5:1-5)

And having food and clothing {the basic necessities of life}, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich {desire to possess more than the basic necessities of life} fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts *which drown men in destruction and perdition*. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:8-10)

God requires His children to use their resources in the work of furthering His eternal kingdom. In this age of fulfillment, when we can lead people into His heavenly Kingdom-life of holy love, He does not want us hoarding these resources for our own pleasures. And yet, many in the church have been rejecting His clear commands. They have been storing up treasures on earth. And these things are corrupting their lives. These hoarded goods will stand as a witness to the fact that they never truly submitted to Christ's teachings. Even though they may insist they are serving the Lord, they are effectively serving themselves. And no one can serve two masters. They have become like Judas by using the resources from Christ's money bag for their own purposes.

Anthony Groves was George Muller's brother in law. Both of these men fully submitted to the teachings of the Gospel in every detail. It is the reason why God was able to honor the work of their hands. While obedience to our Lord's Sermon on the Mount led Mr. Groves through some severe tests when he first began to respond to the truth, he eventually surrendered and gained an abundant entrance into the Kingdom-life that this truth depicts. In the following statements he assures us that it is not God's purpose to enrich us with material gain in this world. This is not our home. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." (1 Tim. 6:7) We are living in the age of fulfillment when God intended for every available resource to be used in the work of furthering His eternal kingdom. (Jam. 5:1-3)

Oh! How hard it is to persuade the rebellious and proud heart, that to depend on our Father's love for our constant support is more for the soul's



health than to be clothed in purple and fare sumptuously every day from what we call our own resources; and yet how plain it is to spiritual vision...

Do you think that any becomes really richer in the world by following the Gospel? It appears to me, if they do, it must be by listening to precepts by halves: for instance, when the Apostle says, "Let him that stole steal no more: but labor, working with his hands the thing which is good" here they would stop, or say, that he may become a respectable member of society, instead of adding, "*that he may have to give to him that needeth.*" And they would be ready to say, "Not slothful in business;" but forget, "fervent in spirit, *servicing the Lord.*" Indeed, the Gospel impoverishes you in the things of earth; but overwhelms you, in return, with the things of Heaven. It empties, that it may fill you with the fullness of Him Who contains the treasures of God.

Possessions become "unclean" when they are not fully devoted to the Lord for His use. These unclean things are what separate the eternal soul from God's eternal life. It is like trying to take an unconsecrated thing into the holy of holies. It always results in a dying form of spiritual life.

Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean {anything that is not wholly devoted to the Lord and His work}, and I will receive you {into the Kingdom-life of promise}."... Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor 6:17; 7:1)

No matter how hard people work to develop themselves spiritually by using the methods of this world, this form of spiritual life will continue to die. The Lord cannot receive them into His everlasting Kingdom-life until they come out from the self-exalting and self-seeking ways of this world. May we all see that today is the day to enter into the eternal kingdom of God where He is the source of everything!

And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after {those who do not have faith in God}, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God {His Kingdom-life of holy love}, and all these things {the necessities of life} shall be added to you.

Do not fear, little flock, *for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.* {He will lift you spiritually into His Kingdom-life where He is the source of everything.} *Sell what you have* {the non-essentials that you have hoarded for your own pleasures and glory} *and give alms* {give to those who are in need}; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:29-34)

Christ has commanded His followers to go into all the world and make disciples by teaching others to "observe all things" He commanded. (Matt. 28:20) They must be taught all of these spiritual principles before they can find His Kingdom-life. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations,

and then the end will come.” (Matt. 24:14) Unfortunately, we have been spreading a form of Christian religion that has failed to reveal the true teachings of the kingdom of God.

We are now in that all-important period of time when Christ is seeking to build His eternal kingdom. And the way He intends to draw people into His “light of life” is by revealing His perfect love through the members of His body. But He cannot carry out this work while they are still living for themselves and the pleasures of this world.

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all that *those who live should live no longer for themselves*, but for Him... (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

There are many “rich young rulers” in the church today. They have been unwilling to “sell all” from their self-originated form of life so they may obtain the Pearl of Great Price. They prefer to live in their own sufficiency so they may maintain some of their independence. Some of these professing Christians will obviously insist that their possessions do not have a hold on them. But God sees into the heart. And He knows when these things are still unclean. Their unwillingness to surrender everything to the Lord and begin truly living by His Spirit is what prevents the Lord from manifesting His heavenly Kingdom-life within their heart. He can see how they still have other idols.

In speaking to His “little flock,” Jesus very specifically tells everyone to sell their unneeded possessions. Since He knows that certain necessities are needed, we have to assume He is speaking of those things that are hoarded for the purpose of living for the pleasures of this world. The things may be perfectly innocent in and of themselves, but they become idols within the heart when they are relied upon for spiritual support. Christ will only manifest Himself to those who respond to “all” His teachings. (John 14:21)

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life... (John 10:27-28)

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ {His way of dying to this world}: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly...who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship {our place of life} is in heaven... (Phil. 3:18-20)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above... Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:1-3)

Everyone needs to honestly search their heart in order to determine what they have been using to support themselves spiritually. Those who are still depending on their possessions as a means of spiritual fulfillment are in serious trouble. An idol is something we depend upon other than God. Possessions can therefore separate the eternal soul from the eternal life of God—His Glory. (Jer. 2:11-13) We cannot touch these “unclean things” if we want God to truly “dwell in” and “walk in” the temple of our body.

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you...

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor 6:16-7:1 KJV)

## Living in the Kingdom of Light

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth... And of His fullness we have all received {we all have access to this same heavenly life through faith}, and grace for grace. For the law {which was given to expose the sinful nature and constrain sin} was given through Moses, but grace and truth {the reality of divine life} came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:4, 14, 16-17)

I am the light of the world. He who follows Me {through the cross} shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. (John 8:12)

Worldly-minded people cannot relate to the light and glory that is revealed through the Spirit-filled children of God. “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:5) Fallen man, because of his inward depravity, is naturally self-exalting and self-seeking. He simply cannot relate to the self-emptying and self-giving nature of holy love that Jesus manifests through His disciples.

The “light of life” revealed by Jesus is the life that exists throughout the kingdom of heaven. He revealed the glory of God’s holy love in bodily form. But not everyone was able to see the great value of this heavenly Pearl. Some of the religious leaders in His day even accused Him of being of the devil and doing the works of the devil. They were under such a great deception of the devil that they considered Jesus’ way of life as darkness and their way of life as light.

The same condition exists today. People under the influence of the spirit of the world do not realize how their carnal traits, such as envy (which comes from a self-exalting spirit) and self-seeking (living for self), are actually motivated by the devil. This course leads to self-indulgence and the works of the flesh. Consequently, it spreads darkness throughout the world. And yet people think it is “wise” to live for self and to exalt self.

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (Jam. 3:14-15)

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are...contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath {selfish anger}, selfish ambitions, dissensions...and the like; of which I tell you beforehand...that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-21)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of...self-indulgence. (Matt. 23:25)

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. *For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.* The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.” (Luke 16:14-16)

The light of life from heaven, when it is permitted to shine, will begin to expose every hidden source of carnality. Those who are still living in darkness with a self-exalting and self-seeking nature will naturally become upset with the source of the light. The light of Christ's self-emptying and self-giving way of life exposes their inward corruption.

No one who has been sitting in a dark place likes to have light shine on their face. Similarly, those who have made an image for themselves to glory in themselves do not like having the light of truth as revealed through Jesus shining on their way of life. Consequently, those who shine this divine life onto individuals who have been seeking to build up their own image can expect to be resented. These children of light who live to separate light from darkness will be treated as they treated Jesus.

Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. {His divine light shining into darkness causes separation.} For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. (Luke 12:51-53)

*So there was a division among the people because of Him. (John 7:43)*

Everyone who truly follows Christ and becomes a vessel of His heavenly life of holy love will be persecuted. "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12) The essence of darkness is living for self. It naturally produces the works of the flesh. God's life of holy love exposes this self-centered nature in the heart of fallen man. And no one likes to be exposed. Here, then, is the reason why true Christians are treated as an enemy by worldly-minded people.

It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher... If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. *For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.* (Matt. 10:25-26)

The light of life from heaven will eventually expose the carnality that has remained within every heart. If people do not permit God's life of holy love to fill their heart in this world, they will find themselves unable to stand before Him with confidence on the Day of Judgment. While they may be able to rise up in their pride and crucify those who are manifesting the Son's lamblike spirit in this world, they will not have such boldness when they stand before the Lord in His full glory.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. (1 John 4:17)

There is no need to fear those who treat us poorly. Let us remember that our Lord gives His hundredfold return for everything we suffer for His sake. The apostle Paul, after two thousand years of eternal life behind him, is not concerned about the suffering he experienced while revealing the Son's light of life in this world. Right now he is thankful for all the blood he spilled in leading others into our Lord's eternal kingdom.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,* for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt. 5:11-12)

Yes, we are expected to become filled with God's glory and manifest the Son's life of holy love in this world. Today is the day to begin living through Him. What a thought

this is for every true believer to cherish, regardless of the persecution! We are speaking about the firstfruits of the life of heaven. And remember, this heavenly life is more than sufficient to provide all the spiritual support we need regardless of the difficulties.

As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God {His heavenly Kingdom-life} *which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Rom. 8:36-39)

Christ desires to live His life of holy love through each of the members of His body. Those who will abandon themselves to live by His Spirit will fill a place in His great and everlasting plan according to His perfect wisdom and knowledge. Nothing can ever be done to these children of faith without it passing through His Sovereign will for some divine and glorious purpose. Everything that occurs, whether it is apparently good or bad, will have its everlasting reward. Thus, as we walk by His Spirit, we never come out from under His care and are never separated from His counsel.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye {an eye that always sees into the future}. (Ps. 32:8)

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought {during even the most severe difficulties of life}, and strengthen your bones; *You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail...* You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In {the one who works to restore the eternal kingdom of God}. (Isa. 58:11-12)

The Spirit-filled children of God are in this world of darkness for one purpose. We are here to draw others into the eternal kingdom of light. But we must once again point out this very important and even fearful qualification: While the things of nature all serve their uses and never break out of their appointed place (since they do not have a freedom of will), not so with man. We are able to refuse our appointed place and duties. Of course, while this rebellion continues, it is not possible to be counted as one of the obedient sons of God who will be revealed with Christ in glory. May we all wake up and see the necessity of living as a vessel of the His life and will.

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day... As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (John 9:4-5)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them... But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. (Eph. 5:8-13)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God...and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, *if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.* (Rom. 8:14, 17)

Every member of Christ's body should be working toward the same goal of leading others into God's eternal kingdom where His will is always done. It entails subduing the independent wills of fallen man by the power of His Spirit. He blesses us with His life and enables us to live in His image so we may have dominion to do the work of furthering His eternal kingdom in our appointed sphere of labor.

God created man for the purpose of spreading His light of life throughout this world. "Then God blessed them {with the divine image}, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth {with children of light} *and subdue it; have dominion...*'" (Gen. 1:28) This is how God planned for His children to live in the beginning, and it is how He wants us to live even in this fallen world. He wants to provide us with a special dominion by sharing His life and power with us so we may be fruitful in our appointed sphere of labor by drawing others into the same Kingdom-life of heavenly love.

As the Father loved Me {as the Father revealed the divine life of holy love through the Son}, I also have loved you {by making the same life of holy love available to everyone who walks by the Spirit}; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love {share with Him in His eternal life}. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends... You did not choose Me, but *I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.* (John 15:9-16)

Expending time attempting to fix people up by conforming them to certain laws never produces the lasting fruit of a divine life. Our work of subduing this fallen world all revolves around leading others to Christ and His Kingdom-life. He is "the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6) We are to present everyone "perfect in Christ" by showing them how to enter into His "light of life" This is the only fruit that is truly lasting. And the only way we can carry out this everlasting work is by following Christ through the cross, sharing with Him in His "light of life," and praying in His Spirit.

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God {on the throne of power and dominion}. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died {to the flesh and the world}, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:1-3)

Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city... (Heb. 13:14)

### **Turning to God's Plan for Your Life**

Some people do not turn to God and His will until after they have wasted many years trying to find happiness through a pursuit of temporal pleasures in this world. That highest and best place of service for which God had originally intended for them is no longer possible. But that does not exclude them from God's current plans. He continues to make adjustments, and He still has a will that needs to be fulfilled.

God has a complete and perfect plan for your life—a divine biography already marked out. This life, rightly unfolded, will be a complete and beautiful whole—one that is continually being opened before you through a work of God’s hidden power. You can count on Him to reveal His plans and truly satisfy your soul with His indwelling Presence as you walk in His will. “The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your soul...” (Isa. 58:11)

As sad as it is, your choice to live entirely or even partly by your own will has prevented God from doing the things He originally planned to do through your life. And yet there is still a special work He wants to accomplish through you. There will be a next best thing He desires to work out. But He must wait for you to completely surrender to His will. He will keep calling you to the best thing that is left until all good possibilities are narrowed down and spent.

God will appoint the best methods for leading you into what He has planned. And so, as you pass through each stage in your Spirit-directed way of life, you will begin to see how every event has become the most effective means to prepare you for your future assignments, both here and in eternity. Your life is a school that has been adapted to provide lessons tailored for you.

If you will remain yielded to the leading of the Spirit and keep seeking to understand His latest guidance, He will prepare you for the highest possible place of service in your Lord’s eternal kingdom. This way of walking in the Spirit also enables the eternal life to grow with ever-increasing glory within your soul. You will then find yourself in the best possible place to enter into eternity. “My sheep hear My voice...and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life...” (John 10:27-28)

You need to realize that the spiritual state you reach in this world will have everlasting ramifications. This is why it is so necessary to count everything “as loss” while *consistently pressing forward* in your walk of faith. This growing from “glory to glory,” which takes place by dying to the ways of this world, will have its hundredfold return in both this life and in the life to come. (Luke 18:29-30) When you begin to look at eternity from this perspective, it becomes quite obvious how there is no place for “retirement” in these spiritual preparations. As Paul discovered, the more we die to the ways of this world, the more we can know the infinite and eternal life of our God.

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection... (Phil. 3:8-10)

You are now being prepared for the position you will hold in God’s eternal kingdom. In comparison to eternity, your life in this world is like a vapor that quickly appears and then disappears. (Jam. 4:14) But what you do “in the Spirit” during this vapor-like period of time will have eternal results. That is why it is far more important for you to learn to live by the Spirit than to attempt to do many “great works” for the Lord in your own strength. It is the life that you permit the Spirit to reveal in and through you that will permit the Lord to place you in a greater position of usefulness in His kingdom.

The Christ-life within your soul is also what makes you productive in the spiritual realm today. It is His life, His power and His will working through you that gives you the authority to carry out your part in the work of furthering His eternal kingdom. He is the One who ultimately accomplishes the work that will remain.

Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is {whether it is from the Spirit or from fleshly human works}. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:13-15)

There is considerable time and effort being put into church programs that never do anything to further our Lord's Kingdom-life of perfect love. While these programs may stimulate the people, and even gather many together in church services, the heavenly life found in Christ's eternal kingdom is not being advanced. These self-originated works of the flesh will not pass through the testing fires of Judgment. Of course, because these human programs are typically carried out in "ignorance," those who do the work may still be saved in the end. (1 Cor. 3:13-15) But these individuals will then discover how much better it would have been to become a vessel of the Lord's life and works.

Let us perfect holiness in the fear of God. Those who are still living by their own will and attempting to find happiness by building up their own little kingdoms in this world are in serious trouble. If this has been your case, we plead with you to lay down your own will and permit God to manifest His life and will through the temple of your body.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. (1 Cor 3:16-19)

We will close this chapter with some thoughts from an unknown writer. He assures us that God has a plan for every individual—a plan that we can ruin if we do not fully submit to the leadings of His Spirit. God must be permitted to be the source of everything we do.

Many men wreck their lives by determinedly carrying out their own plans without reference to the plans of God. In an army, every part, every brigade and regiment, must wait the commander's orders. If any battalion moves independently, though ever so heroically, it not only confuses the whole plan of battle, but brings disaster to itself as well in the end. So each individual must always wait for God's command to move. Keep your eye on the pillar of cloud and fire that leads. Rest when the pillar rests, move when it moves. Never lag behind, but be sure you never run ahead... You can hurry the unfolding of God's providence, but you will only mar the Divine plan unless you wait for Him...

He would weave all our lives into patterns of loveliness. He has a perfect plan for each. It is only when we refuse to work according to His plan that we mar the web... Keep your hands off, and let God weave as He pleases. Do you think you know better than He does what your life ought to be?



## Paul's Walk with God

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. (John 9:4)

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Cor 11:1 NIV)

But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as he pleased. (1 Cor. 12:18)

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Rom. 11:29)

The members of Christ's body are like the members of a human body in the sense that everyone is expected to receive their guidance from the Head. The body of Christ cannot function properly if individual members are living independently of what Christ has planned for them to do.

If we do not choose to seek out the will of the Lord and permit Him to direct our steps through life we will find that we are not attached to the Vine. We can only bear the heavenly fruit that lasts as we abide in the life and will of Christ. Those who remain detached by directing their own steps through life will find that their spiritual life continues to wither in spite of all their efforts to build it up.

He who abides in Me {by living in the Spirit}, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me {but chooses to direct his own steps}, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:5-6)

The apostle Paul provides a good example of how Christ planned to live and work through the members of His body. He tells us to follow his example by walking in the Spirit as Jesus did. It will therefore help to provide an overview of his life in the Spirit.

Paul was a religious man who began to live for God from a very young age. In the beginning, however, he served God in his own strength according to his own will. This way of self-sufficiency prevented him from walking in the Spirit of God and sharing with Christ in His divine life and will. Fortunately, Paul eventually submitted to Christ, began walking by the Spirit in his assigned work and finished his appointed course. This is the lesson that everyone must learn before they will be in a position to consistently manifest the Lord's life and works. "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit."

The apostle Paul, like all of God's children, had a special calling on his life. Every member of Christ's body has their own calling. We should not be trying to copy what someone else is doing. Paul's ministry is not our ministry. We must discover what God has purposed to work out through our lives. But we can use Paul's testimony to help reveal how God leads His children into their calling. Let us begin by listening to him.

But when it pleased God, *who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles*, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter... (Gal 1:15-18)

God began the process of calling Paul into a specific work from his birth. But Paul did not respond to the plan from the beginning. After years of kicking against a painful prick (the convicting work of the Holy Spirit), which was intended to turn Paul to a Spirit-directed way of life, Christ eventually apprehended him on the Damascus road. He was humbled to the point where he asked the Lord for guidance. Even though he honestly thought he was serving God while living as a Pharisee, this work was being carried out in his own will. But he could not be led into the eternal kingdom of God until he had accepted Christ as His Sovereign King. He became a true child of God by choosing to enter into a Spirit-directed way of life.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.  
(Rom. 8:14)

My sheep hear My voice...and they follow Me... (John 10:27-28)

So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (Acts 9:6)

The ninth chapter of Acts also reveals how there were scales on his eyes. These physical scales very possibly represent a spiritual principle. He remained in a state of spiritual blindness even after agreeing to yield to the Lord's will. He was converted in one sense, but he had not yet passed through the Red Sea. There was a need for someone to teach him how to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and explain to Him about this Spirit-directed way of life. Only then could the spiritual blindness be taken away.

It is helpful to understand God's spiritual types. For example, the Jews received forgiveness of sin when they first put the blood on the door frame while still in Egypt. But it was not until they experienced the miracle at the Red Sea that the Spirit came as the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day to lead them through the wilderness.

After Paul received the Spirit, he was led into the desert of Arabia. Jesus set the same course when He was led into the desert after the Spirit came to Him. It is a principle that God reveals over and over again. The wilderness is where the children of God lose their own strength and learn to walk in the power of the Spirit. It is a place where the mind must be completely renewed. It is where we are fully converted and learn to live as dependent and trusting little children so we may share with Christ in His Kingdom-life.

Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as  
{dependent and trusting} little children, you will by no means enter the  
kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:3)

The Spirit did not direct Paul to the apostles in Jerusalem because these lessons are typically worked out in human experience. He already had the Scriptures. His problem was in how he applied the truth. His previous learning was deeply influenced by the self-sufficient spirit of this world. And these old worldly thought process had to be removed from his mind before he could truly live in childlike dependence upon God. This work generally takes place while being taken through difficult trials in a wilderness experience. As Peter would say, you can "greatly rejoice, *though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials.*" (1 Pet. 1:6) Once the self-sufficient spirit is truly broken, it then becomes possible to perfect God's power through the weakness of dependent faith. When we are truly living by the Spirit alone, in contrast to trying to live in our own fleshly strength, we become "complete, lacking nothing."

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing  
that the testing of your faith produces patience {a willingness to wait on

the movements of the Spirit}. But let patience have its perfect work, *that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.* (Jam. 1:2-4)

Insisting that we “love Jesus” is not enough. There can be only one Head of the body. And we cannot be a functioning part of that body until we have died to the independent and self-sufficient ways of this world. Paul was in the desert for three years renewing his mind. And yet, we believe these lessons can be learned much more quickly today now that we have the truth set before us in writing and we can see what God is attempting to work out. Thus, our responsibility is to present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice and then permit our mind to be renewed in this new way of living by the Spirit.

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

### **God’s General Calling**

Returning to our text in Galatians, we see that Paul received an inner revelation of the life of the Son before being led into his specific calling. The order is, “it pleased God...*to reveal His Son in me,* that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.” (Gal. 1:15-16) It is this inner revelation of Christ’s Kingdom-life within the temple of the body that enables the individual to become a living witness of the “gospel of the kingdom of God.”

As Mrs. Booth previously noted, we cannot effectively speak to others about a risen Lord—the Lord who has come to manifest His Kingdom-life through each member of His body—until we have truly come to know this inner revelation of His risen life. Christ will need to come to us in “the power of an endless life” before it is possible to lead others into the same life. (Heb. 7:16) We reveal His “light of life” in this world, and draw others into the same kingdom of light, by sharing with Him in His life of holy love—the heavenly life that never fails. (1 John 4:17; 1 Cor. 13)

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him... He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:5-6)

Jesus had previously revealed Himself to Paul as an outward manifestation on the road to Damascus. But this was not enough. Paul also needed to experience this inner revelation of the Son’s divine life.

An outward Jesus could not help Paul any more than Jesus was able to help His first disciples when He was still walking with them in the flesh. Jesus told His disciples they would be better off after He returned to His Father. Only then could He come back to each one of them in the power of the Spirit to “dwell in them and walk in them.” Similarly, Paul also had to wait for the Lord to come to him as an indwelling life before he could begin a Pentecostal ministry in the Spirit. “It pleased God...*to reveal His Son in me,* that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.”

Christ has promised to come to every believer in the reigning power of His Kingdom-life. Once the first disciples understood this need, they were prepared to wait until the kingdom of God came to them in power. Everyone who intends to be a part of the Lord’s work of furthering His eternal kingdom will first need to receive this inner manifestation of His Kingdom-life within their heart.

Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power. (Mark 9:1)

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom. (Matt. 16:28)

I will come to you... Because I live {in the eternal Kingdom-life}, you will live also {in the same life}...I will love him and manifest Myself to him. (John 14:18-21)

Jesus did not speak in error. Many of the first disciples did not die physically before He came to them in the power of His Spirit to reveal His Kingdom-life within their inner being. It is in this same sense that we find the apostle Paul saying in all honesty, “it pleased God...to reveal His Son *in me*, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.”

### **God’s Specific Calling**

Let us now go back to Paul’s specific calling. He said that God had been calling him to a special work from his birth. From the beginning God has had His plans for each of His human children.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, *which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* (Eph. 2:10)

While most people continue in their fallen state, which is the self-directed way of life, God still has a purpose for them. Quite obviously, those who are still directing their own steps through life will never find “the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Rom. 12:2) God therefore never considers someone fully saved until they have presented themselves to Him as a living sacrifice to be led by His Spirit according to His purposes.

God is often working behind the scenes in the life of a sinner—those who are still directing their own steps. Even though time is being lost in one sense, the Lord can still be making preparations that can be used later when there has been a complete surrender to the divine will. The following comments from Barnes’ notes on Galatians 1:15 will help to amplify these important truths:

1. God has purposes in regard to people from their very birth. He designs them for some field of labor, and endows them at their creation with talents adapted to that.

2. It does not follow that because a young man has gone far astray; and has become even a blasphemer and a persecutor, that God has not destined him to some important and holy work in His service. How many people have been called, like Paul, and Newton, and Bunyan, and Augustine, from a life of [deep] sin to the service of God.

3. God is often training up people in a remarkable manner for future usefulness. His eye is upon them, and He watches over them... His providence was concerned in the education and training of Paul. It was by the divine intention with reference to his future work that he had so many opportunities of education, and was so well acquainted with the “traditions” of...religion...

With these thoughts in mind, we also need to understand another important truth. The fact that God has planned to use an individual in a certain way, and has even equipped him to do the work, does not necessarily mean the work will be carried out. God never

takes away an individual's freedom of choice. There must be a *personal response* to what God has been leading the individual to do through His providence and the convicting work of the Holy Spirit.

This same principle applied to the apostle Paul. In spite of all that God had done to prepare him, he could have resisted and gone his own way. But Paul did not turn away from God's will. He specifically spoke of remaining "faithful" to the Lord. It was his faithfulness to the leading of Christ's Spirit that eventually enabled God to put Paul into the ministry that was planned for him from the beginning.

And I thank Christ Jesus *our Lord* who has *enabled me, because He counted me faithful*, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. (1 Tim. 1:12-13)

We know that Paul had a long history of desiring to serve God. Even when he was persecuting Christians, and living under a deep deception of the devil, he thought he was working for God. The Lord continued to work with Paul and draw him into the divine will because he was doing it "ignorantly in unbelief." Paul eventually became a Christian and yielded to all revealed light. He permitted the Spirit to lead him into all truth. Being "counted faithful," he became *qualified* to enter into the ministry that God had planned for him from the beginning.

Similarly, every Christian has been created in Christ Jesus for a specific calling. God has gifted each individual to fulfill His plans for their individual lives. We do not decide for ourselves how we are to serve the Lord. "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." (Rom. 11:29) In other words, God's plan cannot be changed by our personal will. Our role is to present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice so that He may lead us into His good and acceptable and perfect will. (Rom. 12:1-2)

We should note that God seldom leads His children directly into the work that He has planned for them to do. As we will see in this overview of Paul's life, there are often preliminary steps to take. We may also spend some time in what appears to be unrelated work, such as "tent making," to support ourselves during the time we are being prepared. We can therefore expect course changes along the way. But we should note, there is a significant difference between changing our course according to our own pleasures and being redirected by the Lord while honestly seeking to know His perfect will.

Every member of the body of Christ is responsible for discovering God's plan for their life. Even though God does take the initiative, each individual must decide to yield to all revealed light. God does not clothe His children with power and *ordain* them for their specific ministry until they have shown themselves to be "faithful" to the leading of His Spirit. They must begin by being faithful in the little things.

Once Paul had died to the self-originated form of life, which includes trying to serve God in the strength of the flesh, he was in a position where Christ could "dwell in" him and "walk in" him. It was no longer his life and will being carried out through his body, but Christ's life and will. "It is no longer I, but Christ." (Gal. 2:20) And once he fully understood how this same principle applied to every member of Christ's body, he could say to all Christians, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus {in His image of love} for good works, *which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*" (Eph. 2:10)

This Scripture reveals how God has planned “beforehand” certain works He wants to accomplish through our lives. This is a very important truth that many members of Christ’s body have failed to learn. And we can expect the leaders of the church to be held accountable. They are the ones who were called by God to build the members of the body up in their faith “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.” (Eph. 4:11-12) To further clarify this matter of having a preordained work, we submit the following comments on Ephesians 2:10.

From Barnes notes: [Which God hath before ordained] Margin, “prepared.” The word here used means to “prepare beforehand,” then to predestinate, or appoint before... God has predestinated us, or appointed us beforehand, that we should walk in them... *It involves the idea of a previous determination, or an arrangement beforehand for securing a certain result.*

From Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary: “before made ready” (cf. John 5:36). God marks out for each in His purposes beforehand the particular good works, the time, and way, which He sees best. God both makes ready by His providence the opportunities for the works, and makes us ready for their performance.

But God can only carry out His pre-planned work as we choose to walk by His Spirit. And so if we resist becoming a Spirit-led child of God, we cannot be a true member of Christ’s body. The wide road that leads to destruction is the way of self-will. “For if you live according to the flesh {according to your own will and desires} you will die... For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Rom. 8:13-14) These are the ones who are assured of being led into God’s divine will and His irrevocable calling.

Christians will often ask God to help them work out the plans they have developed through their own fleshly desires. They follow the way of worldly-minded people by setting their own goals. But this is not God’s way. Once we have submitted to be a living sacrifice to be led by the Spirit (so we may be called “sons of God”), it is our responsibility to seek out God’s will for our life. He has never given anyone, including His dear Son, the right to direct his or her own steps. He knows that even one “loose cannon” living by self-will causes disorder in a world where He planned perfect order.

I know, O Lord, that a man’s life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps. (Jer. 10:23)

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy {with its source in self-exaltation} and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (Jam. 3:15-16)

In the same way the Son lived through the Father and did His Father’s works, we are to live through the Son and, as members of His body, do His works. As Jesus both experienced in His life and revealed to us through His Word, we can only eat of the spiritual food that comes from heaven when we are in the center of His Divine will. Those who are still pursuing earthly goals in the hope of finding spiritual fulfillment are on the wrong course. They will need to seek out God’s will if they hope to find the heavenly food that truly satisfies the soul.

My food {the source of My spiritual sustenance} is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. (John 4:34)

*Listen carefully to Me* {respond to the leadings of the Spirit}, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. (Isa. 55:2)

*The Lord will guide you continually*, and satisfy your soul in drought {even when there is no support from the temporal world}... You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (Isa. 58:11)

Christianity is intended to be a walk of faith where we “continually” look to God to direct our steps. This is what it means to walk by faith rather than by the sight of self-will. There is no place for goal-setting in this life. Like Jesus, we must permit the Spirit of God to “dwell in” and “walk in” us according to His preordained plans.

We may occasionally receive a revelation concerning the future, and our thoughts should go in this direction as we look for the next step. But the details are generally provided one step at a time as needed. The Father purposely keeps us in this state where we live as dependent little children who are led by His hand moment by moment. And please note, the little child seldom understands what is in the future. But he remains satisfied as he permits someone with much greater understanding to lead him in the way he needs to go. “The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul...”

This should help us to see why we must not try to plan our own life. As James has said, it is evil (all self-will is evil) to plan our future. (Jam. 4:13-17) It is not possible to be led by the Spirit when we have set our own goals and have become caught up in working out our own plans. In reality, this carnal way of life is the source of all distress.

Those who become upset when things interfere with their plans need to realize they are still walking in the strength of the flesh. They have not yet fully surrendered everything into the hands of God and acknowledged Him as Sovereign Lord. The Spirit-led children of God are not upset with His providence. He continues to satisfy their soul. They are enabled to “reign in life” over every difficulty because they possess the kingdom of God within their heart, which is “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:16) You will not become distressed and upset when things do not go your way.

The Spirit-led children of God rely on Him to direct all their steps and to be the source of everything they do in life. Because these Spirit-led children wait on God for everything, they know there is nothing that can prevent His will from being worked out in their life.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, *and lean not on your own understanding*; In all your ways acknowledge Him {looking for and expecting guidance from Him}, and he shall direct your paths. *Do not be wise in your own eyes...* (Prov. 3:7-8)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7)

We walk as Jesus did by carefully and continually listening for the still small voice of the Spirit. Our judgments should be based on the impressions we are receiving from God. We therefore need to reckon ourselves as being dead to self-will and honestly say with Jesus, “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear {from the Spirit}, I judge {make decisions

and act}; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” (John 5:30)

We will discuss how to test the spirits in a later chapter. But it is now necessary to see the importance of learning to walk by the Spirit according to our Lord’s will so we may carry out His plans. It is the only way for the soul to remain filled with His Spirit and satisfied as with the richest of foods. (Ps. 63:5)

### **Waiting for Further Guidance**

While the time of preparation for our ministry will be greatly accelerated by entering into this Spirit-directed way of life, we should note that Paul was not immediately led into his missionary calling. God had the plan, but there were details that needed to be worked out before Paul could be sent on His appointed course.

The following Scripture provides another example of how God continues to reveal further details about His specific plans over time. This more specific revelation was given to Paul several years after he had first received the vision about his calling to minister to the Gentiles. He was serving in the church at Antioch when this revelation was received.

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “*Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.*” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, *being sent out by the Holy Spirit*, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. (Acts 13:2-4)

There are a number of facts revealed in this text. First, it should be noted that Paul was already serving the Lord in the body of Christ. As he kept his mind attuned to the leading of the Holy Spirit, he received further instructions. God does not lead us into the greater works until we have shown our faithfulness in the little things. And we are not surprised to learn how Paul received this specific message from God, as did the others, during a time of prayer and fasting.

Secondly, we again note how the *Spirit of God* is the One who appoints God’s children to their work. The words are very clear on this matter: “The Holy Spirit said.” He is the Executive Director of the body of Christ. We are to follow His instructions. We should never choose for ourselves. “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit” is the only way to truly remain in harmony with the Lord and His work.

We say again with emphasis, “the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” (Rom 11:29) God refers to a self-directed form of life as being evil. We are expected to use our freedom of will to choose to yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit must be permitted to work out through our lives what our Lord has already planned to do. “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body {to carry out a specific work} just as He pleased.” (1 Cor. 12:18)

Paul later revealed how the Spirit had both restricted him from going into certain areas and led him into others. Yes, Paul could have broken through these movements of the Spirit and taken the lead. But he had already died to his own will. He knew that God is the one with the plan. It is the responsibility of the child of God to listen to the voice of the Spirit and respond to His leadings. “*The Lord will guide you continually.*” We therefore find Paul consistently waiting on the Spirit of the Lord. This is what kept his soul filled with the eternal life of God. (John 10:27-28)



As Paul indicated to the Galatians, it was Christ, and not himself, carrying out the work through his mortal body. (Gal. 2:20) He could therefore report “all that God had done through them.” (Acts 14:27 NIV) We will only be rewarded for the work that God is permitted to do through us. If our work has its source in the strength of the flesh, rather than in the Spirit, it will be burned. While we may get away with doing works that enable us to receive personal honor and glory in this world, God will never permit us to glory in these fleshly works in His Presence.

The work that we permit God to carry out through our lives by His Spirit will appear to have its source in God. “But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” (John 3:21) God receives all the glory when the work has its source in His Spirit.

Paul eventually came to an understanding of how he was being led to Rome. The Lord had a specific destination for His servant. And yet, he did not set out for Rome on his own initiative. Following Jesus’ own example, he continued to walk in a moment-by-moment leading of the Spirit. Jesus never permitted anyone to press Him into doing something before the appointed time. In a similar sense, Paul continued to wait for God’s timing, which was eventually revealed to him through various works of providence.

Then Jesus said to them {His brothers after they said He should go to the feast}, “My time has not yet come, but your time {because you are still living by your own will} is always ready... You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come.” (John 7:6-8)

### **Remaining Faithful to the End**

Paul was warned by the Spirit about the hardships he would go through in his ministry. And yet he did not draw back. The following verses, in addition to attesting to his faithfulness to the end, will show how the Spirit speaks to those who are fully yielded to His leadings. As Paul remained “bound” to the Holy Spirit, he was able to count on the Spirit to supply the guidance that he needed to finish his appointed course. At the same time, he needed to resist everything that tried to draw him away from this walk of faith in harmony with God’s will.

And see, now I go *bound in the spirit* to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that *the Holy Spirit testifies* in every city, *saying* that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me {away from the divine will}; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy {come to the end of life in this world still living in the joy of the Spirit}, *and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus*, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:22-24)

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection {to the leading of the Spirit}, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified {become a castaway or reprobate for departing from God’s revealed will}. (1 Cor. 9:26-27)

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, *I have kept the faith.* (2 Tim. 4:6-7)

Paul continued to walk in the Spirit until his assigned work was completed. He did not depart from his walk of “faith.” He did not permit the desires of the flesh, which have a natural tendency to turn back to soft living and pleasure seeking, to turn him away from God’s purposes. He chose not to be a castaway. A castaway is something that is defective because it does not do what it was created to do. In other words, it is not enough to simply conform to certain standards and then serve God according to our own will. It will be necessary to stop living for our own pleasures and begin living as God has purposed if we want to avoid being a castaway. For example, the Pharisees made themselves look right on the outside and they served God according to their own will, but they remained self-indulgent. And so they were rejected by God.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of...self-indulgence. (Mat. 23:25)

Even as a chosen apostle, Paul could have potentially turned away from God’s preordained will and gone back to living for his own pleasures. If he had turned away from God’s purposes by turning his mind to earthly things, he would have effectively become an enemy of Christ’s way of the cross and stepped onto the wide road that leads to destruction. God does not show favoritism even to those who once served Him with considerable sacrifice.

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly...who set their mind on earthly things. (Phil. 3:17-19)

Paul followed Christ by choosing to walk by the Spirit regardless of where it led. This is the real meaning of walking in the way of the cross. “Not my will, but Yours be done.” And Paul would need to remain on this course, regardless of where it led, if he wanted to remain a son of God. (Rom. 8:14) Because of the implications of what he has stated, and the horrible possibility of becoming disqualified and cast off by God for not remaining in His will, we have provided the following comments on First Corinthians 9:27.

From Adam Clarke’s Commentary: [Should be a castaway.] The word *adokimos* (NT:96) signifies such a person as the...judges of the games reject as not having deserved the prize. So Paul himself might be rejected by the great Judge; and to prevent this, he ran, he contended, *he denied himself, and brought his body into subjection to his spirit, and had his spirit governed by the Spirit of God.*

From Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary: A cast-away losing the prize myself, after having called others to the contest... Rejected by the Judge of the Christian race, notwithstanding having, by my preaching, led others to be accepted (cf. margin, refuse silver, Jer 6:30; 2 Cor 13:6, “reprobates”).

If we intend to remain a child of God it will be necessary to continue being led by the Spirit of God to the very end, regardless of the suffering it may entail. (Rom. 8:14) Turning back from revealed light always leads to separation from God's eternal life.

We know there are many earnest Christians who have remained unaware of God's calling on their life. Paul himself walked in this ignorance for a number of years. God did not hold him accountable for it. Similarly, there are Christians today who have remained in this spiritual blindness without resisting God's known will concerning their calling. As long as they can stand before the Lord knowing they did not turn back to live for the pleasures of this world, or resisted any other revealed light, they will pass through His judgment. Even when they do turn away, if they repent and turn back to all revealed light, the blood of Jesus will cover any part of His will they may have missed. But we must remember that heaven is reserved for those who have continued to walk in all revealed light to the end. (1 John 1:5-7) "He who endures to the end shall be saved." (Mark 13:13)

### **The Terrible Sin of Willfulness**

God never accepts willful ignorance. Human beings have a tendency to "play dumb" when they want to avoid doing something that is required of them. But this does not work with an all-knowing God. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked." (Gal. 6:7) He sees into the heart and He knows when people are resisting the convicting work of His Spirit.

It is rebellion against God's specific leadings that will result in a loss of the prize. Christ's sacrificial blood cannot help those who are "willfully" missing His mark. It implies a "despising" of His will. It is in this sense that willful sin cannot be forgiven until there has been a true repentance.

*For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God...and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?... The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:26-31 KJV)*

This Scripture does not imply that forgiveness is not available to people who have been willfully resisting God's calling on their life. It simply means that a person cannot be forgiven while refusing to respond to God's will. You cannot turn to Christ's blood, or anyplace else for that matter, and walk in a forgiven state while consciously resisting revealed light. The sin that God detests is the *choice* to miss His known mark. This willfulness indicates a *despising* of His will. All rebellion requires repentance.

It does not matter how much work we have done for the Lord in the past; we can still become a castaway. The devil is always tempting Christians to turn back to the self-indulgent ways of this world. We will not be in a position to say we have "kept the faith" if we do not remain faithful to our calling until the end. Like Paul, we need to come to the place where we can say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race {the appointed course and calling}, I have kept the faith."

We are not referring to people who are prevented from doing what they were once called to do because of physical infirmities. There comes a time when everyone must stop

doing certain types of work. But God will continue to lead His children in a way that keeps them working for His kingdom according to their current capacity. In effect, there is no such position in the kingdom of God where people can retire and live for their own pleasures. Those who retire from the service of God to live for their own purposes are entering into a life of sin. They will lose the spiritual life they once possessed. Becoming reprobates, they will not finish their course, as Paul did, “with joy” in the Holy Spirit.

Paul departed from this world while still walking in Christ’s way of the cross. He is therefore in a place where he can be used by the Lord in a future dispensation of His eternal kingdom. Our prayer is that everyone who reads these words will seek to be in the same place when they depart from this world.

And he who overcomes, and *keeps My works* {walks by the Holy Spirit} until the end, to him will I give power over the nations. (Rev. 2:26)

We should be able to see that even a good start in the fully sanctified life is not enough. Those who continue to walk with Christ, and prove to be His true disciples, will be found taking up their cross daily until the end. Even though they may not be able to physically labor for the Lord as they once did, you will find Christ’s true disciples continuing to pray and to use every available resource for the furthering of His kingdom. Even if everyone else in the church goes back to living for their own pleasures, they will not permit anyone to lead them astray.

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound {because the multitude will insist on living by their own will and for their own pleasures}, the love of many will grow cold. *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.* And this gospel of the kingdom {where people live by God’s will alone} will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matt. 24:11-14)

With this thought in mind, we ask you to honestly search your own heart to determine if you are fully surrendered to the work that God planned to accomplish through your life? Are you currently walking in the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit? Is your soul like a well-watered garden? We pray that you have not turned back from your appointed service simply to have a few short years of pleasure in a temporal world that will soon pass away. This course cannot help your spiritual life either today or in the end.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him... and the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God {to the end} abides {in the life of God} forever. (1 John 2:15, 17)

We cannot afford to ignore God’s warnings. It will be necessary to be found walking in the Spirit doing what our Lord is directing when the end comes.

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? *Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.* (Matt 24:44-46)

## God's Calling on Your Life

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”  
(Jer. 29:11 NIV)

God has a purpose for every human being. And you will not understand your true significance, nor be fully satisfied, until you are doing what God created you to do. Your past does not matter. He still has something prepared. His plans will take you to your proper end. Even though it may be a humble and seemingly insignificant path, it will permit God to reveal His life through you and accomplish His purposes.

You can now choose to live as a vessel of the Son's life and work in the same way He lived as a vessel of His Father's life and work. “For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them.” Can you begin to see what this glorious promise implies? You now have an opportunity to live as the first Adam did before the Fall and as the Last Adam did while walking in a mortal body. That is, you can walk with God in the power of His Spirit and carry out His eternal purposes.

If you want to be saved from your fallen form of life and enter into this life of promise you must permit the Lord to separate you from your own plans. Only then will it be possible to “stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.” (Col. 4:12) He is the one who has established specific plans for your life “to give you hope and a future.”

You enter into a place of full sanctification when you are set apart for God's exclusive use. This is the place where you are enabled to consistently share with Him in His Kingdom-life. But you cannot come into His heavenly Presence while you are still touching the “unclean thing.” Those things in your life that are not fully devoted to His purposes, or are being used to exalt yourself, remain unclean in His sight. And so He cannot fill you with His glory until these things are truly separated from your heart.

God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, *to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (2 Thess. 2:13-14)

Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” (2 Cor. 6:17)

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while {in dying out to your old self-originated form of life}, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you {in His eternal Kingdom-life of promise}. (1 Pet. 5:10)

God requires each of His children to be fully sanctified to His purposes so He may fill them with His glory. “For this is the will of God, your sanctification.” (1 Thess. 4:3) The same glory that Jesus received from the Father and displayed in bodily form is now available to everyone who believes. (John 17:22-23) And you need to fear falling short of this grace that establishes His Kingdom-life of holy love within your heart. (Heb. 12:14-15) “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?” (Heb. 2:3)

As a member of Christ's body you are expected to live through Him and bear the fruit of His Spirit. He says, “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the

vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” (John 15:4) This abiding relationship requires you to live through Him. (1 John 4:9) He goes on to explain how it is impossible to do anything of real value apart from Him. Everything that has eternal significance will take place as you live through Him and walk by His Spirit. This is the one place where you can hear His voice and pray in harmony with His will so that He may answer your prayers. Here, then, is the key to fulfilling your calling.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (John 15:7-8)

### **Sharing with Christ in His Dominion**

God intended for His children to have a form of dominion over their appointed sphere of labor. While the first Adam failed to remain in God’s will and lost his place of dominion, the Last Adam revealed how God intended to work through His obedient children in the power of His Spirit. The Son then made the same power available to everyone who chooses to live through Him in the same way. The Father wants many children living through the Son, sharing with Him in the power of His throne, so that He may be glorified through their works.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name {in harmony with the divine life and will}, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. (John 14:12-14)

To ask in Christ’s name means to ask in harmony with His very being. We cannot share with the Lord in His dominion without living in harmony with His divine life and will. When Adam departed from this yielded way of life at the Fall, and lost the glory that displayed God’s image, he also lost the dominion. Those who want to regain this lost dominion will therefore need to receive the “glory” that makes it possible to become “one” with the Father and the Son.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one...that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. (John 17:22-23, 26)

The Lord, as the Messiah, has come to restore this relationship. “I have given them the glory {the life of holy love} you gave Me.” Those who enter into this heavenly Kingdom-life are enabled to live “as one” with Him and pray in harmony with His life and will. This should help you to see why He “chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit...*for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” Once you have received the glory and are living through His heavenly life of love, you can pray in His name and begin doing the greater works of furthering His eternal Kingdom-life here on earth.

Because the Son now has infinite power and authority as the King of kings and Lord of lords, all things become possible through Him. By dying to your own plans and entering into His plans you can enter into the place where you gain access to the power of His throne. “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.” (Col. 3:1)

George Muller became an example of this divinely ordered life and walk of faith. He was a man without any resources of his own. But through his prayers he was able raise up an orphanage that eventually housed two thousand children. And he did it without ever asking anyone for money. He was able to discover how to use the power of God to move every monumental obstacle that blocked the progress of his *assigned work*.

There was a reason why Mr. Muller's faith was able to move the hand of God. Simply stated, he first determined what God had planned for him to do. Once he knew God's will on a matter, his faith began to rise up and move even the greatest mountains out of the way. Knowing that God would carry out the divine will while he was living under the control and power of the Holy Spirit, he prayed until he received the needed answers.

This may sound like man has access to too much power. But we should note that God very specifically set up a system where everything remains in perfect harmony with His will. It was always His intention to be the Source of everything that takes place in His kingdom. He never shares His power with people who are still living in a self-originated form of life. It is as we choose to live through the Son, receiving our guidance from Him, that He is able to live and work through us in the power of His Spirit. Once the old flesh-life has truly died, our desires have their source in Him. It is these heavenly desires that we share with Him that can always be carried out through the prayer of faith.

If you abide in Me {share in the divine life and will}, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (John 15:7-8)

For you died {to your own will and ways}, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:3)

These truths should begin to help us see why so many of our prayers are ineffective. Too many of those things we are trying to accomplish originate in our own fleshly thoughts. Most of our prayers consist of lists of things we have deemed appropriate through our own reasoning power. We end up praying for many things without ever seeking out God's will on the matter.

For example, the carnal nature naturally thinks in terms of finding pleasures and comfort in the temporal realm. Because carnal Christians generally do not understand how God uses suffering to separate people from their self-sufficient spirit, they tend to pray in a way that is in direct conflict with what God is attempting to work out. In other words, it is not wise to ask God to relieve someone of their suffering when He is working to take away their strength so they may live through His Spirit and be turned into vessels of His heavenly life and will.

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges {to take away our strength} every son whom He receives {into the Kingdom-life of promise}...for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Heb. 12:6, 10-11)

For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

This is the spiritual insight that John Fletcher revealed when he said, "May it now appear that you imitate David, who said, 'It was good for me that I was afflicted.' Let

people say what they will, there are lessons which we can never learn but under the cross.” And when we pray in conflict with this “wisdom of the cross,” we often come into conflict with what God is attempting to work out according to His eternal purposes.

We should begin to see why it is so important to learn to walk by the Spirit and to listen for His still small voice. If our prayers are to be answered they will need to originate in the Spirit.

Again, God intended to be the source of everything that takes place in this world. But He has purposed to carry out this work by responding to the prayers of His children as they pray in harmony with His will. This should help us to understand why it is so important for Him to have intercessors who have learned how to walk by His Spirit.

Those lists we typically put together for our times of prayer are seldom answered because they do not originate in God. If each of God’s children would take time to find out what the Lord has purposed to accomplish through their lives, the work of His kingdom would go forward. Each member of the body of Christ would be brought into the divine order and begin praying in harmony with His will. It would enable them to carry out His plans in their appointed sphere of work—the place where they are to have dominion.

God does not give His children long lists of work to accomplish through their prayers. The work that He intends to carry out through prayer generally requires considerable time and attention. And He expects us to persevere until these things are accomplished. As each new assignment is completed, and faith is strengthened, He is able to begin assigning the greater works. On the other hand, those who put their long lists of prayer together are typically ineffective. It also ruins faith because it leads to discouragement.

Mr. Wigle, in his book about prevailing prayer, said, “The prayer that prevails is strikingly specific. It narrows itself right down to one object, which presses itself on the attention, and on the heart, and fills the vision, and becomes for the time the supreme object to be sought, and obtained... He who is cold and formal in his Christian life, spreads his prayer out, and around the whole world, it may be, covering all subjects but the one most needed to be prayed for now... Intimate and conscious fellowship with ‘the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ,’ focuses all the energies of his being, for the present, on just one object of prayer, and holds on for that till he gets it.”

Many people pray as a matter of duty. But their prayers typically become like a speech that is repeated over and over again, day after day, without ever really expecting to change anything. They seldom take time to quietly sit before the Lord to learn what He wants to accomplish through their lives. Again, the kind of prayer that is carried out as a mere duty tends to ruin faith because it remains so ineffective.

We cannot expect to effectively accomplish God’s plans until we have rested from our own works. Jesus, as our Example, did not do or say anything out from Himself. We have already looked at this truth. But we need to understand it from this perspective of carrying out our assigned work through prayer. The Father loved to work through the Son because Jesus listened to the leading of the Spirit and did everything in harmony with what the Father was doing. As Jesus said, He only did what He could see being worked out by His Father.

Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. {The Son listens to the leading of the Spirit and begins to



move and speak in harmony with what the Father is working out.} For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does. (John 5:19-20)

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear {from the Spirit}, I judge {make decisions}; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. (John 5:30)

What a glorious thought! God is able to reveal to His children what He desires to work out. All we have to do is be willing to die to our own works and learn to wait on Him until we can see what He is doing. This is what enables us to walk with Him and pray in harmony with His will. And God loves His children when they walk in this way. He then shows them what He is doing so they may glorify Him.

If you abide in Me...you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified... (John 15:7-8)

The children of God were created to live in harmony with His good and acceptable and perfect will. He planned to share His life with His children and to reveal His purposes to them. But we can only live in this heavenly way of life, which God has established for His eternal kingdom, after we have died to the flesh-life, ceased from our own works, and started living by His Spirit alone. This is how we are to share with Christ in His power and dominion.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion... And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything.... (Eph. 1:18-23 NIV)

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him {enabling you to share with Him in His dominion}, who is the head of all principality and power. (Col. 2:9-10)

Satan turned man away from this life in God to a self-originated form of life. The devil does everything from his own resources so that he may carry out his own works and have his own glory. It was his introduction of this form of life to the world that caused Adam and his lineage to lose their dominion. The only way to regain the lost position is to die to everything that is self-originated. Once we are living through Christ and walking by His Spirit we can pray in His name and carry out our appointed work.

Again, George Muller has provided an example of how God intended to work through His children. His testimony reveals how he too was required to die to everything that comes from self, including his own opinions and preferences, before his prayers could be honored by God. This death to the old self-originated form of life permitted him to gain a form of dominion in his appointed sphere of work and enabled him to accomplish through his prayers what God had planned for him to do.

There was a day when I died, utterly died: died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will—died to the world, its approval or censure, died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends—and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.

[He said in another place]...it came with me to an entire and full surrender of heart. I gave myself fully to the Lord. *Honor, pleasure, money, my physical power, my mental powers, all was laid down at the feet of Jesus...* I found my all in God.

Muller followed the path that Jesus set before him. When nothing was coming out from himself he was in a place to live by the Spirit alone. His testimony provides a good example of the kind of full consecration that permits God to manifest His life and works through His children.

Unfortunately, there are many within the church who insist on asserting their personal opinions and preferences. This self-assertion, which is directly linked to self-pleasing, naturally leads to strife and contentions. "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires...?" (Jam. 4:1) The pride of life that esteems its own opinions and leads to self-assertion is in conflict with the meek and lowly Lamb who never did anything "out from" Himself. Because it keeps the soul separated from Christ's heavenly Kingdom-life, it makes it impossible to pray in harmony with the Son's nature and name. It is another reason why prayer has become so ineffective.

There is no place for self-assertive and self-exalting people in the kingdom of God. Satan is the one who fostered this form of life on the world. As we close this chapter, we ask you to open your heart to the following thoughts provided by J. Grant Swank. He helps to reveal how self-assertion must be taken out of the heart of Christ's disciples.

Before one learns how to deny self, one rewrites religion to be a more convenient find. He deletes what he does not like in the Christian faith; he adds what he thinks should be added. [He continues to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, deciding for himself what is right and wrong.] Of course, none of this is permissible. Nevertheless, the carnal nature attempts to write his own religion so as to make it as comfortable as possible.

Then comes the stark realization that Jesus will not tolerate this touching up of His portrait. It is not to be done. What the Word reveals as God is who Jesus was and is. Therefore, one dare not seek to change that picture. [Jesus can only manifest Himself through someone who is fully yielded to His way of life.]

Therefore, the Spirit, in kindness and paternal caring, points out to the self-centered disciple that something has to change inside him. *It is the self-assertion that has to go.* In its place must grow the reality of Jesus having full control.

"He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." That is the standard. No one can reach it in his own nature... Only Jesus' Spirit can make the real change. Therefore, once the disciple exerts the free will choice to deny self, then he embarks on the cross routings...

*Start the change now by determining to be on the lookout for self-assertion.* When you note it, confess it immediately to Jesus. Ask Him to slay it and replace it with Jesus-assertion. He will do it. Stay with the process; don't tire out.

## The Fellowship of Communicating with God

My sheep hear My voice...and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life... I and My Father are one. (John 10:27-28, 30)

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. (Isa. 59:2)

It is commonly assumed that God listens to everyone who comes to Him for help. But it is a false assumption. The throne of grace is open to the worst of sinners when they look to God to find freedom from sin. Everyone can expect God to hear their plea for a changed heart. However, He will not listen to people who are living in conflict with His way of life. This sin causes Him to turn away, and He will not hear.

God's grace goes out to "all men" and teaches them to "live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." (Titus 2:11-12) But not everyone responds to this work of the "Spirit of grace." (Heb. 10:29) People are on the wide road to destruction simply because they refuse to respond to the grace of God. They insist on directing their own steps through life.

We should note that Enoch found God and began walking with Him long before there were Bibles and evangelists. "And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him." (Gen 5:23) If we desire to be exalted into the heavenly realms where we live in intimate fellowship with God we must respond to the grace of God by living "soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." Only then will we be in a place to have our prayers answered.

Fallen man naturally wants to live by his own will and ways. He insists on living independently of God until he finds himself in trouble. Only then does he look to God for help.

People who become very religious naturally assume they have a relationship with God and that He hears their prayers. But this is not necessarily true. For example, the Jews consider themselves children of God. They spend considerable time praying to Him because they believe He hears their prayers. But they are sadly mistaken. God does not listen to people who resist His ways in this day any more than He listened to the Pharisees in Jesus' day.

This should help to provide an indication of what God thinks when a nation of self-willed people comes together each year for a day of prayer. It is a mockery of God and His truth. The mere fact that this "day" of prayer is generally promoted by "clergy" gives an indication of how little God is known even by our religious leaders. Like the Pharisees, they perform these "duties" in an attempt to please God. But He is not impressed. And He will not hear from anyone until they stop living for themselves and begin living through Jesus by walking in His Spirit.

It is now possible to have intimate fellowship with God. But this fellowship, where we enter into open communication with Him, can only take place when we are responding to all revealed light. "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..." (1 John 1:7)

The Son is the "light of life." (John 8:12) This heavenly "light" is found "in Him." (John 1:4) He becomes the "light of men" as we choose to live through Him and remain

“one spirit with Him.” (1 Cor. 6:17) We “walk in the light as He is in the light” and “have fellowship with one another” as we walk in His Spirit. (1 John 1:7) It is by dying to the old self-originated form of life and fully yielding to His guidance that we have an opportunity to share with Him in His life and enjoy this intimate fellowship where there is open communication.

It is sad to see how the church has been filling up with religious people who are still directing their own steps through life. Most of them are attempting to live with two masters. Since God’s ways are quite different than the ways of worldly-minded people, it inevitably leads to a conflict of wills. “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” (Amos 3:3) The obvious answer is “no.” Consequently, wherever self-will exists, it ends up breaking fellowship with God.

The only way to live in fellowship with Christ in the heavenly realms is to follow Him in His way of the cross. “For the death that He died, He died to sin {self-will} once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.” (Rom. 6:10) It implies that it is impossible to live in harmony with Christ while still living by self-will. It is not possible to be lifted into His resurrection life where there can be a heavenly communion with Him until there has been a real death to the old self-originated form of life. (Col. 3:1-3; Eph. 1:3; 2:6) We should note that it was when Enoch reached the point where he “was not” that he could be taken into God’s heavenly presence.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of his death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection (Rom. 6:5)

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies {so it may live wholly for God}, it remains alone {separated from the heavenly presence of God}... If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me {through the cross}; and where I am {in the heavenly realms}, *there My servant will be also*. If anyone serves Me {by walking in the Spirit}, him My Father will honor. (John 12:24-26)

The barrier that was established at the Fall, which has prevented the flesh-life in fallen man from coming into God’s heavenly Presence, has been removed. We can now walk with God and share with Him in His eternal life. The Lord can now “dwell in” and “walk in” us because of what He accomplished at the cross. (2 Cor. 6:16) It has opened up an intimate fellowship within the shared life of the Trinity. Those who are willing to die to their flesh-life enter into a place where they can hear from our Lord and pray according to His will. They are then in a place to carry out in the power of the Spirit the work He has planned for them to do. (1 John 5:14-15)

Have you entered into this fellowship of the saints where God shares His eternal life with His children? The apostle John confirms that this is where your joy will be full.

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; *and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ*. {Today is the day to begin sharing with the Father and the Son in their eternal life.} And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (1 John 1:1-4)

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (1 John 5:11)

## **Listening for God's Voice**

Jesus said very specifically, "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life...*" (John 10:27-28) The only way to walk with God is by listening for His voice and following His instructions. This is the one means for sharing with Him in His eternal life and remaining in the fellowship that takes place between the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit. (1 John 1:2-3) "Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." (v. 3)

We should begin to see the importance of walking "in the Spirit." (Gal. 5:25) It is the one means for consistently hearing the voice of God. We also need to learn to differentiate between the leadings that come from "the spirit of the world" and those that come from the Spirit of God. Other spirits will be working to separate us from God and His will. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God." (1 John 4:1) We cannot afford to be misled.

Jesus speaks of "many" being turned away from heaven on the Day of Judgment after doing many great works in His name. (Matt. 7:21-23) These people approach their judgment with the assumption they are in a right relationship with God. But they are sadly mistaken. We have to assume they were careless with His Word. They did not test the spirits. It resulted in being led astray by the "spirit of error."

We are of God. He who knows God hears us {we speak the same spiritual language of heaven}; he who is not of God does not hear us. *By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.* (1 John 4:6)

We can begin to see how important it is to make sure we are being led by the Holy Spirit. We must learn to test the spirits today. We surely do not want to end up at the Judgment only to hear these awful words, "Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." (Matt. 7:23)

For if you live according to the flesh you will die... For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom. 8:13-14)

Those who are still directing their own steps through life do not find the "peace" that "surpasses all understanding." (Phil. 4:6-7) It is only natural for people to remain worried and upset about many things when they are still directing their own affairs. Here is the reason why it is so important to choose to die to self-will and learn to live under the control and power of the Holy Spirit.

This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths {of a Spirit-directed way of life}, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'" (Jer. 6:16)

Those who rush around in their own will and strength should expect to experience a sense of unrest and periods of turmoil within their soul. These inward disturbances naturally rise up wherever independence and self-sufficiency remains. True peace is found when we rest from our own works and permit God to be Sovereign in everything.

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it... There remains therefore a rest for the {called-out} people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works... (Heb. 4:1, 9-10)

The “spirit of the world” leads people to live independently of God in their own sufficiency. They end up living by their own selfish desires. “Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh, *fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind...*” (Eph. 2:3) You can recognize when people are living by their own will by the way they become agitated whenever something interferes with their plans.

Everyone receives impressions. And many of these impressions will come from sources other than God. The apostle John goes so far as to say that the “whole world” is still under the sway of the devil. (1 John 5:19) People become worldly-minded and come under the devil’s sway because they choose to follow the leadings of “the spirit of the world.” In contrast, Christ’s true disciples are not “of the world.” They listen to His voice and follow the leadings of His Spirit. Everyone determines their eternal state by which of these two courses they follow.

The devil seeks to manipulate the emotions because he understands the impulsiveness of the flesh. He leads people to respond to the latest impulses that rise out of the desires “of the flesh and of the mind.” He can hold sway over them as long as they are looking to the world and its things for their spiritual support. The impulsive flesh-life runs “to and fro” in this world because it thinks it must act quickly if it is to avoid missing an opportunity to find its happiness. It is also the reason why worldly-minded people become agitated when their will is crossed and they see one of their plans falling apart. They never truly find the deep and lasting soul-rest that Jesus gives to those who abide in His heavenly life.

They {the true disciples of Christ} are not of the world just as I {the Son}, am not of the world. (John 17:16)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is... Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died {to your own will and ways}, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:1-3)

We can depend upon God to lead us in the way we need to go when we are consistently acknowledging Him through dependent faith. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, *and lean not on your own understanding*; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Prov. 3:5) God is Sovereign, and He is able to work out all things according to His perfect will once we choose to die to self-will and live by His Spirit. Everyone who has the Son’s lamb-like spirit can expect to hear His voice. “My sheep hear My voice...and they follow Me.” Yes, “you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.” (Col. 4:12)

God is never in a hurry. He slowly and methodically works out according to His eternal perspective every step He has planned for His children. These Spirit-led children are never concerned about missing out on some special opportunity to find happiness. Even though they do not know what lies ahead, they trust in God’s ability to keep them in His will—the place where they can continually eat of His heavenly spiritual food. (John 4:34; 6:57) Wesley Duewel expresses this truth in his book *Let God Guide You Daily*:

*Because your life is constantly related to God and is lived in the light of eternity, your life and God’s eternal plan become one whole. You do not discover that plan once for all like a celestial blueprint with every detail outlined in advance. No, you expect—and by faith accept—God’s guidance day by day in all your activities and choices. God’s will becomes*

for you, in the words of Andrew Murray, “one whole—equally Divine, beautiful, and blessed.” Since you know you have committed yourself unreservedly to God as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2), you expect to receive His guiding touch continually and you seek to make all choices in ways that are wise and pleasing to Him.

Those who have fully submitted to the Lord and are depending on Him to direct their steps have nothing to fear. God can be relied upon to keep us in His way of holiness after we have chosen to die to our own will and way. Nothing can ever go wrong when our Sovereign God is in full control of our lives. He will work out all things for our good. (Rom. 8:29) And as we walk in this way of faith, where we look to Him for our understanding, we find that He keeps our heart filled with the promised heavenly peace that “surpasses all understanding.”

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (Jam. 1:5)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7)

### **Responding to the Right Impressions**

Learning to respond to the right impressions is an important part of being a Christian. We have therefore included extensive quotes from the best sources we have found on this subject. The following lessons are from Martin Knapp’s book *Impressions*. (We have provided additional material in the Appendix from *Impressions* and from Thomas Upham’s book *Inward Divine Guidance*.)

Emphatic mention of this test of impressions is made by Upham in his valuable treatise on *Divine Guidance*. He says... “If a leading is of God the ‘way will always open for it.’ The Lord assures us of this when He says: ‘When He putteth forth His own sheep He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice.’ Notice here the expressions, ‘goeth before’ and ‘follow.’ He goes before to open a way, and we are to follow in the way thus opened. *It is never a sign of divine leading when a Christian insists on opening his own way, and riding roughshod over all opposing things. If the Lord goes before us He will open all doors for us, and we shall not need ourselves to hammer them down.* The Word declares, ‘Behold, I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it.’ ”

This open door of providential opportunity awaits every person who follows impressions from above. “I will go before thee,” declares Jehovah to all who follow Him, “and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron.” All true impressions from above find “crooked places” divinely straightened, gates of brass divinely broken and bars of iron divinely sundered.

The providential openings which thus ever welcome those divinely led are marvelous. God never impresses a Noah to build an ark, or a Solomon a temple, but that means, material and men await their appropriating faith.

He never impresses a Philip to go preach to an individual, but that he prepares the person for Philip's preaching...

We cannot forbear to quote further from the luminous teachings of George D. Watson on this frequently puzzling point. He says: "The Holy Ghost never guides us contrary to the Word. The Word never guides us contrary to Providence, and Providence does not guide us contrary to the Word or Spirit. So that these three elements of divine guidance are always harmonious... When you want to be divinely led, simply consult God's providence and consult God's Word and consult the convictions of God's Spirit upon your heart, and the Lord, if you are humble and teachable, will see that you are properly led."...

God has given us reasoning powers for a purpose, and he respects them, appeals to them, and all of His leadings are in unison with them. He will bring up all the facts in the case in such a way as to convince us that His leadings are all in harmony with sanctified common sense...

God never asks us to act on uncertainties. To do so is a spiritual crime. "He that doubteth is damned if he eat," and this principle proscribes the doing of anything concerning the rightfulness of which there is doubt... ["For whatever is not from faith is sin." (Rom. 14:23)]

God does not drive, but leads His children... Watson says, "You can detect the devil by one or two things. The devil always talks loud. Jesus always talks low and tender... When a [worldly] spirit makes an impression on the mind, that impression can be made in a loud, rushing, pell-mell sort of way... I mean to say that the impression has a loudness in the mind... The devil wants you to be in a hurry and rush and go pell-mell and not wait for anything; whereas Jesus is always quiet and He is calm and always takes His time... The more you wait on God, if the conviction comes from the Holy Ghost, the more you wait and the more you pray, the stronger it becomes. If it comes from the devil, the more you wait and the more you pray, the weaker it grows. You can tell by that. If you have a call to some mission work or anything, and you say, 'I wish I did know whether it were God or Satan,' you just take time..."

While it is true, when duty is clearly known, that "the king's business requireth haste," yet when it is not clearly known it is just as true that "he that believeth shall not make haste."...

The impressions from above, when followed, are attended by a sweet peace and the consciousness that they are right; those from below, by perplexity and the feeling that something is wrong. The first brings rest. The second robs of it... The Holy Spirit is an unerring guide, and he who detects and turns from every wrong impression and fully follows Him will be led into "all truth."...

May we each so "try the spirits," and "watch and pray," that, like God's people of old, we may see our "pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night," and thus while being led in a "plain path" be enabled to "stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."



God does not reveal the full details of His will all at once. He keeps His children in constant dependence upon Him. You will therefore need to have your patience perfected and learn to live each moment by the Spirit. “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete {living in full dependence upon God}, lacking nothing.” (Jam. 1:4) The more lamb-like you become in your meek and lowly submission to His will, the easier it is to hear His voice and follow Him. You will then begin to discover that you never lack anything.

Wesley Duewel says in his book there is never an emergency with God. Even though we may think there is a crisis, our Sovereign God knows the end from the beginning. In *Let God Guide You*, he says, “The nature of guidance often requires extended time. You must allow God time to prepare you, others, and the situation for which you are praying.”

Even though there may appear to be a crisis developing at times, God will never permit His Spirit-led children to enter into any greater difficulty than is necessary for their good. As we have learned from the apostle Paul’s life, God will sometimes use very difficult situations to bring us to the end of ourselves. (2 Cor. 1:8-9) He will also use special thorns to separate us from the self-sufficient and self-exalting ways of the devil. He will do what is necessary to produce within our heart a childlike faith so He may keep us in the place where we “lack nothing.”

### **Learning to Wait on God**

The degree of our faith in God will be revealed in our willingness to wait on Him in a childlike trust. Once faith has overcome the old way of walking by the sight of self-will, it becomes more natural to wait for God’s guidance and the work of His mighty hand.

In contrast, those who are led by the spirit of the world naturally desire to assert their independence and step out in their own sufficiency to make sure they get what they want. They think their future is dependent upon the works of their flesh. But, as we have said before, these self-assertive people will continue to experience considerable turmoil and unrest in their life. As long as they are living in the strength of the flesh they will naturally have many things to be worried and upset about.

The Spirit-directed children of God will truly be an anomaly to worldly-minded people. Those who walk with God in the Spirit become like Jacob after he met God at Peniel in the sense that they appear to be “lame” to people who are still directing their own steps through life. People who are living on the natural plane of life cannot comprehend how anything can ever be accomplished once we have ceased from our own works. (Heb. 4:9-10) But in reality, this is what enables us to become princes with God and be in a position to carry out His will through our prayers. It is then that we can put His mighty hand to work and truly accomplish the things that will last forever in His eternal kingdom.

Those who are fully converted and are living like dependent little children enter into the eternal Kingdom-life where God becomes the source of everything they do. (Matt. 18:3) These little children have learned to wait on Him and trust in Him to work out all things according to His perfect will. Again, Mr. Duewel says:

Excessive haste may be an indication that you need to learn deeper lessons of faith. Trusting in God gives calmness and serenity. The Hebrew of Isaiah 28:16 reads, “The one who trusts will never be in a hurry.” God

may keep you waiting until you are absolutely sure of His will and have an unshakable faith and deep peace. Then you can move ahead with joy.

Let us remember that God is faithful. He will use His Sovereign power to do whatever is necessary to accomplish His will when His children are walking in His Spirit. It is by dying to self-will that we enter into this place that permits God to bring everything to pass as He has planned. The order is always the same, "Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, *and He shall bring it to pass.*" (Ps. 37:5) Those who can honestly say with Jesus, "Not my will, but Yours be done," can expect God to work out the details of their life according to His perfect will. Failure is impossible.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (Ps. 32:8 NIV)

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (Isa. 30:21 NIV)

Many are called out by God, but only a few ever enter into His Sabbath-rest where everyone ceases from their own works. (Heb. 4:9-10) It is the reason they never find the deep rest of soul that God has promised to His children. Fretting and unrest can only occur when a person is still living by his or her own sufficiency.

Take My yoke upon you {by dying to your self-assertive will} and learn of Me {the One who never did anything out from Himself}, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:29)

And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God. (2 Cor 3:4-5)

God's work of leading us into His full salvation entails perfecting within our heart a patient faith that waits on Him and lives by His Spirit alone. All impulsiveness and self-assertion needs to be eradicated. It is this tendency to respond to the emotions, rather than to the still small voice of the Spirit, that gives the old self-originated form of life so much of its strength. Think of how often it leads to decisions that did not come from God.

You will never be ashamed when you have learned to depend entirely on the Lord. The Lord will eventually prove Himself and reveal His glory through His children when they have begun to walk by faith rather than by the sight of worldly wisdom. He always carries out His plans through those who are living by His Spirit.

I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes {those who live by dependent faith}. (Matt. 11:25)

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him {the man} that waiteth for him {the Lord}. (Isa 64:4 KJV)

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts...*to give you an expected end.* (Jer 29:11 KJV)

I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it. (Isa 46:11 KJV)

...then you will know that I am the Lord, *for they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.* (Isa 49:23)

## Let God Guide You

Some people have known their calling from a very early age. But it is still necessary to wait on the leading of the Spirit to discover the details of the Lord's plan. God does not want His children turning to their own strength and human reasoning to work out these individual steps through life. You will therefore need to give Him time to direct your course one step at a time. He can be counted on to faithfully lead you through this spiritual journey to your appointed end.

God says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye." (Ps. 32:8) His all-seeing eye is always on the path ahead. He already knows what will be taking place. He will show you how to pass through everything that comes across your path. He knows exactly what needs to be done. He is an unerring Guide who can be counted on to "go before you, and to make the crooked places straight." (Isa. 45:2)

God truly delights in what His fully sanctified children are doing. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way." (Ps. 37:23) As they respond to His guidance He shows His delight by sharing with them in His eternal life. (John 10:27-28) These dependent and trusting little children find themselves being lifted spiritually above the hardships of this world. They dwell in His eternal Kingdom-life where His will is always done. It is a life that is available to everyone who believes in Him. "Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land." (Ps. 37:34)

As you walk in this way of faith, watch for His providential openings. While He can be expected to take you through some dark tunnels to stretch your faith, remember that no one will ever be ashamed who has patiently waited for Him. You will need to continue to trust in Him even when everything appears dark and seems to be falling apart.

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are  
no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he  
makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.  
(Hab. 3:17-19 NIV)

If you begin to show distrust in Him when the situations become difficult, or begin to murmur because of half trust, do not expect God to treat you as if nothing were wrong. He disciplines those who are in sin. God rebuked His people of old when they began to complain. And if this murmuring goes on too long, it will result in the loss of the little spiritual life you do possess. "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted... *Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.*" (1 Cor 10:6, 10 KJV)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:4-7)

Christians often assume that the Spirit is the source of the high emotions they experience while going through pleasurable circumstances. But their assumption is not necessarily correct. Worldly-minded people become “blessed” with emotional highs when pleasant things occur in their life. But these so-called “blessings” quickly go away when their circumstances change for the worse. It proves how the source was not in the endless life of the Spirit. Those who tend to express the highest emotions when things go well typically have the lowest emotions when things go bad. These up and down emotions have their source in a flesh-controlled life. The flesh finds its happiness from its circumstances. It does not reflect a life in the Spirit.

In contrast, the joy of the Lord is an inward joy that consistently carries the soul through all the circumstances of life. It is in this sense that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Neh. 8:10) “For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 14:17) Once the Lord has established His everlasting Kingdom-life within the heart, His righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit begins to flow regardless of the circumstances.

Even though we are living in a fallen world we can still enter into fellowship with God in the heavenly realms. We now have an opportunity to walk with Him and share with Him in His life and will. Let us therefore take our mind off earthly things and begin looking to God to be the source of everything we are and everything we do.

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:2-3)

Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. {We share with the triune God in His life as we walk by His Spirit.} And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (1 John 1:3-4)

That you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (Col. 4:12)

## Discovering God's Plan

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (Jer. 29:11-12 NIV)

Some of our readers may be at a place where they are prepared to seek out God's will for their life. Once you acknowledge that God has a purpose for everyone, the question arises as to how to discover His plans. We will use this chapter to help address this matter.

There are a number of factors to be considered when seeking out God's will. We will start with some general principles and then move on to more specific guidelines.

1. The best place to start is by examining God's character. God never asks anyone to do something that is in conflict with what He is like. The light of life revealed by Jesus displayed the character of God. You will never be led by the Spirit into anything that Jesus cannot do as He lives through you.

God never takes away a person's freedom of choice. Thus, having a free will means there must be a deep concern about making wrong choices. We need to realize that the “spirit of the world” and the Spirit of God are contrary to each other. And so anything that is done according to the spirit of the world will separate the soul from God's heavenly Presence. Our Father, like any good father, wants to have children like Himself. An honest consideration of this principle will reveal how some pursuits are not in character with your heavenly Father's family line.

As you consider this matter of avoiding the spirit of the world, keep in mind that Jesus did not live for Himself. Jesus revealed the nature that God intended to have expressed through His children when He emptied Himself of His own glory, made Himself of no reputation, and chose to live as a servant of others. (2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:5-7) He rejected the devil's temptations to make Himself great and accumulate riches for Himself. (Matt. 4:9-10) Since this servant's heart was in the very nature of Christ, you can see how a desire to seek a place of special honor, or to have a position of power over others, or to be able to accumulate worldly goods for your own pleasures can never be a reason for deciding your course. It would turn you to the spirit of the world and separate your soul from the life that was in Jesus. The only reason that God is keeping you in this fallen world is to further His eternal kingdom.

You cannot serve two masters. Trying to segregate an area of your life for religion while continuing to live for your own purposes will not be accepted by God. Everything God's children do must have its source in His Spirit. What you do in your own resources independently of God and for your own glory is of the devil. (Jam. 3:15-16; John 8:44) You become a true child of God by following Jesus, which implies dying to your own will and ways so you may live by the Spirit for God's glory.

But now having been set free from sin {so you may live by the Spirit},  
*and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.* (Rom. 6:22)

You have been instructed by the Lord to avoid focusing your attention on “seeking first” even the necessities of life. The Lord commands you to seek first His kingdom and righteousness. If you will surrender yourself entirely to live by His Spirit according to His purposes, He will make sure your needs are met. On the other hand, if you reject Christ’s teachings because you think it is necessary to provide for your own future, it implies that you are still living as the unsaved people of this world. The devil promotes this self-sufficient spirit for the purpose of keeping people separated from the life of God.

For after all these things the Gentiles seek {those who do not have faith in God}... But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow... (Matt. 6:32-34)

Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as {dependent and trusting} little children {by expecting God to be the source of everything in your life}, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:3)

A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. (John 3:27)

It is necessary to take God’s Word very seriously. You can only abide in Him while you abide in His Word. He has only promised to manifest Himself within those who keep His commandments. (John 14:21) He waits until there has been a full surrender to His way of life before He fills the vessel with the glory of His holy love. This should help you to see how self-exaltation and self-seeking must be taken to the cross before you can find His resurrection life. He will not force His life into a vessel that is not fully yielded to what He is like.

2. All of creation will find its natural rest in the center of God’s will. This is the one means for the kingdom of heaven and the earth to be one with each other. Only while walking on this narrow path of holiness can there be a real sense of harmony with the Source of all life. No one ever finds a deep and lasting peace while living by their own will and strength. (Isa. 48:22) God actually resists those who live “out from” themselves in the pride of life. (1 Pet. 5:5) You can therefore expect to experience distress, disorder and unrest while living for your own purposes in the strength of the flesh.

You will need to cease from your own works before God will be able to lead you by His Spirit into His good and perfect will. The reason that many people do not hear from God is because they have continued to hold onto some part of their independent will.

Many of your various options could soon be settled by a simple reference to what brings a deep sense of peace within your heart. The Spirit of God will supply this inner witness when you are in the center of His will. You should never go forward in any course until you truly experience a deep sense of peace with God over the matter.

3. God has provided man with a conscience. It can be used to help interpret His will. But the conscience first needs to be trained according to the truth revealed in His Word. We have seen how Paul, while presuming to be in God’s will, committed some grievous errors in his “ignorance.” And yet, according to his own conscience, he could say that he had walked blamelessly before God. (Phil. 3:6) This is an example of why the conscience needs to have a true knowledge of God and His ways. It needs to be properly trained by the truth.

There are many who have seared over their conscience. They now insist their conscience is clear, and even profess to live holy lives, while they are still living by their own will and ways. Jesus said there would be many of these people who come before Him at the Judgment after mistakenly thinking they had lived as His servants. (Matt. 7:21-23)

There is another point that needs to be noted concerning this matter of being guided by the conscience. Even though you may still be improperly trained, you should never go against your current convictions. God would rather permit you to live in error for a while than to have you sear over, or deaden, your conscience by continually overriding it. When you are convicted by your conscience concerning a questionable matter, even though God may not require it, you need to do what your conscience tells you to do. Your understanding of truth will improve in time. The Spirit has come to lead you into all truth. (John 16:13) But if you begin to violate your conscience in these personal concerns, it will make it easier to resist the real leadings of the Spirit. If you will do your part, God will make sure that all truth is eventually opened to your eyes. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." (Jam. 1:5)

There is a tendency to think that Christians have backed up on light when they no longer respond to the same convictions they once possessed. But this is not necessarily true. Paul spoke of some Christians who did not eat meat because it was used in idol worship prior to being sold in the open market. Paul's freedom in Christ permitted him to eat the same meat. He believed other Christians would eventually be led into the same truth. This change of conviction does not imply there has been a turning away from God's will. It simply means that greater light has opened up better insight into the spiritual things of God.

There were religious people who accused Jesus of being a winebibber, a Sabbath-breaker and a glutton because of the things He did. But He truly knew the freedom that comes from walking in the eternal life. While worldly-minded people seek to find their life from the temporal realm, Jesus was not following the course of this world. He had the everlasting life within Him. He carried this "light of life" into the darkness of this world without seeking life from the world as worldly-minded people do.

Those who try to live by the "letter" of the law alone, rather than walking in the Spirit, tend to develop intricate rules based on wrong assumptions. As the Pharisees proved in Jesus' day, these rules become quite distorted and actually separate people from the reality of God's eternal life of perfect love. The Lord's "light of life" from heaven permitted Jesus to walk in the midst of this sinful world without being a part of it. Similarly, when we have truly died to all self-will, self-seeking and self-exaltation, where we are living by the Spirit for God's purposes alone, He will sometimes lead us in ways that are condemned by many religionists.

Once again, in addition to testing everything with God's written Word, test your conscience against Christ's revealed life. He was a living manifestation of the written Word. Use this Living Word to help correct and train your conscience.

4. Be an observer of Providence. The Sovereign God, as you wait on Him in faith, will open and close doors to make sure you remain on His planned course. He uses even simple incidents to teach lessons and provide guidance. Study what is going on around you, including your trials, your talents, and the various needs of others as you are being

motivated and led to serve. Many of the situations that are brought to your attention can provide insight into this matter of discovering God's gifts and calling for your life.

While living as a servant of the Lord, always be prepared to respond to God's current leadings. He will be testing your willingness to follow in the path of Jesus. Remember that Jesus never thought of His own pleasures first. He was willing to sacrifice Himself for the good of others. The Spirit will take you forward into the "greater works" if you will become a humble and faithful servant in the little things.

5. Consult with at least one other Christian who has come to know you. Make sure it is someone who listens to the leading of the Spirit. In addition, make sure it is someone who does not have a personal bias, but desires only to discover God's will on the matter. Then consider what their judgment reveals concerning how you might be most effective in furthering God's eternal kingdom.

6. Finally, go to God Himself and permit Him alone to lead you into the plans He has purposed for your life. Do not permit anyone else to impose his or her will on you. You have only one Lord. God's plan must override all other plans.

Here is where it is necessary to "hate" others in contrast to your love for God and His perfect will. While there is only one Spirit, and He will always keep everything in perfect harmony when everyone is fully submitted to His guidance, not everyone is willing to die to their own will and ways. And you will never be in a place to help anyone if you are following a self-directed person into the pit of eternal darkness.

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also {the old independent and self-sufficient form of life}, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross {dying to everything that is self-originated} and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:26-27)

As certainly as God has a plan or calling for you, He will guide you into His perfect will when you give Him the opportunity. Furthermore, because our Lord is a God of order, this calling will be in harmony with each of your other Christian obligations. He will enable you to fulfill the responsibilities He has given to you. While it may not be in the same way that other worldly-minded people think it should be done, you can trust Him. He will always provide for your basic needs while you are doing the work of His kingdom. But this also implies that He will let you go alone if you live as a self-seeker for your own purposes in this world.

The Scriptures leave no doubt as to how Christ's true followers are to live. The only way we can expect to be honored by God and empowered by His Spirit is by following Christ through the cross. Those who direct their own steps on the natural plane of life will remain separated from Him. They will sense being left alone.

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me {in the Spirit}, let him follow Me {through the cross}; and where I am {in the eternal Kingdom-life on the throne of power}, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me {by walking in the Spirit}, him My Father will honor. (John 12:24-26)

Your primary duty in life is to live and walk in the Spirit. To those who have become fully yielded to His leadings and have learned to patiently wait on God, He becomes an



unfailing inner light. As you yield to the movements of the Spirit, He will continue to witness with your spirit that God is pleased with your current course.

### **Using the Peace of God as an Arbitrator**

You are instructed to “let the peace of God rule your hearts.” (Col. 3:15) The word “rule” means to arbitrate. The divine “peace of God,” which is beyond normal human understanding, will be revealed within your inner being as a fruit of the Holy Spirit while you are yielding to His every leading. This heavenly peace can never be broken by outward circumstances. However, you can count on the Spirit to withdraw this divine sense of inner peace whenever there has been a departure from God’s plans. If this occurs, you need to stop and begin listening with extra care to what God is trying to say. It may take hours, days or even months for God to reveal a specific course in the way of His will. But you can count on Him to eventually lead you into all truth when you let His divine peace rule your heart.

When you go through periods of trial, and everything seems dark because you have not heard from God, it does not necessarily mean that you are out of God’s favor. But it does mean that He wants you to listen very closely for a new revelation, or possibly a reaffirmation of something you have forgotten or overlooked. When suddenly the light of truth breaks through to your understanding, and you yield to His will, you will also find that a deep sense of peace has once again filled your heart.

The peace you have “with” God is something different. You can “know by faith” that you have “peace with God,” even when the divine “peace of God” has been withdrawn. If you have truly surrendered to God and His Word, are trusting in the Lord alone for your justification, and are not conscious of any willful sin in your life, you can know that you have “peace with God” during these trying periods.

In contrast, the “peace of God,” which is imparted by the Holy Spirit as an experiential presence within the inner being, can be faithfully used to help rule your heart and to “arbitrate” decision points in your walk with God. It is in this sense that the Holy Spirit becomes an unfailing inner light.

Of course, if you have always directed your own steps through life you will not yet fully understand what this supernatural “peace of God” is like. You may not even know that such a peace can be known in this world. Let us assure you that it has been promised to you. There have been many saints throughout history who have testified to this glorious sense of heavenly peace carrying them through life. The Lord has promised to manifest His life, including His heavenly peace, within everyone who has remained in the center of His will. (John 14:21)

*My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you... You have heard Me say to you, I am going away {to be glorified} and coming back to you {to manifest this heavenly peace within you}. (John 14:27-28)*

James Caughey, in a book entitled *Earnest Christianity Illustrated*, has provided an example of how God withdraws His Presence even when we mistakenly think about taking a course that will separate us from His plans. He reveals how it is possible to choose to do something within the bounds of God’s Word and still be outside of God’s will for our life. As a precaution, we also need to say in advance that God’s will for one individual does not necessarily apply to others. Everyone needs to search out God’s specific will for his or her unique life.

It was then I began seriously to reflect upon the propriety of choosing a wife, believing that “marriage is honorable in all men.” I had traveled a number of years, studied hard, and expended all my time and strength in winning souls to Christ. My brethren approved of my intention. But, while indulging in this purpose, for some reasons I could not explain, my heart became very hard. The Lord seemed to depart from me, and that countenance which so often beamed upon me from above, and had daily for many years brightened my soul into rapturous joy, appeared now to be mantled in the thickest gloom.

The more I reflected [rationalized] thus, “I can see no good reason why I should remain single among my brethren, nor continue to lead this solitary life,” my heart became harder, and my darkness increased. I was soon involved in a variety of evil reasonings. My will seemed to be in a conflict with something invisible. God, who had honored me with such intimate communion with Himself...apparently left me to battle it out alone... Now I see God Himself was contending with me. I was about to step out of the order of His providence, and He was resolved to prevent it...

I began to reflect most solemnly upon my unhappy state of mind, and became more concerned to regain my former peace and joy in God, than to obtain any temporal blessing whatever. The world was a blank, a bleak and howling wilderness, to my soul, without the smiles of my Savior. In fact, *I could not live, but must wither away from the face of the earth, without His comforting and satisfying presence.*

Like a well chastened son, I came back to the feet of my Heavenly Father, and with many tears I besought Him to reveal His face to my soul; that if my purposes were crossing his, to show me and whatever was His will I would at once by His help yield my soul unto it. “Lord God,” I said, “if my will crosses Thy will, then my will must be wrong, for Thine cannot but be right.”

Now I cared not what He commanded me to do, or to leave undone. I stood ready to obey. I felt assured that clear light from God on some points would soon reach my soul, and I was fully prepared for it. [“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Prov. 3:5)]...

During three days I cried to God, without any answer. On the third day, in the afternoon, I obtained an audience with the Lord... My heart was fully softened and subdued, and I felt assured I had prevailed in some way with God. I was confident light and direction were coming, but of what nature I could not tell.

This was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 1839. The same evening, about twilight (eternal glory be to God!) when reading in a small room adjoining my study, a light, as I conceived from heaven, reached me... Every ray of divine glory seemed to be a word that the eye of my soul could read, a sentence which my judgment could perceive and understand: “These

matters [about marriage] which trouble thee must be let entirely alone. The will of God is, that thou shouldst visit Europe. He shall be with thee there, and give thee many seals to thy ministry...”

A heavenly calm, a powerful persuasion, and an intense glow of divine love, accompanied the whole... I fell upon my knees before the Lord, my whole mind consenting to the orders... O, the sweetness of that communion I then enjoyed with God! My sky was cloudless. My rest of soul unutterable. The meaning of many past providences was now explained...

Mr. Caughey went on to serve the Lord in Europe. God was truly with him. He became one of the most widely known evangelists of the Nineteenth Century. Some very remarkable revivals occurred through the work of his ministry. He was honored by God as he continued to sacrifice his own will in order to remain fully yielded to God’s will.

When we speak of walking by the Spirit, rather than by law, it implies that we are permitting the “peace of God” to rule our heart. God has a unique will for every individual. Living merely by written laws can still lead to a separation from God’s will. Mr. Caughey could have justified himself in getting married if he had lived by the law alone. But it would have separated Him from the Presence and power of God.

This testimony helps to reveal why God wants His children both in this age of fulfillment and throughout eternity in heaven to live by His Spirit rather than by law. It is the only way to truly remain in “all” the will of God. Those who are living with the Presence of God within their soul become far more responsive to His will than those who are trying to live by the letter of the law. Law-keepers can be very precise in keeping certain outward details of the law, but they tend to overlook the commands that relate to life in Christ’s kingdom. (Matt. 5:38-48)

Spirit-filled Christians live by the Spirit. They have learned how to keep Christ’s “rivers” of Living Water consistently flowing through their soul by responding to every movement of His Spirit. And with a constant flow of “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” flowing out of their inner being, they no longer need law to tell them how to properly respond. They do by nature what the law requires. This is how everyone lives in the eternal kingdom of God.

It is sometimes necessary to spend much time in prayer and in patient waiting on God to find out His will on a matter. We can expect the same God who spoke to Mr. Caughey to also speak to us when we earnestly seek to know God’s will for our life. Everyone who continues to wait on the Lord in trusting faith will find Him to be a faithful Shepherd. He knows precisely where each of His sheep must be led for their ultimate good.

There will be some people (generally those who have never experienced the heavenly “peace of God”) who will insist that responding to a “feeling” is wrong. But we are not saying that we should respond to anything that makes us feel better emotionally. The little pleasure and limited peace we can find by following our own desires will quickly disappear when something goes wrong. On the other hand, when we are permitting God to “walk in” us according to His will, He will “dwell in” us with His heavenly peace. And there is nothing from this world, or even the dark world of evil spirits, that can remove His Presence. The Lord must choose to withdraw Himself before we can be separated from His divine peace and joy.

We can be thankful that God is very patient in this matter of guiding His children. He continues to work out situations that will help reveal His purposes. Most of us are a little slow to understand what He is trying to tell us. One thing we cannot expect to receive in this world is a perfect mind. But the true children of faith who have remained flexible to the moving of the Holy Spirit can depend on Him to be faithful in His work of leading them to their appointed end.

When asked how he determined the will of God on any matter, George Mueller listed the following steps. We believe these statements will help summarize the previously stated principles.

1. I get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to any particular matter.
2. I do not leave the results to feelings or simple impressions. That can make one open to great delusions.
3. I seek God's will through or in connection with His word. If you look to the Spirit without the word, you open yourself to delusion.
4. I consider providential circumstances.
5. I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me.
6. I make sure I have a clear conscience before God and man.
7. Every time I listened to men instead of God, I made serious mistakes.
8. I act only when I am at peace, after much prayer, waiting on God with faith.

Concerning this last point, we should note that "whatever is not from faith is sin." (Rom 14:23) God wants us to wait on Him before making major decisions in our life. We should never go forward without truly believing we are following God's will. When we are not moving in faith it implies we are moving in self-will. That is why it is sin. We should also realize that our rationalizations are not necessarily God's will.

In this age of fulfillment we can walk in fellowship with God and know we are in the center of His will. Because it enables us to confidently pray according to His will, it also opens up the glorious privilege of having our prayers answered.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

Learn to trust in God. There is never a need to be anxious about anything. Neither should you be anxious about where He may now have you. Simply be prepared to move as He moves, trustfully and securely, knowing that He will lead you according to His "good and acceptable and perfect will."

It will not be long before we must meet our Maker. He will base our eternity on what we have done with His will in this world. With these thoughts in mind, we will leave you with some advice from John Fletcher:

Beware, my friend, of the world. Let not its cares, nor the deceitfulness of its riches, keep or draw you from Jesus... Years of plenty and of scarcity, of peace or war, disappear before the eternity to which we are all hastening. May we see now the winged dispatch of time as we shall see it in a dying hour.

## Choosing God's Will Today

There will be readers, after coming this far, who find themselves confronted with some piercing questions. You have probably begun to reflect on your life. Questions have come to the surface concerning what you have been doing and becoming while living in a world where everyone is on trial. Even though you have become a Christian, you can now see how you have been following a self-appointed course. It helps you to understand why Christ has never revealed His heavenly life within you. It becomes obvious that His "rivers" of Living Water cannot flow out of you when you are not walking in His Spirit. You have overlooked a fundamental truth: "A man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23 NIV)

Yes, God had a definite plan for your life. In His view, your life was not to be lived apart from the plans He had when He created you. Dear child of God, what have you done? How much of your heavenly Father's plan have you carried out? Have you made any real progress in preparing for the work He planned for you in His eternal kingdom?

Let us ask you, has your course provided your soul with a deep sense of inward peace, a settled contentment and a heavenly rest? In all of your efforts to develop your life, has it enabled you to find the kingdom of God with its "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"? Or, have you found that your course has led you into many spiritual disturbances, caused restlessness within your soul, worried you with cares, and given you a covetous desire for the temporal things of this world? If this is your case, you have been deceived by the devil in the time of testing. You are still following his "spirit of error."

You need to realize that these conditions will continue to occur while you are living by your own will. If you still find yourself becoming worried or upset when something interferes with your plans, you can know that you are not yet walking in the Spirit by faith in God. The only way you will ever be filled with the light of Christ's life is by fully focusing your attention on God's plans for your life. "If therefore your eye is good {single and focused}, your whole body will be full of light." (Matt. 6:22)

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:2-3)

Perhaps you have been entertaining yourself, for the moment, with the greatness of your personal success and prosperity. But do you honestly believe it will be termed "success" by God when you have prospered while following the self-seeking and self-exalting ways of this world? Yes, you can set up your wonderful plans without the leading of the Holy Spirit and find joy for a season in your prosperity. But there could not be a greater delusion in calling it success. You apparently do not realize that God is going to judge your life based on how much of *His plan* has been carried out through you by His Spirit. Regardless of how great a kingdom you have set up for yourself in this world, the Day is coming when this very truth will be revealed to you, and it will bring with it the bitterest pang of defeat and shame.

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?... For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with

His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. (Matt. 16:26-27)

Satan also tempted Jesus to use His power to seek out a personal kingdom for His own pleasures in this world. Jesus' response was, "You shall worship the Lord your God, *and Him only you shall serve.*" (Matt. 4:10) But not everyone in the church has made this same response when they came under this same temptation. Let us remember that Satan is still acting as "the prince of this world" and he uses his power to enable worldly-minded people to build up their own little kingdoms. He knows that he can lead them to destruction by keeping their minds on earthly things.

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction...who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship {our place of life} is in heaven... (Phil. 3:18-20)

Even after a person has been fully sanctified and separated from the world, Satan will keep trying to turn them back to earthly things. He knows that it only takes a simple longing for what this world offers to turn God's called-out children into pillars of salt. This is why Jesus gave His warnings: "Remember Lot's wife!" (Luke 17:32) "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62) It does not matter how spiritual you have been in the past. Turning your mind back to earthly things will separate your soul from the divine life of God.

With these truths in mind, we suggest that you prayerfully consider who is truly being served in the way you are now living. If you are still following a course of your own making in an attempt to find your spiritual support from the temporal realm then you are still your own master. And you cannot worship and serve God as He requires while you are still living for yourself.

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

Have you considered what you will say to the Lord on the Day of Judgment if you continue to direct your own steps? It will be a very fearful and dreadful day if you come before Him in this disobedient state. You need to be prepared to say with the apostle Paul at the end of your life: "I have finished my course." Have you been moving toward that mark where you too can have this testimony? Are you now prepared to meet your Maker if He appeared today? Can you honestly say that the following Scriptures are reflective of your testimony?

I do nothing of Myself... The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him. (John 8:28-29)

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God... For I am not seeking my own good but the good of the many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Cor. 10:31-11:1)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day... (2 Tim 4:7-8)

Now is the time to do the work that God has planned for you to do. The works have been prepared. The Lord now expects you to enter into your appointed course. Follow the example of Paul as he followed Christ by counting everything else as loss. It is the only way you can be assured of finishing your course with the peace and joy of the Spirit filling your soul.

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:8-10)

It matters not whether it is apparent prosperity or acknowledged defeat, the case is the same: You can only be a child of God by walking in the Spirit and being led by the Spirit. (Rom. 8:14) The only thing that will ever be accepted “as good” is what you permit the Spirit to work out through you. In other words, each one of us needs to apprehend the very thing for which Christ has apprehended us. (Phil 3:12)

Consider the years that have been squandered and lost while directing your own steps through life. It is possible that many years of the glorious biography designed for you by your Maker have been lost because of your occupation with frivolous and foolish inventions of your own mind. You have been wasting your appointed time in this world by substituting your will for God’s infinite wisdom and love. Oh, let the past suffice! “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph 5:15-16)

“Evil” is typically related to gross sins. But in reality, everyone directing their own steps and living for themselves is evil in God’s sight. And the days are truly terrible because nearly everyone is following this self-seeking way of life. “This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every *evil* thing are there.” (Jam. 3:15-16)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. (2 Tim. 3:1-5 NIV)

Not only do we need to die to our own will and ways, we must begin living for the purpose of turning others back from the self-seeking ways of this world. Our only purpose for remaining in this fallen world is to turn others from the wide road that is funneling the masses into the pit of eternal darkness. Let us become like Epaphras of old, a man who was always laboring in prayer to lead others into the will of God.

Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant {a slave} of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (Col. 4:12)

### **Take Time to Seek God’s Will**

The following thoughts were extracted from the book *Deeper Things* by J. M. Hames. He speaks of taking time to truly seek out God’s will. He has revealed a God-ordained pattern that will enable you to discover God’s plan for your life.

When Moses, the leader of Israel, was called up to Mt. Sinai, he left the multitudes in the plains below and ascended the holy mount alone,

where he spent forty days with the Lord... There is something analogous to this that takes place in the life of every true saint... From this we wish to draw several lessons.

First, he who would get God's thoughts and plan for his life must leave the crowds below and ascend some holy mount of prayer, tarrying there until the plan is given. Too many wait only long enough to obtain a partial vision, and in consequence their lives are lacking in symmetrical Christlikeness and their characters are never well rounded.

Second, God has a plan for each individual life. The Bible is full of this thought, that for each one of us there is a course, a race, a work, an individual life to be lived, and to this end we have been created and redeemed, and for this purpose there is ample provision of grace and inspiration to accomplish the purpose of God in our life... It is of supreme importance that the individual ascertain this purpose... Multitudes are drifting...

Third, it is possible to lose sight of the pattern and begin building according to our own notions... When this takes place, the glory and sweetness gradually departs from one's life. G.D. Watson says, in *Bridehood Saints*, "There are many Christians, it would seem, who miss their true mission in life, and, although they may be saved in the end, yet because of lack of perseverance, or by being influenced by other people's conscience, frustrate the special vocation to which they were called..."

Young people, this is the day of hope opening up to you. All your best opportunities are still before you. Now is the time to be seeking out what God has planned for your life. Who could possibly provide a better plan than your wise and loving heavenly Father? Let your life begin with Him. Believe that you have been raised by the power of God into a new life for a holy and glorious calling—a calling that has been designed precisely for you. Go to Him and consecrate yourself wholly to His purposes. (Rom. 12:1-2) Trust Him to lead you along a course that will be most effective in glorifying Him and drawing others into His eternal kingdom. This Spirit-led way of life will optimally prepare you for your place in eternity.

And what shall be said to the older man or woman? Many of your best opportunities have already passed. The best end, and the next best, have already gone by. And yet, Christ still has something for you to do. If you can still hear and respond to truth, there is still a place where God can use you in His eternal kingdom. While it may not be everything that could have been, there is still a special place, and a good one. To this end you are now called. Do not waste any more time. Turn from the evil of your dull and weary way and begin seeking out God's current plan for your life.

It is not possible to be filled with the Spirit of God while you are still living by your own plans. All your dryness, your frustrations, your worries and your defeats come from walking by your own will. If you could only begin to silence all the noise and the busy activity that continues to fill your life, and begin looking to God and His higher life of divine fruitfulness and blessing, you might break free from your own will and enter into God's undivided kingdom. Can you see this Pearl of Great Price? If the vision has been revealed to you, then give up everything from your old self-originated form of life and buy it. (Matt. 13:45-46)



Children of the living God, how glorious is the privilege that has been offered to you here. What are you going to do with it? Do these promises of God still encounter only unbelief in your heart? Is your lack of faith so great that you are afraid to surrender to God's plan with a real trust in Him? Do you still doubt in His ability to lead you by His Spirit into His good and acceptable and perfect will? Do not be afraid of those seemingly great giants in this life of promise. "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." (Luke 18:27) Let faith rise up and take hold of the truth, "For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper' " (Heb 13:5-6)

It will be acknowledged that this kind of Spirit-led life requires a very close, well-kept walk with the Lord. It is a life where the soul will need to continuously show its confidence toward God by giving His Spirit freedom to reign and guide. You must never grieve Him by resisting His leadings, or drive Him away by giving way to your own selfish pursuits.

Many of those who were once set apart to live for the Lord have fallen into this snare. They are now living by their own will and working to fulfill their own plans in the strength of the flesh. It is not difficult to see how their minds are now on earthly things. (2 Tim. 4:10) It has separated their soul from the spiritual life that has its source in heaven. (Col. 3:1-3)

We again give the views of J. M. Hames. Because there seems to be so many who have lost their first love, and are no longer living for the Lord as they once did, this is a much-needed lesson.

We need to pray fervently over keeping our hearts tender and our spirit an open channel through which the Holy Spirit's Divine life may flow... One of the great attributes of the Holy Ghost is light. It is His mission to so illuminate the mind and all the soul-faculties *that God, Christ and Heaven will become a living reality*. As the light gradually fades from the west, and darkness comes over the earth, so with the soul that has begun grieving the Spirit... The brightness leaves the countenance, the flash is gone from the eye and the heavenly throb from the heart. We are only saved on the condition: If we "walk in the light."

*New light from the Spirit always calls for more sacrifice, self-denial and a deeper conformity to Jesus*. We wonder why those whom the Spirit has used for years have run aground and dried up. [While many of them can still work up some noise, and even shout, it is nothing more than mere human emotions that quickly fade away in difficult times.]... If the truth were known, they failed at some point to walk in the light, and refused to take the narrow way...

A loss of inward Divine guidance is an indication that the Spirit is gradually leaving the soul. One of the promises concerning the Comforter is that He will guide us into all truth. There is nothing that is taught any more plainly in the Word of God than that, upon meeting certain conditions, Divine guidance is assured.

There could not be a more natural way of life than walking by the Spirit and enjoying the fruit of the Spirit. This is the way we were designed to live both today and throughout eternity. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Gal 5:22-23) The letter of the law, which only kills the spirit, is not needed when you are truly walking in Christ’s Spirit and abiding with Him in His eternal Kingdom-life.

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and *just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.* (1 John 2:27)

For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. (Eph. 5:8-10)

We are speaking of a walk with God where we always live in His divine Presence. His “rivers” of Living Water continue to well up from within our soul to eternal life. (John 4:14; 7:37-38) We also see with our spiritual eyes how He is determining all things. We rejoice in the confidence that the counsel of our wise Creator is shaping everything along the narrow way, as He leads us step by step. Now, we ask you, have you found this way of holiness?

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland {of this fallen world}. (Isa. 43:18-19 NIV)

For I will pour out water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendents. [This is a reference to us in this age of fulfillment.] They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams. (Isa. 44:3-4 NIV)

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way... (Isa. 35:8 NIV)

This, our brothers and sisters, is your privilege in this New Testament age. And as you walk in this way, you need to realize that the emphasis is not so much on the blessings you receive in this world, but rather on what you become. Everything that occurs in your life, if used properly, becomes a means for moving your eternal soul into the ever-greater depths of the infinite life of God. While you may not have enough time remaining to do the things that God originally planned for you to do, there is no limit to how far you can go in becoming like the Son through a more earnest pressing forward in the ways of the Spirit. And it is this qualification—the measure of your Christlikeness—that will determine your place in the life of eternity.

Canon MacColl once said, “Your business here is not to enjoy yourselves in those fleeting pleasures which perish in the using; not to sip as many dainties as you can from the moments as they fly by; not to gather as many flowers as you can pluck from the garden of this perishing earth; not even to rest in the enjoyment of those nobler delights which come from the exercise of the intellect...but rather to do your best to fit yourselves and others for the new heavens and new earth...”

We submit the following example to help you realize that many faithful servants are called to a simple life far from the spotlight. But, regardless of where God's calling leads, you can expect your Lord to reveal His "light of life" through you. He will then draw others to Himself so that He may also manifest His life and works through them.

George Truett has told the story of a girl who had dreamed of a life in China as a missionary. She had a deep burden for seeing Chinese children taught about Jesus. A few months before she was due to leave for her field of service she learned that her only sister had died, leaving four young children. The young missionary made her way to the mountain home and found the helpless children in deep grief. She was then led, through this providence of God, to dedicate her life to the job of rearing them for the Lord.

Years later at the end of her life she was found rejoicing in the realization that three of the four children were in China. Because she had yielded to the Spirit, the Lord had raised up three servants to carry out the vision of reaching Chinese children. They were drawn into the light of her self-sacrificing love and challenged to go forth in the work of multiplying the same kind of life. Because the seed had died to itself and its plans, it was able to multiply itself. The vision of spreading the word of God in China had become the work of the children. She therefore ended up doing more to further the eternal kingdom of God by sending the three, which was God's plan for her life, than she could have done by going herself.

We need to understand that we are not all called to be on the front lines. And yet, each member of the body has a purpose. For example, David wanted to build a great temple for his Lord. But it was not in God's plan. "Solomon, thy son, shall build." This is a principle that everyone needs to understand. Yes, David could have gone ahead and done this "great" work for God according to his own will, but he would have separated himself from God's will. It is in this sense that we must be very careful to avoid setting out in our own will to do great things for God. Our only purpose in life is to discover and carry out what God has planned for us to do. We will be rewarded for what we have permitted the Spirit to work out through our lives. God insists on being the source of everything in His kingdom.

But God has chosen...the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Cor. 1:27-29)

Because of our natural impatience we are anxious to accomplish many great works right away. We obviously do not have God's eternal perspective—the perspective that enables Him to see a thousand years like a day. He sees the end from the beginning, and He knows what He is doing. Let us simply rest in His will. We can then depend on Him to use each of our lives as a link in the chain that He has been putting together to accomplish a much greater purpose than we are able to imagine. We need to simply keep in mind that every individual we have touched and have drawn closer to Christ through our lives can lead to untold results in both this age and in the age to come. We will never know where the Spirit has taken all these different links until we come to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

God always has something for His children to do. And even if He has only called us to a small and seemingly insignificant work in the sight of human wisdom, there is still something He can accomplish through it. He will therefore hold us accountable for how we have responded. As L.E. Maxwell, founder of the Prairie Bible Institute, once said, "There are all kinds of jobs in the Kingdom of Heaven that need humble men and women

to perform them. There is neither glamour nor glory attached to such jobs, but they must be done. Paul teaches in First Corinthians 12 that each member of the Body of Christ is needed if the Body is to effectively function. No individual can deny his place in the divine program.”

The Son Himself is the One who will build His eternal kingdom. Yes, He could, with His own power and authority, do all the work. But He has chosen to work through the members of His body. And He has appointed each individual to a specific part of the work. If we will yield our lives to Him, and let Him do what He has planned, He will make sure that His kingdom is advanced. And while we may not see all the results that God has been accomplishing through our work, we can know that everything will eventually be revealed when the Lord gives out His rewards. We again leave you with the insights of John Fletcher:

The Lord is faithful in rewarding as well as punishing. I once met a gentleman abroad, an infidel, who said, “Men have no faith. If they believed that by forsaking houses, lands, friends, etc., they should receive an hundredfold, they would instantly renounce all. For who would not carry all his money to the bank of Heaven to receive an hundredfold interest?”

The Papists have made so bad a use of the rewardableness of works that we dare neither preach it nor hold it in a Scriptural manner. For my part, I think if it were properly received, it would make a great alteration in the professing world. Dare to receive it! Try the mighty use of it! Then, when you have experienced it [when your spiritual life has begun to have its hundredfold return], do not keep your light to yourself, but impart it to all within the reach of your tongue and pen...

# Appendix A

Excerpts from the Book

## *Impressions*

Written By Martin Wells Knapp

Published by Schmul Publishing Co.

We will become useful in the work of our Lord's kingdom in direct proportion to how we have learned to live through the Spirit and walk by His leadings. The following material is provided to help earnest souls better understand the principles involved. Martin Wells Knapp was the founder of God's Bible School.

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“The revelation of the Christian's privilege, and his wealth in these promises, opened up to my own mind a vision of wonderful possibilities which had hitherto been hid. It is just as glorious a privilege to trust these promises for guidance as it is to trust other promises for salvation.”

“There must be complete commitment to God. Hence it is written, ‘Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass.’ Any mental reservation in the commitment will deaden the discerning of the divine voice.”

“Unless it is a settled question with us that we will follow God's guidance when it is clearly revealed, at any cost, we can never know it, but will be a prey of impressions from below.”

“In order to be divinely led we must, says Upham, ‘Cease from self and from its turbulent and deceitful elements... For instance, when we ask God to guide us, we must not at the same time cherish in our hearts a secret determination and hope to guide ourselves... The existence of undue eagerness of spirit [any impulsiveness] is an evidence that we are in some degree afraid to trust God, and that we are still too much under the life of nature.’ ”

“Not the haughty but ‘the meek will he guide in judgment, and the meek will He teach His way.’ From the wise and prudent and self-sufficient, God's guidance is hid, but ‘revealed unto babes,’ the teachable, humble, childlike.”

“ ‘You must remember,’ writes the author of *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, ‘that our God has all knowledge, and all wisdom, and that, therefore, it is very possible that He may guide you into paths wherein He knows great blessings are awaiting you, but which to the short-sighted human eyes around you seem sure to result in confusion and loss. You must recognize the fact that God's thoughts are not as man's thoughts, nor his ways as man's ways; and that He who knows the end of things from the beginning, alone can judge of what the results of any course of action may be.’ ”

“One must be dead; dead to sin, to self, and also to the world... In the stillness of the funeral of self the voices from the skies are clearly heard.”

“ ‘To him who is crucified to self,’ says George Watson, ‘the Holy Spirit grants an illumination and direction, incomprehensible to imperfect believers. He can discern in the providence of the Father a special significance and minuteness which others are blind to...’ ”

“The results are so sweet and soul-satisfying... The following are among the many fruits which abound in all who are thus led.

“*Calmness.* A holy calm possesses the soul which is conscious that God is leading. It may be led contrary to natural inclinations, and like Paul, against the protests of countrymen and bosom friends, yet amid all opposition, it may be as peaceful as Galilee beneath the Master’s silencing command.

“*Confidence.* Righteousness always inspires confidence. The promise that ‘the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken,’ finds in them fruitful fulfillment...”

“*They are free from fret.* God never leads people to fret and worry. Hence, those who keep all their ways committed to Him, never do. ‘Anxious for nothing, but in everything with prayer and thanksgiving,’ they let their requests be known to God, and thus possess the peace that passeth understanding...”

“*Humility.* All divinely led prove the truth that ‘before honor is humility.’ They illustrate the truth of Bishop Taylor’s statement, that ‘humility is like a tree whose roots, when it is set deepest in the earth, rises higher and spreads fairer and stands surer and lasts longer, and every step of its descent is like a rib of iron.’ The fact that they have no wisdom in themselves, but have to depend upon Another at every turn, tends in itself to keep them lowly. Thus, humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God, He exalts them by guiding them with His counsels...”

“*They please God.* Like Enoch, they walk with God, and have the testimony that they please Him, because they ‘keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.’ Even when they make mistakes, which through infirmity they are liable to, He does not frown upon them, because He knows they did not mean to, and judges the action by the intention...”

“*They are reasonable.* As the spirit of God leads men through their reasoning power, those thus led are always ready to give a reason [based on Scriptural principles] for every position they take and every act they do...”

“*They rule their own spirits.* Appetites and passions bow beneath the mandates of their Divine Master...”

“*They are courteous.* As the Holy Spirit leads none to be selfish, all who follow Him will be saved from selfish acts, and thus from all the discourteous ways which selfishness prompts... Rudeness, coarseness and selfishness being eliminated; gentleness, refinement and love are crowned in their stead...”

“*Christ-likeness.* All who are divinely led will be like Jesus. Though they may have many infirmities which He had not, yet in love, patience, boldness, meekness, and all the graces of a Christian life, they are like Him. The Holy Spirit seeks to bring all to be like

Jesus... Hence all who yield to Him are transformed into characters of such beauty as will make angels to marvel.

*“Communion with God.* They talk with Him and He answers them. Upham, speaking of those who are ‘truly sanctified,’ says, ‘It is not impossible for them to speak, if it is done with a notable degree of reverence, of holding conversation with God, of talking with God.’”

## Appendix B

Excerpts from the Book  
*Inward Divine Guidance*  
Written by Thomas Upham  
Published by Schmul Publishing Co.

The publisher said of this book, “The phrase ‘meat for men’ was never more appropriate than for the material in this book. The Christian seeking to know the will of God for his life will treasure this book. It deals faithfully with the wonder and marvel of the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit’s unfolding of God’s plan and purpose for him to our heart.”

In the Preface, Hannah Whitall Smith said that she had searched for a book on this subject without success until she was reminded of Upham’s treatise. She then stated, “...nowhere can there be found a clearer or fuller statement of the whole subject in all its bearings. It tells us concerning the blessedness of hearing and obeying the still small inspeaking voice of God in our souls, and at the same time it warns us of the temptations and dangers that will likely beset us.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“If we would have our desires of being continually guided by the Holy Spirit fully realized, we must not only give up our personal and self-interested plans and purposes, submitting everything into God’s hands with entire childlike simplicity, but it is important also not to give way to uneasy, agitated, and excited feelings. The existence of undue eagerness and excitement of spirit is an evidence that we are, in some degree, afraid to trust God, and that we are still too much under the influence of the life of nature.”

“God has not only a work to be done, but He also has a time of doing it. His time is the right time, and no other time is. David was willing to build a house of worship for the Lord. But the time which Infinite Wisdom prescribed for this great work had not arrived; and, in the spirit of acquiescence, he left it to his successor. In repeated instances, the Savior expressed the sentiment, that ‘His hour was not yet come;’ implying, very evidently, that the great events of His life, whether of action or of suffering, had their appropriate time.”

“I know that man has a will, and that he has power. It would be a great error to deny or to doubt it. But it is equally true, that he is dependent; and that, in a very important sense, he has nothing. [Jesus never did anything out from Himself. He revealed how God’s children are to live through the Spirit.] We must, therefore, not only begin in our nothingness, but must be willing to remain in it... Man works, it is true; but God works in him. Man working without God’s working, as a basis of it, is of no avail. Man’s strength is in God’s strength. Hence there must be no undue anxiety, no unsuitable and excited



eagerness, no methods and plans of action originated and prosecuted on worldly principles; which necessarily imply some distrust of the skill and resources of the great Being who has thus condescended to work by means of human instrumentality. We must move when God moves; stop when He stops...”

“As closely connected with what has already been said...we should be in a state of reciprocity rather than of communication. In other words, it being admitted that we have nothing of our own which we can communicate or give to God, it would seem to follow that our co-operation, so far as it has an existence at all, must depend upon the fact of our receiving from Him... It is His desire, His delight, His highest happiness, to communicate Himself; and the reason why He does not communicate Himself to all men at once, is the existence in their bosoms, of obstacles which they themselves have voluntarily placed there; so that the highest honor and the highest power of man is, having put away these obstacles, to wait upon God, in the exercise of simple faith, for the reception of the divine sufficiency.”

“He who is receptive is neither idle nor unprofitable. In the intercourse between man and his Maker, it is the receptive, and not the communicative activity, which is the source of truth, riches, and power.”

“They ultimately, in the way of co-operation with what they have received, become fruitful in themselves; but it is only because they are humble and attentive recipients in the first instance.”

“It is a universal law, unalterable as God is, and lasting as eternity, that no created being can be truly holy, useful, or happy, who is knowingly and deliberately out of the line of divine co-operation even for a moment. Accordingly, we are to consider every moment as consecrated to God.”

“In a word, it is the...*practically realized presence of God in the soul, moment by moment*. This is the state of mind which we cannot hesitate in saying all Christians ought to be in. It is hardly necessary to say that it is a scriptural state of mind.”

“It is our privilege, therefore—a privilege too often undervalued and neglected—to do everything which Christian duty requires, as in the divine presence, in God and for God... This eminent grace, *without which the kingdom of God in the soul will be liable to constant irruptions and overthrows*, will never be possessed by a heart that is indifferent to its possession.”

“It will be a matter of course, that the person who lives in religious recollection [who lives in constant communion with God] will avoid unnecessary employments. With...the reality of God, continually present in his heart, scrutinizing every motive and action, and continually enforcing the claims of moral obligation, he will find no time to be spent idly, nor for the mere purpose of pleasure.”

“It seems to be *naturally impossible* that we should realize an entire harmony, or oneness, with the divine mind, while the soul is so occupied with worldly thoughts flowing into it... A state of religious or spiritual quietude is, in other words, a state of rest in God... And in order to do this, they who would be perfect in Christ Jesus, must not mingle too much in the concerns of the world. Little have they to do with the unprofitable frivolities and pleasures of secular society; with...adventures and speculations...”

“The state of internal quietude implies a cessation, or rest, from unrestrained or inordinate desires and affections. Such a cessation becomes comparatively easy, when God has become the ruling idea in the thoughts... This rest, or stillness of the affections, when it exists in the highest degree, is secured by perfect faith in God, necessarily resulting from perfect love.”

“The true state of internal quietude implies...a perfect submission of the will; in other words, *a perfect renunciation of our own purposes and plans, and a cheerful and perfect acquiescence in the holy will of God.* Such a renunciation of the will is indispensably requisite. It is not to be understood that we are to have no will of our own, in the literal sense; this would be inconsistent with moral agency; but that in its action, under all circumstances, however adverse and trying, our will is cheerfully and wholly accordant with God’s will. A mind in such a state must necessarily be at rest. It realizes that God is at the helm of affairs; and that necessarily all the plans of His wise and great administration shall come to pass. Why, then, should it be troubled? ‘What a blessed thing it is,’ says Payson, ‘to lose one’s will! Since I have lost my will, I have found happiness! There can be no such thing as disappointment; for I have no desire but that God’s will may be accomplished.’ *The blessedness of such a soul is indeed indescribable. It is an inward death, out of which springs inward and eternal life.*”

“A person in this state of mind, being at rest in the will of God, and never out of that divine will, is operative precisely as God would have him so; moving as God moves, stopping where God stops. He is at rest, but never idle. His God forbids idleness. Therefore he keeps in the line of divine co-operation, and works with God.”

“The result is the harmony, the eternal stillness, and the beauty, which must ever characterize true holiness.”

“Satan himself, in the presentation of his temptations, has comparatively but little influence over such a soul. He has, comparatively speaking, no basis to operate upon.”

“Divested of all selfish purposes and aims, and having no will of his own, he acts deliberately and supremely for God; and therefore he feels that whatever is done, so far as motives and intentions are concerned, is well done. In that respect, no trouble enters his mind. There is no need of retrospection... Whether he suffers or does not suffer, the throne of peace is erected in the center of his soul.”

“The union of the human with the divine mind, when it is once originated, is not easily broken. The fact, for instance, of our being taken up at times with [temporal] cares,

does not necessarily destroy the state of divine union... At such times the soul appears to know but one object, and that is God; and to have but one feeling, and that is love... Hence words are few.”

“What higher idea can we have of the most advanced Christian experience, than that of entire union with the Divine Will, by a subjection of the human will? When the will of man ceasing from its divergences and...becomes fixed to one point, henceforth immovable, always harmonizing, moment by moment, with God’s central and absorbing purposes, then we may certainly say that the soul...in a modified sense of the terms, has become not only perfected in faith and love, but ‘united and one with God,’ and ‘transformed into the divine nature.’ ‘He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit.’ And from that moment, in its higher nature, and so far as it is not linked to earth...the pain of its inward anguish is changed into rejoicing; it has passed into the mount of stillness, the Tabor of inward transfiguration, the temple of unchanging tranquility.”

“There are three classes of Christians, who seem to be easily distinguishable from each other. The first class are those who, destitute, in a considerable degree, of any marked spiritual manifestations and joys, may yet be said to possess faith... Their faith, however, is weak. Their language is, ‘Lord, I believe: help thou mine unbelief.’ They have but little strength. In general, they move feebly and slowly; and in some instances scarcely show signs of life... They grow in grace, though not rapidly... They are not wanting in sincerity, and they cling to the cross of Christ, as the foundation of their hope... [“I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.” (1 John 2:12)]

“The second class are those who have had striking manifestations in the way of strong convictions... They may be said to have a considerable degree of faith; *but they evidently have less faith than feeling*... These persons are generally the marked ones, the particular and bright stars in the church. They often have great gifts; they labor for God; they attract attention. They overwhelm by their eloquence...are denunciatory, argumentative, prophetic, just as the occasion may call. But their movements are not always clear of self; and pride sometimes lurks at the bottom... It can hardly be said of them, that their life is hid with Christ in God. They think too much of their own efforts and powers; they place too high an estimate on human instrumentality; they do not fully understand the secret of their own nothingness; nor do they know, in their own experience and to its full extent, the meaning of self-crucifixion. Hence their confusion, when, in their own views, things do not go right... Hence their plans, their contrivances—[are] too much like the plans and calculations of human policy. They are not destitute of Christian graces; but they need more lowliness of heart, and more faith. Nevertheless, they have had much experience of the divine goodness. God owns and blesses them; and their memorial is often written in multitudes of grateful hearts. [“I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.” (1 John 2:14)]

“A third class are those whose life may be said to be emphatically a life of faith, attended with an entire renunciation and crucifixion of self. Faith is not perfect until self is crucified; and the converse is equally true, that perfect faith necessarily results in entire self-renunciation

“In the second class of persons, which has been mentioned, the spiritual life mingles more or less...with the tendencies and activities of nature. The fire which blazes up from their hearts, and which often casts a broad light upon the surrounding multitude, is a mixed fire, partly from heaven and partly from earth. The natural principles are not extinct; but can only be said to be partly purified, and to be turned into a new channel. Hence they will oftentimes fight for God with the same zeal, and almost in the same manner, that worldly men fight for temporary worldly objects; with great earnestness, with an unquiet and turbulent indignation...

“But the class of Christians to whom we are now attending, have their souls fully fixed in God by faith, cannot consent to serve their heavenly Father with such instruments. They sow the seed; but they have faith in the God of the harvest; and they know that all will be well in the end. They are not inactive; but they move only at God’s command, and in God’s way; and are fully satisfied with the results which God may see fit to give... These men are of...a retired life, except when duty calls to public action; of few words, simple manners, and inflexible principle. They have renounced self; and they naturally seek a low place, remote from public observation and unreached by human applause... When they open their lips and speak, it is the message which God gives, and is spoken with the demonstration of the Spirit. When they are apparently inactive, they are gaining strength from the Divine Fountain; drinking nourishment into the inmost soul. And when they move, although with quiet step, the heart of the multitude is shaken and troubled at their approach, because God moves in them. There is no thunder, but the ‘still small voice,’ no smoke, but the consuming fire. . [“I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him {possessing an inward knowledge of the eternal life} who is from the beginning.” (1 John 2:14)]

“These are the men of whom martyrs are made. When...dungeons are ready, and fires are burning, then God permits his children, who are weak in the faith, to stand aside. Then the illuminated Christians, those who live in the region of high emotion rather than of quiet faith, who have been conspicuous in the world of Christian activity...and in many things have done nobly, will unfold to the right and the left, and let this little company, of whom the world is ignorant, and whom it cannot know, come up from their secret places to the great battle of the Lord. To them the prison is as acceptable as the throne; a place of degradation as the place of honor. They eat of the ‘hidden manna,’ and they have the secret name given them, ‘which no man knoweth.’... They have no feeling separate from the will of God. All high and low, all joy and sorrow...are brought to a level, and are merged and lost in the great realization of God being present in the heart. Hence the chains and dungeons have no terrors; a bed of fire is as a bed of down.”

## Appendix C

Excerpts from the Book  
***The Man Christ Jesus***  
Written by G. T. Bustin  
Published by Schmul Publishing Co.

### **The Man With Limitations**

Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can doing nothing of Himself..." (John 5:19)

As these words are written I am well aware that some of God's own will not readily agree with some truths brought to light... To begin with let us consider the question presented by Paul in his letter to the Philippian Church where he speaks of Christ's incarnation in human flesh. In verse six he speaks of Christ's previous state as being "in the form of God." In the seventh verse he speaks of Him as appearing in "the form of a servant" (literally slave). A miraculous and utterly undefinable change has taken place...

Unspeakable mysteries are bound up in the 7th verse of this 2nd chapter. The King James Version reads: "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." We are told that the more literal rendering of the original words would be, "But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant." The question which naturally presents itself at this point is, "Of what did the Son of God empty Himself?"...

As Man Jesus experienced mankind's limitations... He became weary, hungry, thirsty, sleepy, lonely, suffered in agony while in prayer for a world of lost sinners, and being weak in body was strengthened by an angel from heaven. Remember, it could never make sense to think of Christ as God being strengthened by an angel...

As Man He possessed His own will, yet this was never in conflict with God's will. He repeatedly said, "nevertheless not My will, but Thine be done." This is heaven's rule for how all real human beings are to live...

### **Commanding Characteristics of The Man Christ Jesus**

During recent weeks this unqualified scribe has repeatedly read through the four Gospels with the specific purpose of viewing the prominent portraits of character found in the life of Jesus... I am disposed to begin with what has been termed as one of the most prominent traits common to the life of Jesus. The story is told of the saintly John Fletcher, concerning whom Wesley said, at Fletcher's funeral, "Here lies the remains of the holiest man I have ever known, and I never expect to meet his equal." A man of God one day asked Mr. Fletcher this question: "What do you consider as the greatest Christian virtue?" Fletcher replied immediately saying, "Humility." A second question was, "What would you say is the second greatest Christian virtue?" The answer was, "Humility." The third question was, "Then what would you say is the third greatest Christian virtue?" Then came the same answer, "Humility." Who am I to say this is not correct? This we do

know: there was no trait of character more prominent in that marvelous life [of Jesus] than of humility.

The humility of the Godhead is clearly reflected in the fact that pride, the opposite of humility, is abominably hated... Satan is the embodiment of pride, while humility is the embodiment of each member of the Godhead...

Let us turn back to the subject of humility as depicted in the life of Jesus... Humility is clearly revealed in His having volunteered to become fully identified with mankind, even from His lowly birth and all through His amazing and eventful life to the hour of His shameful death on a criminal's cross. Think of it! For the sake of all of lost mankind, the Creator of all universes swinging in space became Man, the Lamb of God, to pour out His life's blood. Such condescension!...

We never hear of Him being cast down, or discouraged. He is never whining and complaining about His lot in life. And though He was shamefully treated again and again, yet these things never moved Him from the course the Father planned for Him...

Righteous indignation stirred in His soul when He came into the presence of proud-hearted and place-seeking religionists. He spoke of such as loving "the uppermost rooms at feasts, and chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. "But be not ye called Rabbi [by exalting self with titles]... But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."...

### **The Divine Man Glories in His Humanity**

When the Word emptied Himself, then all the power He possessed was imparted to Him, or delegated to Him by the agents of the blessed Spirit of God. This is why He often said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son of Man can do nothing of himself..." He became as dependent upon the Father as any other man. His preaching, teaching, healing, and all mighty works, including raising the dead, were affected by the power of the Holy Spirit...

The purely human nature of Christ is chiefly spoken of, and held up to our view as a complete and proper Person, as truly dependent upon the Deity for knowledge and power, holiness and happiness, as the human nature of any man. And, doubtless, this is just a representation of things: for this human nature of our Lord, this body and soul of the holy Jesus, was properly a creature, derived from, and dependent upon God, as all other creatures are. Whatever knowledge He had, therefore, as man—whatever power, purity, or comfort, it was communicated...

This accounts for His "increasing wisdom"...and "waxing strong in Spirit." ... His manhood could be no more acquainted with the ideas of the Divinity than they were imparted... He said, "I know not the day of judgment, I can do nothing of myself."...

As this chapter is brought to a close, I would like to mention the fact that Christ specially gloried in His manhood. His supreme delight was ever to do the will of His Father, and that regardless of the cost, and to bring help and hope to His fellow creatures. He lived not for Himself in any sense of the word... "He pleased not himself."...

### **The Holy Spirit As Relates to The Man of Christ**

As we consider this truth relating to the blessed Holy Spirit and the Son of Man, let us be reminded that in most senses what the Spirit was to Christ in the flesh He is to God's

children everywhere today, if given full sway in their lives. When the Son of God denied Himself and divested Himself of the form of God, His glory...He became as dependent upon the agency of the Spirit of God for strength, wisdom, power and Divine motivation as we are today. He became the Creature of all creatures, and wholly dependent upon the Father for the Spirit's operations in and through His life and labors. As man He became the agent through whom the Spirit of God worked wonders. He spoke wholly as a man when He said, "Of mine own self I can do nothing."

It is rather difficult to understand that even good people, including preachers and teachers, are of the opinion that as God Jesus did His own mighty works while here in the flesh. It is certainly true that God the Father, in the Person of His Holy Spirit worked through the Man Christ Jesus. Jesus nowhere took the praise as man for His great works. He gave God the Father praise for all. He possessed mighty power and saw mighty results by means of the Spirit of the Father working through Him...

The following words are from the pen of Samuel Chadwick, a mighty saint of God, and a scholar of note, who was mightily used of God in the early part of this century. The Bible expositor, G. Campbell Morgan, spoke of Chadwick as being the most outstanding evangelist of his day...

Another thing that needs to be emphasized in this connection is that the Man Christ Jesus lived His life and fulfilled His Mission, with no other resources than those He has made possible to every man in Him. There lurks in our thoughts the impression that after all Jesus had advantages and resources that are open to none other... When He emptied Himself and took upon Him the form of a servant, the Father filled Him with His Spirit. "God anointed him with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him." (Acts 10:38) What the Father gave to the Son, the Son has given to man... The Christ had no resources that He has not made accessible to all.

Note these additional words from the same proficient writer: "This is the Man Christ Jesus. Of like nature with ourselves. Subject to the limitations, perils, temptations of our lot, and restricted to such sources as are now available to all men through Him..."

Through Christ's glorious redemption we are likewise brought into a blessed relationship with the precious Holy Spirit. He is our very life, our guide, teacher, advocate, motivator, and revealer of Christ... His precious abiding presence is assured us in all the soul-trying conflicts of life. If our all is kept committed to Him, then we can always be assured, come what may, of the fulfillment of the glorious promise stated in Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." (Rom. 8:28)

### **The Master Preacher and Teacher of All Ages**

It is needless to say that Christ excelled all other preachers and teachers ever known on earth. There were many preachers and teachers in Christ's day who were supposedly highly qualified. These had their degrees from the traditional schools of the Jews, and they gloried in their flattering titles...

Some will not like what is about to be said here, yet I sincerely believe it to be in line with the truth as was presented by our Lord both in His preaching and in His practice. I

am prepared to say that many good and godly men have had honorary degrees bestowed upon them, yet, I know not of saintly men who have gloried in the use of such. Jesus, the supreme preacher and teacher of all time, possessed no degrees or titles bestowed upon Him by the hall of learning... He gloried not in such things, so why should we? Not one of His apostles, including the highly trained Paul of Tarsus, made use of flattering titles. This obvious thirst on the part of Bible School students, and the encouragement given them on the part of some school authorities...served to throw this, now old man, then twenty-two years of age, from finishing his Bible Training Course sixty years ago. Far more emphasis was placed upon sports, super-scholasticism, prized titles, on the part of some of the authorities in that so-called Holiness Bible College, than deep spirituality induced by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In all honesty, and to the best of my knowledge, there were not more than three or four who came out of this school back there who went forth for God, blazing, burning, and bringing blessing upon a world of lost sinners...

It is a shameful fact that many so-called Bible training institutes are putting out graduates who are damning far more people than they are saving... Christ is our Pattern in all things. If we are not in line with His preaching and practices, then we are on the wrong line...

Jesus Christ came into the world, not in any sense of the word, to fit into the pattern of mankind, nor to please Himself, or to please humanity. His whole life from start to finish was in reverse of the order of humanity in general... The only truly human and normal course is such as was pursued by the Man Christ Jesus...

The great mass of mankind down through the millenniums have been abnormal subjects in reality, and have considered the truly normal ones as being abnormal. This was true in the days of Christ. The majority of the supposedly extremely religious crowd considered Christ as the very cap-chieftain of abnormality, and the majority of supposedly religious folk today think the same about people of God who dare to hold to the old lines—"the faith once for all delivered unto the saints." Christ, in His practice, preaching, and teaching, was a powerful intrusion to the purposes and practices of the religious abnormalities of His day. Thus, they cried, "Away with Him!" "Crucify Him!" If He were here in the flesh today, this same crowd, even professed Christians, would lift up the same cry. The comparatively few of God's dedicated and separated people from the beginning of time until now have been counted as fanatics and fools...as was true of Christ... The abnormality of mankind in general today is revealed by the thirst for pleasure and the desire for money (covetousness), which can never satisfy...

Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world not only to die for the sins of humanity, but by His life and teaching to reveal what man was like in the beginning. He is spoken of as "the last Adam." The "first Adam" was made like God, and possessing the image of God, His Maker. The "second Adam," the eternal Son of God, and the Son of Man, was also "the express image of the Father."... Both possessed wills distinctly their own. The "first Adam" succumbed to the voice of Satan, including that of his own fallen wife, and broke with God, thus instituting the abnormal state of humanity. Our Lord, the "Second Adam" steadfastly resisted Satan, became God's perfect Pattern for the race of mankind, then later poured out His precious blood in sacrifice that we might be brought back into the family of God, and to the status of normal beings. Jesus also came to reveal to us



what God is like... The Bible declares that Jesus “is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.” (Col. 1:15)...

Jesus, in the darkness of the final night before His crucifixion gave to His disciples some of the most startling and wonderful truths of His whole ministry.... “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” (John 14:9) In reality Jesus is a perfect portrait of God the Father, and He is also the portrait of what every child of God should be. For this purpose He gave Himself for us that God’s own nature might be imparted to us, thus His own life and likeness might be reflected through us...

A Christian is a disciple, and a disciple is someone who follows Christ... John says: “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked... 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 2:6; 4:17) This latter word is one of the strongest truths found in the whole of the Bible—“As he is, so are we in this world.” May we all apply to God for the faith and grace to measure up to His standard for us...

The so-called religious scholars of Jesus’ day had no time at all for Him, for He was considered by them as “unlettered,” and “unlearned.”... He had not been trained in their schools, therefore they had no respect for Him... Sensible people, however, were heard to say, “Never has a man spake like this man.” Little wonder that for envy these hypocrites delivered Him to Pilate to be crucified...

Again I will say, good-meaning people, and many who sincerely love our Lord, have the feeling that since Jesus was, and is, the Divine Son of God, He knew all things, therefore He had no need of training of any sort. These are sincerely mistaken, for He came to earth as a Man among men...

Note what Jesus Himself said concerning being taught, and this is the supreme teaching of His life as relates to His learning: “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself, but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.” (John 8:28-29) The same truth is taught in John 5:19 and 14:10. He could not thus speak as Deity. God could not say that He could do nothing Himself. Christ did His mighty works as Man by the power of God working through Him... Repeatedly Christ as Man was led of the Spirit, spoke under the anointing and power of the Spirit, cast out devils by the Spirit, and did His mighty works by the Spirit who dwelt in Him and motivated His marvelous life... The purpose and passion of His life was to please God, thus He depended wholly upon the voice of the Spirit, His Teacher in all things...

It is believed that our readers will greatly appreciate a considerable quote from that prince of preachers, of the old-time Methodist stamp, Samuel Chadwick...

In all the work of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is the Personal Agent of the Godhead... In Creation, Providence, and Redemption, He is the Executive Agent and Active Administrator. In the life of Jesus He fulfills the same mission. At every stage the Servant-Son works under the guidance and power of the Spirit. We rarely realize the dependence of the Christ in His earthly mission upon the Spirit of God... From Bethlehem to Bethany, from the Incarnation to the Ascension, the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, preserving, directing, equipping Him in all the will of God. In this also, the servant of Christ is as his Lord. As the Father gave unto Him, so gives He unto His own. The resources of the Spirit are ours

unreservedly as they were His. The servants are prepared, equipped, instructed, empowered by the Spirit for all the will of God as truly as was the Christ Himself. He is to us as to Him the active agent of the Godhead, and holds for us all the resources of the Infinite. Who can measure man's possibilities in the power of the Eternal Spirit?"

Let it be repeated that there are definite conditions to be met on our part if we would avail ourselves of all the privileges common to our Lord as concerns the Spirit. We are to "ask," "seek," "knock," "believe," and "obey." God is no respecter of persons. The most common of all saints have complete and full access to the glorious fullness of God's Spirit as truly as the most outstanding saintly evangelist known on earth.

### **The Man of Aloneness**

Much is spoken in the Word concerning the aloneness of Christ, and it may rightly be said that this was a vital factor in His training for the tremendous task and the tragic trials which He faced...

He was brought up among subjects who were abnormal in the true sense of the term, yet, even as in our day, these who were in the great majority supposed that Jesus was the abnormal one, even as the world thinks today about God's true people who have departed from the world's ways in order to walk and talk with God. Later, as our readers will remember, Jesus was not only considered "beside himself," but also accused of being possessed with demons. This order of things naturally contributed to His aloneness. Even as a growing lad we can be assured that the devil endeavored to persuade Him to give in at various points in order to be accepted with the crowd. Such suggestions were steadfastly resisted. At this point multitudes, even in our times, cave in and tone down in order to be accepted with the crowds. Jesus steadfastly refused... In later life we hear Him say: "...for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

Jesus was as truly sociable as any other child or man of His day, but doubtless the contemptuous attitude of neighbors who had little time for God in truth contributed toward pushing Him into the status of aloneness... In the overruling providence of God we can be sure that all of this turned out for His good, thus contributing to His aloneness with His heavenly Father. Trials and troubles which serve to crowd us to God are always blessings in disguise, even as was the case with Christ Jesus...

We generally find Christ alone in prayer just preceding the great events of His life, or just following such. This should be the course of His people everywhere, for God is pleased to do great and mighty things in answer to prayer. He said to His faithful, suffering servant, Jeremiah: "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jer. 33:3)...

### **The Cross-Filled Life of Christ**

First, let us briefly consider something of the meaning of the cross as it relates to Christ and His followers. It is not a traditional thing, or something related to ritualism, and not a thing to be idolized and worshipped... The true cross is always related to the course of self-denial. This is what the cross life meant for Jesus, and it is the same for us if we are His followers in truth...

There were doubtless many things which contributed to the cross-filled life of our Lord. These, whatsoever they may be, are in line with some things suggested in the previous chapter. One rather famous writer, relating to the life of Christ, speaks at length concerning the problems faced by our Lord in His own house. We know not the causes, but as we have seen His own brethren did not believe in Him. (See John 7:5) Again He speaks of a man's foes being found in his own house. (Matt. 10:36)...

Just when He came to know that He must lay down His life on a cruel Roman cross we have no way of knowing. It was a considerable time before He made this known to His followers, yet from that time onward He began to speak more and more about the cross, and not as concerned Himself only, but also in relation to His followers. Just immediately following the information given to His disciples to the effect that He must be put to death in Jerusalem He turns the subject and relates it to His own followers: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (See Matt. 16:21-25) We are inclined to think that Christ alone was the One appointed to bear the cross, therefore there is no cross left for us to bear. This is far from the truth...

The common annoyances of life do not constitute the cross of which our Lord speaks. He speaks of that which relates to following Him. To follow Christ is not an easy trail. In substance the cross means to us what it meant to the Lord. From the day we take our stand for Christ in this world where Satan is "the prince of this world," and the "god of this world" we can expect a cross-filled life.

In Christ's last great message to His followers, along with many other vital truths, we find these words: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:18-19)

The cross began with Christ when He voluntarily divested Himself of the form of God, the glory of God, His riches, and certain attributes and prerogatives in order to become man. This continued so long as He was in this world where Satan is "prince." Likewise, the same in substance is true with all Christ's followers, and cannot be otherwise, when they meet the demands for discipleship: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."...

Another case reveals the cross of Christ in relation to His home life. "And the multitude cometh together again, so that they [Christ and His disciples] could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends [relatives] heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, 'He is beside himself.' " (Mark 3:20-21) Now drop down to verse 31: "There came then his brethren and his mother, and standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And He answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren. For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother." (v. 31-35). Some folk foolishly think that Christ was unkind to His mother and brothers by not readily excusing Himself and going out to them. He well knew why they were there, and that they considered Him beside Himself for having denied Himself the time to take food. Before Him were a multitude of hungry-hearted souls whom He had come to save. He could not afford to neglect those in order to be taken away by His mother and His brothers... It was necessary for our Lord to always do what was right [what the Spirit was leading Him to do], and not what even His

relatives thought was best for Him. It was not without the sting of grief that He refused to go out to His beloved mother and brothers, but He understood their motives, and could not neglect the work to which He was called, or the mission for which the Father sent Him, in order to comply with the demands of relatives...

Yes, this constituted part of His cross. We too, when we know what the will of God is for us, must not allow our closest and dearest relatives to lead us away from the blessed will of God... We are here in this world to do the will of our Father which is in heaven, and that regardless of the cross. The closest tie known in this world naturally is that of husband and wife, and yet, whether husband or wife, the will of God is always preeminent. This constitutes a cross, yet it must be borne for the good of mankind and for the glory of God...

Thus we have seen something of the cross-filled life... Beloved, children of God, let us never be guilty of grieving our Lord (literally “crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame”—Heb. 6’6) by “falling away” from the faith. This can be easily done by our neglect to faithfully bear the cross of being reproached for Christ’s sake, or by falling in line with the world order (even with professed Christians) in order to be accepted. This is one of the most subtle sins known on earth. “Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.” (Heb. 13:13-14)

### **Mighty Works of The Man Christ Jesus**

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. (John 14:12)

Some things may be said in this chapter which will not be endorsed by good people, yet so long as we abide by the words of Divine truth there can be no apology due. Our trouble in general is very much the same as that of the leading religionists of Christ’s day. Unbelief is dominant and widespread, thus hindering the mighty working of God, even as back there. Let us be reminded again that Christ is our example in every area of our lives. In His day wherever He found people with strong faith, then mighty works followed...

Good men, including good teachers, are of the opinion that when the Man Christ was here in the flesh He did His mighty works as God Himself. If the Word of God teaches such, then we are duty bound to accept such; but even Christ Himself denied this. “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (John 5:30) Jesus is speaking here as man, even giving the Father praise as any faithful servant of God today would do...

Christ the Man was the instrument used by the agency of the Holy Spirit. He took no credit to Himself for the mighty things done, yet He could rightly say, “The Son of Man is given power on earth.”... When we are enabled to see clearly that as Man, by the power of the blessed Holy Spirit dwelling in Him and motivating Him, His mighty works were accomplished, then other precious truths shall be made plain to us, even though mysteries will remain. In His incarnation, the Word, who was with God, and was God, emptied Himself of Almighty power and glory in order to come to man’s level, and be our pattern of life. All the mighty works accomplished by Him were brought about by delegated power—power from the Father by the agency of the Holy Spirit...

John 14:12 has been much misunderstood and put aside. Some so-called Christian religions do not believe at all in miracles today... Others, even good people, shy away from these words of Jesus: "the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."... Many turn from these words with the fear of falling in line with the professed healing racketeers, who can live rotten lives, yet go on with their healing lines, thus raking in filthy lucre for themselves. Let us remember that Jesus and His followers back there did no mighty works for material gain, neither do they do so today.

The saintly Samuel Chadwick correctly said: "The work of the Spirit and the work of the believer are one, and the work of both is the work of Christ. Christ came to teach, witness, reveal, and save; the Spirit comes in His place to teach, witness, reveal, and save; and the Christian inspired by the indwelling Spirit is in the world "instead of Christ" to teach, witness, reveal, and save. The Church is Christ's body indwelt by His Spirit, and sanctified for His service. It is called to be what Christ was and is. Every place where the Church is planted ought to be conscious of a living, healing, and saving Christ in its midst. The work of the Church is to live the Christ life, teach His Word, witness to His person and His work, reveal the character of God and declare the things to come, to the saving of the world. That is our mission: to realize Christ's purpose in the world. We are in the world "instead of Christ," called to do Christ's work. Is the mission being fulfilled?"

The work of our Lord is just as important and urgent today as it was with Him back there, and with the apostles. By simple faith and the indwelling power of the blessed Holy Spirit they went forth "turning the world upside down," or maybe better stated, "right side up," for it was the unsaved who made the report of "upside down."...

We have lived in the lap of luxurious ease too long, therefore suffering for Christ's sake is looked upon as a colossal and frightful calamity, while at the same time the Spirit-filled and Spirit-empowered apostles, alone with millions of others in the same status rejoiced as they faced the raging lions, the cruel rack, and the fires of the Roman stake. They had faith which endured, "as seeing him who is invisible." Even though our Lord asked the question: "Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" He did not ordain such a condition, and there is great faith yet for all who are willing to meet the conditions to receive it....

The greatest of all miracles known to people of this present world is that, "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me." (Acts 26:18)... Let it be repeated that the miracle of the new birth, or birth of the Spirit, along with being also filled with the Spirit, the heart made clean, and empowered for the overcoming life, and the spread of the Gospel, comprise the greater works of the Gospel, and without which all miracle-working power for healing and physical wonders are nothing...

### **The Man for Whom the Heavens Did Rule**

...till thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men.  
(Dan. 4:25)

...after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. (Dan.  
4:26)

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God... (Rom. 8:28)

The term, Overruling Providence of God, is not found clothed in such words anywhere in the Bible, yet the fact of such is frequently found. Without doubt God's overruling providence presents some of the most picturesque wonders found in the Word of God and vividly revealed in history. From Genesis to Revelations this is prominently revealed...

There are many things concerning the Providence of God which we do not readily understand, but if we know Him we can praise Him in advance, for all shall work out well for those who sincerely love Him. Nothing in the life of Christ was fated, for He volunteered to empty Himself of His glory which He had with the Father before the world was, also of "the form of God," in order to take upon Himself the "form of man." He made Himself as utterly dependent upon the Father as any other man who has lived on earth. He possessed His own will, but it was never in conflict in any sense with the Father's will. A common expression in the course of His wonderful life was, "Not my will, but thine be done."...

Our holy God certainly did not predestine all that takes place in the world... But for all who sincerely love Him He will mightily overrule, even the greatest of tragedies, and cause everything to turn out for His glory and the good of all concerned. This truth stands out conspicuously throughout the Word of God...

### **Christ the True Portrait of God and Man**

If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. (John 14:7)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him. (Gen. 1:27)

It has been stated briefly before now that two of the purposes of Christ coming into this world were, to reveal to humanity what God is like, and to reveal to fallen mankind what man was like and should yet be like. The third and supreme purpose of His coming was to make Himself an offering for sin that we might be brought back to the status from which we had fallen...

The Man Christ Jesus came into the world to reveal God to us, and to make it possible for us to have God's nature planted within our hearts, and to bear something of His moral likeness in the midst of the sin belonging to the world order of which Satan is the god. It is unspeakably sad that multitudes have been deceived by preachers who are blind leaders of the blind... They may say some good things about God, in line with Bible truth, and something of what God is like, yet they are deceived hirelings, and the devil's agents for deceiving others.

The only possible way that we can follow Christ is to observe the formula He Himself has given for all who would walk in His ways. Trying to do the job will not bring success... Jesus said concerning those who would follow Him: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."...

He again stated that to follow Him we must forsake all that we have. To be truly His we will have nothing to contend for as our own. We are bought with a price, therefore we are not our own, but here in the world to glorify Christ and the Father even as Christ glorified His Father in all things. Until we are brought to the place of willingness to let

God have complete control of our lives we will never know what Christ is like, therefore we can never know what God the Father is like...

God has ordained that we forsake the world's ways, walk with Him in heaven's ways in this present world, have angels for our servants, even now...and have the privilege of seeing His face and bearing the eternal likeness of the Godhead... To truly know Christ, revealed to us by the precious Spirit of God, is to know the Father, and to know Him in truth is to know what man should be like, and can be like, by the grace of God; for again we are told that, "as he is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4:17)

"As he is." This is God's pattern and portrait for mankind, and until this is made a reality through the redeeming grace of God, and the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are all found in an abnormal state... Through Him abundant grace is given to bring us back into a state of normality, or our truly natural status... Nothing whatsoever is lacking on God's part to make us what we should be, even now. All is done, if we are prepared to make a full surrender of our hearts to God... In this blessed state, and by the illumination of the Spirit, we shall be able to see Christ as He is, the true and living portrait of the Father, and of man in his restored relationship.

### **The Man Christ Jesus, a Nonconformist**

According to the Word of God, and confirmed by the true Church of Christ down through the ages, God's people of all times and places have all been found in the class of nonconformists... When the Man Christ Jesus came upon the scene in Israel He found the religious authorities, for the most part, in the same status as back there when they murdered God's faithful prophets... Jesus, the Divine Son of God was hated even as were the prophets of God in previous centuries... When Jesus made it clear to all that His kingdom was not of this world, and spoke of being nailed to a Roman cross, even multitudes of friends turned away from Him. He could not conform to their demands... He had no time nor place for their coveted titles, degrees, and positions. They were of the world, and He was not of the world. They were greedy for gain, and He could have no part in such. They loved the praise of men rather than the praise of God. He sought only the praise of God...

The Son utterly defied Himself, and had emptied Himself of His glory, the form of God, His riches...in order to become man. Even as man He never once sought to please Himself. He denied Himself, took up the cross daily, thus suffering the reproach of men. Incidentally, this is exactly what He requires of all who will be His followers. While on earth He was a foreigner to nearly all earthly dwellers, and were He here in the flesh today He would appear the same. Most professed Christians today would have nothing to do with Him other than register their opposition against Him. He could not possibly fit into the mold of the world and its accepted pattern. How can this be? Simply because He is a Man of heaven—the God-ordained type of man, the second Adam, undefiled by the sin which soiled and spoiled the first Adam and all of his offspring...

This truth has been mentioned before, yet it needs to be fixed indelibly in our minds that we as the children of God cannot conform to this world system which is controlled by "the prince of this world," also called "the god of this world." This is why Jesus said, "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15) The great mass of humanity do not think the thoughts of God, but the thoughts of other

human beings who are satanically incited... ["This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic {of the devil}. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there." (Jam. 3:15-16)]

Dear reader, don't be deceived. Before falling in line with any accepted course, let us carefully consider who may have instituted such... Is it a new, or comparatively new...? We would better beware of anything of this world which is highly accepted with the majority—even professed believers in Christ...

Let us consider the secret of being forever finished with the longing, or desire, to look like, and to be like those about us whose chief interests are those of this world... Jesus came into the world for the express purpose of taking us by means of the baptism of the Spirit, then by His indwelling presence keep us from sin, thus making us a separate people.

While Jesus walked with His disciples in the flesh they were often at a loss to understand His teachings which were so completely different from the dead religionists about them, yet they loved Him, having "left all to follow him." He was able to say of them on that fatal night of all nights, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world;" even though that same night some who were the closest to Him, not knowing in truth what was about to transpire, requested that they might occupy the highest seats in His kingdom. After His resurrection and ascension all of these were found praying and waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. In due season He came and took possession of their lives. Never again do we find any of these seeking for high earthly honors, nor do we witness them catering to the crowd in any sense of the word. Like their Lord and Master, the consuming desire of their hearts was to please Christ and their Heavenly Father. Worldly honors and money meant nothing to them...

The secret of all of this was, they then possessed the same blessed Spirit who empowered, taught, and motivated their Lord in His human body. They feared not man, nor did they seek to be accepted of men. The same will be true of all of us today if we lay hold of our privileges in Christ. It is not a question of trying to live the Christian life. We will live out what we have within. We give to the world what we are. A good tree never tries to bear good fruit. On the authority of our Lord's words this statement is made. He said, "For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit...for out of the abundance of his heart his mouth speaketh." (Luke 6:43, 45)

There was no world-conformity with Christ, nor can there be with us while the Christ life is our life. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Gal. 2:20) The Christian life in reality is the Christ life.

[Samuel Chadwick said in *The Gospel of the Cross*:]

The cross stands between two worlds. It marks the dividing line between the kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of Heaven. They are essentially different, and mutually exclusive. To belong to either shuts out from the other. Those who are of the world are alien to the spiritual kingdom, and those who are of the spiritual kingdom are crucified to the world. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." The emblem of the world is a goblet; the sign of the kingdom of God is a cross. The principle of the world-kingdom is self-gratification, and its realm is the flesh; the principle of the Heavenly Kingdom is self-



crucifixion, and its realm is the Spirit. The cross divides. On one side is the world, and on the other is the Kingdom of God. All on the heavenly side bear the sign of the cross, and have passed through an experience by which they have been crucified unto the world and world crucified unto them. None but cross-bearers are of the Kingdom of heaven. It is the seal of citizenship, and the badge of Christian discipleship...

It is of the world-system and the world-spirit that the New Testament speaks in condemnation. The world of nature is good, the world-system and the world-people are evil... It is "the present evil world" of which Satan is Prince, and in which Christ is crucified... The world in which Satan is prince, ruler, god, is the world from which Christ's disciples are to be separate, and to keep themselves unspotted. It is the world-system, dominated by the world-spirit... To be its friend is to be the enemy of God... To escape it, there must be the death of the cross, a crucifixion to the world, and a crucifixion of the world.

The above material is in perfect line with Paul's words in Gal. 6:4: "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Here he means to say that by means of the cross of Christ the world was to him a dead affair, and he was counted as a dead thing by the world-system. In such a case there can be no conformity. Every true Christian on earth is a non-conformist so far as the world is concerned, and so far as worldly religion is concerned. There is no possible way for it to be otherwise, for the Christian is as Christ in this world... This truth needs to be indelibly fixed in our minds: "...because as he is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4:17)...

Much more could be given from the book by the sainted Chadwick, but we will close this chapter with another brief quote:

Sensuality, covetousness, and vanity live in the present and have no use for the eternal, so they slay the Lord of glory. The flesh lusting after indulgence, the mind craving after gratification, the soul filled with vanity; these filling the life have no room for the spiritual... The Cross is God's witness against the world. The reproach of the world is the glory of Heaven...

All who come into the Kingdom of Heaven come out of the world, and take up the cross... The Gospel of the Cross calls men out of the world. Those who accept His call are "called out"... The meaning of the Cross must be maintained. He who bears it must honor it... He is in the world, but not of it. He is crucified to it. He has no desire for it, he does not believe in it, he will do no homage to it. The world has become to him a thing crucified... a dead thing, ceasing to interest or attract him... There is a great gulf fixed. The Cross parts two world wholly different.

Some would have us to believe that since the days of Christ conditions have radically changed, and the world has learned more sense, and should be accepted as a thing of virtue. It cannot be different. God never changes, nor does Satan change. He is what he is, and shall ever be the same devil. Christ could not conform to the world order—a thing detestable and odious in His sight, nor can the Christian. Education, better governments, and better social and economical conditions do not change the character of the world for

good. It cannot be so. The Christian is called to be separate, and is separate. If not separate, then he is not a Christian.

And be not conformed to the world: but be ye transformed... (Rom. 12:2)

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you... (2 Cor. 6:17, 18)

### **The Resurrection and Ascension**

Samuel Chadwick said: "The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the New Testament standard of power. It is the sample and pledge of what God can do for man. In the Old Testament, the standard miracle was the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt. From Moses to Malachi, the appeal was to the Red Sea as the supreme demonstration of God's power to help and save... In the New Testament the Red Sea is superseded by the empty tomb, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead stands at the forefront of the Christian, as the greatest achievement of Omnipotence, and the standard of what God can do for them that believe... This crowning miracle is inclusive of all others. It demonstrates conquest over ever dominion that affects human life."...

[I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Eph. 1:18-21 NIV)]

The Apostles and all messengers of Christ stirred the devil and sinners everywhere they went by the resurrection news. There would be no gospel at all apart from the resurrection. The resurrection of Christ is a guarantee that all of the children of God who steadfastly continue in the faith shall likewise have a glorified body. Paul said: "for our conversation [manner of life or citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Phil. 3:20, 21)...

Let us be assured of this, our Lord knows His own. In His Church there is not found one hypocrite, not one worldly Christian who feels that he, or she, must go with the crowd. He is coming for those who sincerely love Him, and are dead to the ways of the world with all its fads, fashions, and follies. Not one money-lover among His Bride, and not one proud-hearted person. Christ's Bride is comprised of those who are fully prepared to carry their cross daily, follow Him joyfully, and with pleasure bear His reproach...

## Appendix D

Excerpts from the Book  
*The Kingdom of Love*  
Written by Hannah Hurnard  
Published by The Olive Press

### Forward

For years I sadly supposed that such a glorious experience as the Kingdom of Love extending into and controlling the whole realm of my mind and thought life must be postponed until I should pass out of this earthly life into Heaven. And then at last, I too discovered what the early Christians so rejoiced and exulted in (and a great multitude of the Lord's lovers in every generation since), the thing which made them so completely radiant and charged with life and power, namely that it is God's purpose to translate us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, now, here on earth, and that it is most gloriously possible to be, as it were, annexed to Heaven, even before we leave the body. We are to experience the reign of our Lord and Savior Who is Holy Love, completely controlling our whole thought life, and converting our minds into realms of radiant love. Love always, and only, thinks lovely thoughts, so that the minds in which the Lord of Love makes His Kingdom become Kingdoms of Light instead of darkness, and enjoy a foretaste of the glory and joy of the creative life and work of Heaven itself.

This little book seeks to share very simply with other self-wearied and longing Christians something of the glory of this discovery.

### The Lost Love

For the first time I began to realize that the secret of real unity and power does not lie in the realm of doctrine at all. I was face to face, at last, with the fact that "Fundamental Doctrines" and the label "Evangelical" have no real power to unite the Lord's people. Apparently, too, it is not enough to achieve united prayer meetings where the Lord's people ask for this unity and power. Neither is a sincere wish and longing in the hearts of His people for unity and power sufficient to produce it, nor self-sacrifice for the sake of the work.

All things which I had unhesitatingly believed were the means by which this unity and power would come [among the various denominational missionaries in Jerusalem] were proving a failure, and I was forced at last to face the fact that the secret of unity and power must lie somewhere else. It became the almost agonized longing and desire of my heart to find the secret. If unity of desire to witness for the Lord, to preach the Gospel to every creature, and to obey the Lord as far as we had the light, could not really unite us, could not make us trust one another, least of all, could not, in many cases, enable us ever to like one another and be willing to cooperate together—then what could? What secret did the early Christians have, which we apparently had lost?...

What was the secret of real unity and power? If it lay in bringing every Christian to accept the fact that they must not "press their doctrinal differences" and different

methods of worship, we were no better off than before, and no nearer the solution. For there seemed absolutely no way of changing one another's points of view and personal convictions...

But there we were, pumping and pumping for unity and power to witness to the unsaved, Christ-rejecting peoples around us, and nothing but a pitiful trickle came in response to all our efforts. We sincerely longed for God's highest and best, but we seemed to find no way to achieve it.

Wherein did the secret lie? That was the burning question. Where was Niagara [the overpowering flow of divine love]?... What was the great lack in our lives? What did the early Christians possess which we apparently had lost?...

[And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me... (John 17:22-23)]

### **The Kingdom of Love**

We were forced to recognize that there was something wrong, somewhere deep down in ourselves, deeper than the purely intellectual plane, where we could not see eye to eye...

[Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor. 1:10)]

Despite sincere devotion to the evangelical doctrines for over twenty years, I was still able to remain absolutely lacking in true love towards many of my own fellow-workers, and, in fact, towards the human race in general... And though at my conversion the...love of Christ Himself, the King of Love, broke into my wretched, cold little heart with amazingly transforming power, and for the first time I felt what it was to love Him, yet it seemed to me that I never would learn to love other human beings spontaneously and with joy...

[Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails... (1 Cor 13:4-8)]

All through my missionary life, as I gradually came to understand more fully what it was I lacked so terribly, and saw the Lord's love as the standard set before us, the one prayer that I prayed above all others was that I might learn to love—to feel love for those I worked with, and *to like people naturally and spontaneously, instead of always seeing their faults and weaknesses so quickly and clearly...*

And so week by week, as we prayed for Revival, and day by day in my own prayer times, my prayer always was, "Lord, baptize me with Holy Love... I pray to be baptized into Thyself, Thou who art Love—that I may be set down in Love, and be filled with Love, and be kept in Love the whole time." I longed with an ever-intensifying, almost desperate desire to escape from the rusty pump experience of trying to force love in my

daily life, and to be swept into the Niagara experience of utter surrender to His Love the whole time...

When at last I reached this stage of understanding that what I really meant when I prayed to be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit was to be baptized into Holy Love, then the answer could be given. For I realize now that we pray for many things without really knowing what we are praying for. And while that is still the case, we are unready and unfit to receive them. And until we realize that what we really need is to have Love Himself indwelling us, then we cannot receive Him in all His fullness...

Baptism means to be immersed in something—or someone, and that something or someone is Holy Love. Love is a life which must flood into our whole being, into the deepest depths and last abyss of our being, filling and transforming the whole world or realm of our personality. Just as an empty cup put down onto the sea is immersed and filled and no emptiness of any kind remains, so Love Himself is to indwell us, that every thought in the conscious and subconscious mind is to be controlled by Him, and every faculty that we possess is to be controlled and employed by Him...

Love must rule the whole realm of our individual personality, the whole world of our being must be under His control. Love must be King of the vast realms of our minds, that is to say of our complete Thought Life.

“The Kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:21) Not merely inside our bodies, but in every abyss and depth and level of our Thought Life. Love Himself, thinking in us *all the time*, Love using our bodies through which to express Himself...

“The Kingdom of God is within you.”... To be flooded with Love Himself, reigning in me, until every thought and deed is Love, that surely is “Salvation.” His Royal Domain in which, and from which, and through which He exercises His will and control... [“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.” (1 Cor. 4:20)]

This was the glorious Salvation He promised me, complete liberty and release from the tyranny of Self reigning in my Thought Life...

It was no longer a question of doctrines and interpretations and Christian duties, and missionary activities, nor of agonized longings to know how to love. No. I found that I had been, as it were, annexed to Heaven. And the King of Love Who reigned in Heaven now considered me a part of that realm over which He held sway. It was like being invaded by Love’s Army, who now came in to occupy newly acquired territory, yes, annexing me to Heaven, as though my own little world of personality had been incorporated in the commonwealth of Heaven...

*What indeed is real love but Self-love overcome and transformed into a passion for self-giving.* And probably we shall find that every experience of trial, difficulty and suffering, of wrong done to us and accepted and forgiven, all these things will have worked in us some lovely trophy for Eternity. “He that overcometh shall inherit all things.”... Even now the Kingdom of God is to be realized within us...

## Appendix E

Excerpts from the Book

### *Saved by His Life*

Written by Harold J. Brokke

Published by Bethany Fellowship

#### **Forward by Leonard Ravenhill**

Is victorious Christ living your goal? Then this is your book. Mr. Brokke's exposition of Romans shows that there is no stopping at the half-way-house of sins forgiven. He maintains, as must all sensible interpreters of the Word of God, that what God redeems, He claims; and what He claims, He cleanses; and what He cleanses, He uses...

I think of Mr. Brokke—whom I am honored to call my friend and whose counsel I have so often sought—as a man standing with his feet on the muddy flats of this earth but spiritually tall enough to see over the clouds of time into the wonders and fastnesses of eternity. Truly he lives in heavenly places.

Meditate over Mr. Brokke's outline of this mighty epistle. There is a ladder-like ascent in his revelation of Paul's teaching here. The writer is not here offering the aspirin of religious formalism as a cure for the deadly cancer of carnality. He knows the exceeding sinfulness of sin. He knows, too, that where sin abounds, grace does much more abound. Discover the victory. Demonstrate and declare it.

#### **All the World Condemned**

The Holy Spirit makes two staggering claims in Romans 3:9-20. First, all people are guilty before God. Secondly, man has no righteousness apart from God...

What is moral depravity? First, man is born without an inner relationship with God. Ephesians 2:12 says man is "without God in this world." He is without the Spirit. This means that man has no inward spiritual resources in God. He is cooped up, so to speak, within his own powers of mind, flesh, and will.

Second, man is born of the flesh and "that which is born of the flesh is flesh." (John 3:6)... The first inward resources are the sensibilities of the flesh... Self-gratification becomes the end for which he lives. This is moral depravity. This produces in man the conception of sin and the spirit of disobedience.

The first section of this great epistle (1:18-3:20) declares that God's purpose in raising Jesus from the dead is to judge a world that is under the wrath of God. At the end of this section, which exposes the state of man's sinful condition, we have Romans 3:20 as a summary verse.

Because by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight;  
for through the law cometh the knowledge of sin.

Embedded in this verse we have a dual truth about the law: (1) what the law can do—probe the heart; (2) what the law cannot do—cure the heart... The knowledge of sin is by

the law. The experience of salvation of many men has often been pale and uncertain because sin has been more of an abstraction than a conviction...

[The law is not being properly used to expose the sinful nature within the heart. The law of the New Testament was given by Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount. The very first thing He did after beginning His ministry was to give a commentary on the law. In effect, He described the law of life in His kingdom. We quickly note that the requirements are beyond the capacity of fallen man. He summed up His teachings by saying, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matt. 5:48) This law insists that we become like God in His nature of holy love. In other words, the only way to enter into true righteousness (become truly right in God's sight) is to become partakers with Him in His divine nature. Within His nature is a righteousness that is perfect in holy love. The law, along with the "light" revealed through the Son's life, exposes the sinfulness found in the fallen nature, which is basically self-centered and selfish.]

We must have both the law and the gospel—the law as a diagnosis and the gospel as the glorious cure... Paul's argument in Romans 7 is that the law has no saving power. [The law cannot make us like God in holy love.] But in order to rescue the law from disrepute and defend it, Paul asks the question: "is the law sin?" and answers that the law is not sin but that it is good. (7:7)

This question arises then: In what way is the law defective? Why must we, as the Scripture says, die to the law? (Rom. 7:4) The answer is that the law has not failed at all. It has fulfilled its function. But our attitude and relationship to the law is wrong. A man who seeks justification by the law [and tries to make himself right by conforming to it] is exercising the very center of his depraved condition—self. He is exercising independence... [He may think he is serving God, as the Pharisees did, but he is continuing to live independently of God's life of true righteousness.] Besides trying to run his own life, he is trying to have righteousness by himself [through a work of the flesh]. In the sight of God, it is this self-righteousness, this independent righteousness, which is "filthy rags."

There should be no confusion between the law and the gospel. They are similar in one main issue: both of them insist on the necessity of righteousness in the life of man. However, even though they have similar and ultimate goals, they have two completely different functions. The law is a map pointing to a moral destination—righteousness. But you cannot get to your destination by seeking directions on the map. The law is light, revealing what God demands and what God can provide.

But the law is not the dynamic to bring us to righteousness any more than a map provides the dynamic to arrive at a destination. The law can do nothing but diagnose the problem. The gospel is the power of God to bring us to righteousness...

The law aggravates man's slavery to sin but cannot set him free. This is clearly dramatized in Romans 7. The law could not set the wretched man of Romans 7 free from his slavery but could only sharpen the contrast of the two opposing laws [the two principles] which warred in his members...

The law demands a transformation of personality. It demands that a man be emancipated from a fleshly mind and come under the control of the Holy Spirit. But the spiritual demand of the law can give a man nothing but a greater sense of his carnality...

The law is God's method of diagnosing man's problem, to show man his sin, and to reveal to man his selfishness. The law cannot cure [a self-centered nature]. A doctor may say to the patient, "You have cancer," or "You have a disease." But knowledge of it only increases the patient's dilemma... His cry is for a moral and spiritual cure, found only in Jesus Christ...

### **The Sinner's Reconciliation**

In the first three chapters of Romans, Paul revealed God's wrath against the unrighteousness and sin of the world and the impossibility of justification by the law. The law could demand but could not produce righteousness in the heart...

Apart from [outside] the law a righteousness of God hath been manifested...even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ.  
(3:32, 22)

Law and grace each has its particular function. Each exists apart from the other. The law is God's present method of conviction to aid in the exposure of man's sin and rebellion. In it God is revealed as a God of judgment and order. On the other hand, the gospel is God's eternal and present method of acceptance and regeneration. In it God is revealed as the God of mercy.

Both the law and grace aim at one result—the righteousness of God. The law presents the demand for righteousness, and the gospel presents the dynamic for righteousness. In this emphasis on righteousness they agree...

Because of man's commitment to self-gratification, he is not inclined to keep the law [whenever it comes into conflict with his will and his selfish desires]...

At this particular point in Romans, therefore, Paul is presenting the merciful and divine act of God's government. Paul is showing God's loving provision for sinful man's justification "apart from the law." God's purpose in raising up Jesus Christ from the dead was to justify sinners by Christ's blood and righteousness.

Justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (3:24)

All men are either under law or under grace. Any person who defends his own attempts at justification is operating on the basis of works and is approaching God through the dispensation of law...

[God requires complete obedience. We need Christ's own submissive nature in our heart—His holy love—if we are to ever walk in true righteousness as He did. The law cannot provide this life of holy love. It must be received by faith. Everyone who is living by the law must keep every law if they hope to be right before God. Since this cannot be done, they will find themselves in a hopeless state without grace through faith. This helps us to see how foolish the Galatians had become in attempting to achieve the goal of perfect love through their human efforts.

This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works {the principle} of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect {in holy love} by the flesh {through your own efforts}? Have you suffered so many things {the scourging that is intended to break the self-sufficient spirit} in vain—if indeed it was in vain? (Gal. 3:2-4)



And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised {sets out to live by the law} that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. {Grace is the one means for becoming like God in holy love.} For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. (Gal. 5:2-6)]

Any person who admits his sin, turns from the law of works, casts himself on the mercy of God, and depends solely on the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus, is operating on the basis of the law of faith and is approaching God through faith...

[The moment the believer turns to Christ and depends on His shed blood as the means for having sins forgiven and also looks to the life of Christ as the means for obtaining an inner nature of true righteousness, he enters into a justified state. As long as he has the faith of Abraham, which entails being fully persuaded that God can do what He has promised to do, he will receive credited righteousness until he finds his way into the reality of true righteousness—the Son’s life of holy love. (Rom. 4:20-22)]

### **Christ’s Blood and Righteousness**

Much is included in the phrase “the righteousness of God.” In 3:21-26 the righteousness of God stands in complete contrast to that which Paul calls “a righteousness of mine own, even that which is of the law.” (Phil. 3:9)...

[This righteousness that Paul developed by keeping laws is what he counted “as loss” in order to come to “know Christ” in the “power of His resurrection.” (Phil. 3:8-10) The only way Paul could be truly “right” in his inner nature was by sharing with the Son in His Kingdom-life of holy love. It is absolutely essential to receive the reconciliation that is available through the Son’s shed blood, but we need the “much more” of salvation that enables us to become partakers with Him in His eternal life of holy love. “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Rom. 5:10)]

### **The Law of Faith**

Since the time of the Reformation, we have spoken freely about justification by faith alone. Yet something has happened to the word *faith*. Often we lose the original content of Scriptural words; or even more dangerous than that, we tend to put other meanings into Scriptural words, meanings not found in the Bible...

Scripture calls man’s basic failure in obtaining the righteousness of God “the law of works.” It calls man’s basic success in obtaining righteousness “the law of faith.” These two laws [these principles] need to be considered carefully.

In Romans 3:27 Paul gives one of the main secrets of the difference between these two laws:

Where then is the glorying? It is excluded. By what manner of law {by which principle is glorying excluded}? Of works? Nay: but by a law of faith. (3:27)

The law of works promotes boasting; faith excludes it... God therefore insists on faith rather than law... The law of faith cancels pride in order to preserve God's glory. God says, "Not of works, that no man should glory."

When a man works to attain righteousness, he is thrown on his own resources, his own moral energy. Thus when he achieves a relative standard of righteousness which seems to be better than other men's, he glories; he is boastful; he is proud. The law of works makes man boast in his own achievements; the law of faith glories in God alone...

Men who operate under the law of works have a morality, but it is self-centered. The main element in all depravity is selfishness. By the law of works the very self that Jesus said His disciples should deny is enthroned. Self-enthronement is an abomination in the sight of God. No wonder the prophet Isaiah said, "All our righteousnesses are as filthy garments."

Over this very issue of independence Satan began his deceptive career. His first temptation was to entice the human race to act independently... Eve acted independently...and Adam acted independently of God. They acted from their own souls, from their own selves. Thus [the Spirit of God departed and] depravity came in and contaminated the whole human race.

Self has no innate qualities of true holiness apart from God. Jesus gave one flat command concerning self: "Deny thyself..." But the law of works propagates and preserves the spirit of independence. The law of works operates against God's whole plan in creating and redeeming mankind. Man certainly has the power to choose freely—but only that he might choose the way God has designed for him.

One common expression and attitude abroad in our day concerning the law is this: "No one can keep the law. Nobody is perfect!" Though this expression may be true of each man in his unrepentant state—because he is still committed to self-gratification—it seriously limits God's divine provision in Christ...

Again we say, from the divine side, that to deny the possibilities of righteousness is to frustrate the very meaning of redemption through Christ and His cross. The church sometimes parrots statements about our inability to keep the law, and then these statements become a convenient smoke-screen to make practical steps of faith null and void. Isolated verses of Scripture may seem to convey the thought that unrighteousness must continue to remain in believers. But when such verses are studied in the light of their context, we see that God's revealed purpose for man is practical holiness and righteousness "in all manner of living."

For instance, the statement "All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" is a fact which is true of man in his sinful state. But this statement cannot be applied to a man who has found the "much more" of the grace of Jesus or to the man who knows the power of Christ's blood and Christ's Spirit...

The Bible never teaches that man's failure to attain righteousness is a life-long necessity. It points out, instead, that man's failure is due to a basic problem which when recognized and remedied can establish the law [within the heart].

What are the characteristics of the law of faith? Faith in Jesus Christ is not self-centered, man-centered, or independent. Faith is God-centered. Faith leans. Faith glorifies God. Faith has everything to do with God's way but nothing to do with man's way. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the beginning of a new righteousness which finds God in Christ Jesus at its very center.

The parables of Jesus teach man's dependence on God. Jesus illustrates this dependence when He said that He was the Vine and we are the branches. A branch has no life except in a vine. Without the vine a branch is dead. Even so, the law of faith grafts us into Jesus Christ; the law of works leaves us without the life of the true Vine...

Why has God chosen faith as the channel for our justification? Faith is essentially a part of God's order in creation. In one sense faith was not chosen by God. Let me explain.

If God had a choice as to how men should be justified [made right], only one of two ways could be taken: either by the law (the principle) of works or by the law (the principle) of faith. But by its very nature, the law of works [living by fleshly human efforts] strengthens man's depravity and independence and therefore is contrary to God's will. Works are man-centered and make men boasters, for they throw man back on his own resources. The law of works is really a rejection of God's rule over man's life...

[The only way for man to be "right" in his very nature is to receive through faith the life of righteousness that Christ made available through His death and resurrection. He came to be the source of our "righteousness and sanctification and redemption" in order to insure that "no flesh should glory in His presence." (1 Cor. 1:29-30) After condemning to death the self-originated form of life, He became the Head of a new lineage of people who live by His Spirit. He established in bodily form a life of true righteousness—a life of holy love—that He can now share with everyone who will choose to live through Him. And so the only way we will truly possess the "the righteousness of God," which is the righteousness that God requires His children to possess, is by being filled with His Spirit.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you... {may}  
know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled  
with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:17-19)]

How then is the reckoning of righteousness possible? By two radical acts: first, an objective occurrence—the vicarious death of Jesus Christ... Secondly, a subjective act—a change in each individual sinner through repentance and faith. Repentance is turning from sin, from self-vindication, and from self-trust. Faith is a turning unto Christ as the one source of forgiveness and righteousness...

The Apostle Paul next describes the power of Abraham's faith in God to fulfill God's promises... Both Abraham and Sarah were impotent to fulfill the Promise: "Without being weakened in faith he considered not his own body now as good as dead...and the deadness of Sarah's womb." (4:19) Abraham's faith rested on God's promise: "Yet, looking unto the promise of God..." (4:20) Abraham's faith glorified the God of the promise: "Waxed strong through faith, giving glory to God." (4:20) Abraham's faith obtained the reality: "Fully assured that what he had promised, he was able also to perform." (4:21)

God gives a believer access in prayer to His very throne, access whereby he can obtain grace to live for Him.

Through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace  
wherein we stand. (5:2)

The same faith that justifies gives access to the enabling grace of God. At the end of chapter 5, Paul explains the truth that grace, the mighty force of redemption, is stronger than all the power of sin and death...

## **The Much More of Grace**

Paul has already mentioned that justification is accomplished by Christ's shed blood and by faith... Now in 5:10-25 Paul exalts the grace of God as much more effective than any evident power of sin and death.

The illustration Paul uses is that of two kingdoms that assert their reign and influence: first, the reign of sin and death; secondly, the reign of righteousness and life...

### *The Reign of Sin and Death—Law*

Death reigned through the one [Adam]. (5:17)

Sin reigned in death. (5:21)

### *The Reign of Righteousness and Life—Grace*

They that receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life. (5:17)

Grace reign[s] through righteousness. (5:21)

The argument is this: Paul claims that in every way the kingdom of righteousness and the life which came through Christ is stronger and superior to the kingdom of sin and death which came through Adam.

The recipients of grace are rulers, whereas the victims of sin are ruled over.

Much more shall they that receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, even Jesus Christ. (5:17)

Christ's obedience makes us righteous as certainly as Adam's disobedience makes us sinners.

Through the obedience of the one shall the many be made righteous.

(5:19)

In the very place that sin and death reign, grace can set up the reign of righteousness and life.

Where sin abounded, grace did abound more exceedingly. (5:20)

The wonderful message of these verses is that of abundant, overwhelming grace and power in Christ. From the standpoint of God's provision, there is more reason for us to be righteous than sinful. Holy living and spiritual life are stronger than uncleanness and spiritual death [that everyone receives from Adam].

Paul is comparing two opposite kingdoms: the kingdom of sin and death (through Adam), and the kingdom of grace and life (through Christ)... No man can have allegiance to both Adam and Christ at the same time. To have allegiance to Christ, one must repudiate his relationship to sin in the kingdom of Adam, receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, and thus come under the kingdom of Christ. Into this picture comes the law of God to accentuate the danger of sin and to necessitate the abounding grace of God.

The following quotation from *The Cross and Sanctification*, by T. A. Hegre [Published by Bethany Fellowship], clarifies both the federal headships of Adam and Christ and the fact that grace is presented as a mighty dynamic for victorious righteousness.

“Adam was more than just the first man on earth. He was head of the whole human race, so that ‘in Adam’ the whole race fell...[from] (where there was fellowship and communion with God). This new level to which Adam and the race fell is the sin and flesh level, where man lives for self. [Fallen man lives in a self-originated form of life.]

All men are born into the world on this level [of living in the strength of the flesh]. Sin is inevitable there...

“Jesus met every temptation and every trial that Adam should have met and that Adam would have met had he not fallen. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, and yet God says He was without sin. (Heb. 4:15) Jesus did not fall...

“Most of us have not had any difficulty understanding or believing that we were all involved in Adam’s fall and were born not of the image of God but in the fallen image of Adam... It is also manifested in that a child becomes committed to selfishness even before reason is developed. Thus the Bible categorically states that everyone chooses sin: ‘All we like sheep have gone astray’ [we have all gone our own way]—because of the depravity mentioned above, and also because of the devil’s temptations, the pull of the world, and the almost-universal example of selfishness.

“We must bear in mind that we are born into an anti-Christ, pro-self world. The result of choosing self (selfness, selfishness), is moral depravity...

“Though Adam was the federal head of the human race, the representative man, he was but the ‘figure of him that was to come.’ (Rom. 5:14) The real head is the last Adam, Christ. Yet if Adam, the figure, could take the whole human race into sin, surely Christ, the substance of that figure, could take the whole race back to God...

“Adam acted for the whole human race, so that when he, the head of the race, chose sin rather than obedience, he plunged all of us to that sin and flesh level. Genesis 5:1-3 clearly tells us that though Adam was created in the likeness of God, Adam’s posterity was begotten in his own likeness. After the Fall this likeness was therefore a fallen likeness so that we are all born ‘fallen,’ which is really not our fault but our carnality...

“We must endorse Christ’s death by dying to sin and self. Only in this way do we renounce all that Adam [passed on to us through His lineage]... Jesus struck at the very heart of this fact when He said, ‘If any man would come after me, let him deny himself.’ (Matt. 16:24) ‘Whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath [including his own works in the flesh], he cannot be my disciple.’ (Luke 14:33)

“It is possible to know all these great truths and still be entirely without the benefits they confer. It is not enough to believe in our identification with Christ in His death in an abstract way. The truth of identification must be experiential...

“Jesus says that denial of self (giving up of all personal rights, renouncing everything that belongs to the old life—in other words, a complete about-face) is a step we must take. Only then will the Holy Spirit make this great truth real in our personal experience so that we will receive its full benefits—namely, ability to live unto God, as well as deliverance from the power of sin, the devil, and the world...

“Many seem to think that Christ’s power of full redemption is much less than the consequences of Adam’s fall. But we are told five times that the power of Christ’s redemption is ‘much more’ than the consequences of the Fall. (Rom. 5) There is superabundance of grace! There is enough grace for not only the forgiveness of sins and to get man somehow into heaven but enough grace for a victorious life, for a life that will fully please God. ‘If, by the trespass of the one, death reigned through the one; much more shall they that receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, even Jesus Christ.’ (Rom. 5:17) Rejoice in all such promises.

“Long before creation, man’s redemption in the person of God’s Son was planned. When the fullness of time came, it was executed and became history. On the basis of that

redemption, God's power is now able to save and to restore us to the life which God planned for us."

### **Love-slaves of Righteousness**

In surrender to Jesus Christ there are two elements. By an act of our free will, we give ourselves to Christ, completely and also eternally. Thus we die to an old life not just in theory but in actual experience and then rise in Christ's resurrection to become the bondservants of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus made clear these demands for total surrender when He said: "Whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33) This word "cannot" is as strong and conclusive a word as the cannot in John 3:3: "Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." We Christians all understand that regeneration is absolutely necessary in order to be saved. But total surrender is also absolutely necessary to be a disciple of Jesus. (Luke 14:33)...

Paul wrote to the Philippians, giving his own testimony of full surrender: "What things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ." (Phil. 3:7-8)

To the Corinthians Paul also presented total surrender as a decisive issue. "They that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him..." (2 Cor. 5:15)

These three Scriptures indicate that God is waiting for the surrender of everything to His Son Jesus Christ. Such a surrender makes possible an appropriation of death to sin, self, the world, and the law... [We will remain under law and its condemnation until we have chosen to die to the self-originated form of life and begin living under the control and power of the Holy Spirit. We are free of the way of law when we are manifesting the fruit of Christ's Spirit. "Against such there is no law." (Gal. 5:23)]

Scripture gives us an indication of how Jesus died. He himself said, "Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life... No one taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself."...

When we surrender totally and eternally, we simply identify ourselves with the laid-down life of Jesus. We lay down our lives. We consciously accept God's once-for-all verdict of death on our old manner of life... We say God's judicial sentence is just—that our old man should die... By an act of our wills, enlightened and made willing by the Holy Spirit, we surrender not our sins only but our past, present, and future; spirit, soul, and body; our reputation and ambitions; our entire wills, our intellect, feelings, preferences, and rights. In other words, our total manner of life is committed to and identified with the death of the Lord Jesus.

When we have the witness of the Holy Spirit that this surrender is complete, then we can reckon by faith that

1. When Jesus died, we died;
2. When he was buried, we were buried;
3. When He arose, we arose that we might walk in newness of life.

The result of total surrender is that a wonderful liberating knowledge comes to our hearts. We are able to know and realize "That our old man was crucified with him, that

the body of sin might be done away, that so we should not longer be in bondage to sin.” (6:6)

By faith we accept the Scripture’s testimony concerning our death, our burial, and our resurrection with Jesus Christ. His death was our death. (Rom. 6:3, 11) His burial was our resurrection. (Rom. 6:5)

Many times Scripture testifies to this truth:

I through the law died unto the law [the principle of living by law], that I might live unto God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me. I do not make void the grace of God: for if righteousness is through the law [trying to make ourselves right by obeying written laws], then Christ died for nought. (Gal. 2:19-21)

If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek those things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. For ye died, and your live is hid with Christ in God... (Col. 3:1-3)

These great facts of our death and resurrection with Christ can become real in our experience. Christ is really our life. Christ’s righteousness is really ours. We really serve a new Master. This is the heritage of the justified. Our part is to count on this wonderful fact. We are to reckon ourselves dead unto sin [dead to living for self and self-will], but alive unto God in Christ Jesus. Then, free from sin, we become love-slaves of righteousness. With more abandon than we ever yielded to the old master sin, we are to yield to our new Master by the power of the Holy Spirit.

[But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. (6:22)]  
Praise God for freedom to serve Christ!

### **Joined to Another**

After a man has been saved and understands deliverance from sin, he may still be seeking to maintain a righteous life by trying to live up to a standard called “the law.” Hence the painful conflict of Romans 7. Because the dominion of sin [the nature that is contrary to holy love] is a defiling relationship, we must be free from sin. But because the dominion of the law is a defective relationship, we must be delivered from the law also.

In Romans 7:1-6 the husband (the law) does not literally die, but the wife (the believer) participates in death through the miracle of Christ’s death and resurrection and is raised again to be joined to her new husband, Christ. The law can demand spirituality from the believer but cannot impart it. Impartation can be accomplished only by Jesus Christ through the life-giving Spirit. He is able to make “all things new” in each believer joined to Christ.

In the next verses (7-25) two problems confront us. The first is the problem of the independent self (independence leading to self-sufficiency); the second is the problem of indwelling sin (“sin that dwelleth in me”).

The independent self is evident in chapter 7 through the constant use of the pronoun “I.” As long as the “I” does not yield its independence, no matter how noble or morally

ambitious it is, it is married to the law. Without Christ, even the renewed “I” can do nothing. (John 15:5) This marriage contract with the law must end...

Paul next describes indwelling sin, the “motions” of sin which the law discovers in man’s members. After the blood has cleansed all external sins, the law “Thou shalt not covet” points into the depths of man’s internal nature and motives and there discovers indwelling sin—“sin that dwells within.” (Rom. 7:17, 18, 20, 23)...

Next Paul gives a key to a further understanding of the indwelling sin when he gives the relationship of the tenth commandment to this inner conflict:

I had not known sin, except through the law: for I had not known coveting, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. (7:7)

It is right to covet God’s glory, the conversion of sinners, spiritual gifts, and the fulfillment of the will of God. What God condemns is inordinate desires of the soul—desires controlled by selfishness...

There are several synonyms for the word covetousness: lust, envy, greed, rivalry, jealousy... Covetousness is that within a man which inwardly hankers for its own way, even though it does not get it. Covetousness is the inward and often unrecognized cause of many depressions and unhappy feelings. These have been caused by frustrated, inordinate desires...

The tenth commandment identifies sin in the *interior* of man. The outward life may be legally controlled, and an inordinate lust may be kept down. In this tenth commandment, though this inner dominion of lust be ever so firmly controlled, it is condemned as sin.

[The apostle Paul said, “And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” (1 Tim 6:8) This is the New Testament standard. To have a desire for more than the basic necessities of life is to be covetous. These inward desires for more things are expressed in many different ways. Our personal desires to always have something more may appear to be quite innocent when we compare ourselves with others, but even the inward desire to go shopping for more than the basic necessities of life is a manifestation of a covetous heart. It is missing the Presence of the righteousness of God. Once God has filled our soul with His life of holy love, we find that we “never thirst” for the things of this world. This is what completely sets us free from the selfish and self-seeking nature. This “righteousness of God” sets us free from the need of wasting time looking for more things (idols) to make us happy. With our soul completely satisfied, we are free indeed to expend all our time and energy living for the glory of God and the furthering of His eternal kingdom. “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst” for the things of this world. (John 4:14)]

Covetousness is secret. It can exist for a long time without being discovered. It may plague and corrode men and women who seem to be the very embodiments of righteousness and respect. It can exist in the hearts of men and women—unseen, unrecognized, and undealt with—after external moral blights have all been destroyed. Yet when the conditions are favorable for hatching, it will make its attack...

[Covetousness, because it rises out of the selfish and self-seeking nature, is the source of numerous works of the flesh. “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are...contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath {selfish anger}, selfish ambitions, dissensions...and the like; of which I tell you beforehand...that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal. 5:19-21) Here is why we need to be



delivered from the sin of covetousness. It leaves a nature within the heart that is not fit for heaven. “For this you know, that no...covetous man {the man who is always looking for more things to make himself happy}, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” (Eph. 5:5)]

Yet sin’s bondage can be broken inwardly as well as outwardly. Paul asks, “Who shall deliver me out of the body of this death?” (7:24) And then declares, “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (7:25)

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son...condemned sin in the flesh: that the ordinances of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (8:3-4)

[Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38) Many Christians are still in the wilderness testing period where they only receive periodic wells of refreshment. God provides these “times of refreshing” to keep His people moving forward in their walk of faith. The objective is to press into the fullness of the eternal Kingdom-life where Christ’s ever-flowing rivers of Living Water begin to rise out of the inner being. Only then will there be a complete deliverance for the sin of covetousness.

But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (John 4:14 NIV)

There arises another Priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life... For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. (Heb. 7:15-19)

And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life. (1 John 2:25)

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (1 John 5:11)]

Law cannot remove covetousness... The commandment rather intensifies the sense of bondage. But Jesus came to do what the law could not do. This was Paul’s declaration of the gospel...

As surely as we can identify this inner selfishness, this covetousness, as sin, we can also just as surely confess that one reason for Jesus’ coming was to grant us freedom from all sin.

There is no necessary break between Romans 7 and 8. Chapter 8 introduces the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit in His office of deliverer from the law of sin in us and as the fulfiller of the law of God in us.

### **The Law of the Spirit of Life**

In Romans 8 the great work of the Holy Spirit is introduced. Paul says: “The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death...that the

ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (8:2-4)...

The main emphasis through all the book of Romans is not on the historical act of Christ's redemption but rather on its effects on the believer. In Roman 1:16 we have already seen that Paul's desire was to show the Christians that in actual experience, the gospel is the power of God. It was not the objective gospel that Paul was explaining but the subjective effects of this grand redemption in every phase of life...

The description of “life in the Spirit” in Romans 8 is a spiritual mountaintop in Scripture. This chapter presents almost every possible view of man's awful need and Christ's glorious redemption...

Although we are delivered from the entire bondage of sin, we still live in a body of flesh. Yet Paul indicates that we are under no obligation to the dictates of the flesh. We owe the flesh nothing.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (8:12-13)

Spiritually we are on probation; we therefore must not return to a life led by the flesh. Such would be dangerous!

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (8:14)

The whole reality of Christ's redemption is made vivid through the ministry of the ever-blessed Holy Spirit.

### **Lord of Israel**

Why could Paul wish himself anathema or accursed? It was because of the love of Christ in his heart for his brothers.

Paul's problem was this: Since Israel had not received her Messiah, had the Word of God to Israel been cancelled? Paul's answer was that the promises to Israel were still in force. Yet many Israelites had forgotten the basis on which the covenant was made, or else they had misunderstood the promises.

God was the originator of Israel. But what was the manner in which Israel had been called into being? [God has always worked on the premise of promises being fulfilled through faith. After calling people out of darkness and making His promises, He expects His children to look to Him in faith to fulfill what He has promised to do.]

It is not the children of the flesh that are children of God; but the children of the promise are reckoned for a seed. (9:8)

In Isaac shall thy seed be called. (9:7)

They are not all Israel, that are of Israel: neither, because they are Abraham's seed, are they all children. (9:6-7)

God's election (selection) of the nation of Israel had to come in one of two ways: either by human birth and works or by His calling. The word “calleth” in verse 11 means to bid or call forth... His continued acceptance of them was not because of merit or birth but because they responded to His call in faith. This clarified His purpose and showed them what must be their continual and only relationship with Him. If the nation should again claim relationship to God by works (e.g., the Pharisees), they would make void their original calling in the grace of God.

The Israelites are not necessarily made heirs of the promise forever by virtue of their being the lineage and natural seed of Abraham. If that were the case, the inheritance would have been by Abraham's human ability...

The entire ninth chapter of Romans is devoted to a contrast of two conditions found among men: those who are children of the flesh and those who are children of promise... God chose Jacob that the purpose of God according to election might stand. (9:11) Even before the birth of Esau and Jacob, this calling was decided so that Israel should understand that God does not operate on the basis of human merit.

It is noteworthy that God's calling of Jacob and not Esau did not determine the final salvation of their souls; rather, it was the basis of Israel's national existence as a channel for God's blessing to the world...

The religious Jews considered themselves the seed of Abraham—the children of promise. They classed themselves with Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and the vessels of honor... But Jews, trusting in their works and in the fact they are the children of Abraham, have thereby lost the principle of grace and are classed by God with Esau and Pharaoh and the vessels of dishonor. The Gentiles, on the other hand, who seek mercy by faith in Christ, are classed with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and the vessels of honor and mercy...

What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, who followed not after righteousness {by the principle of law}, attained to righteousness which is of faith: but Israel, following after a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by works. They stumbled at the stone of stumbling. (9:30-32)

The conviction that Paul is underlining is not an argument in order to keep the Jews out of the kingdom. Paul's conviction is an explanation why the Jews could not enter in. Later on in Romans 11, Paul gives the Gentiles the very same warning concerning God's ways. He quotes a Gentile, claiming to be a part of the Lord's olive tree, saying, "Branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. (11:19) Paul replies to this Gentile, "Well; by their unbelief they [the Jews] were broken off, and thou [Gentile] standest by thy faith. Be not highminded, but fear. (11:20)...

The one major thought of this chapter is this: Jews are not automatically children of promise; neither are Gentiles automatically children of the flesh.

There is no distinction between Jew and Greek: for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich unto all that call upon him: for, Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (10:12)

### **Lord of All**

Romans 10, which we are now considering, declares God's present mode of operation. It answers the question concerning how God is working now...

In the matter of presenting scriptural salvation to a lost world, there are certain gospel facts that are basic issues; these cannot be eliminated without eliminating the ways of God. Most of these scriptural principles are developed clearly in Romans 10, and we ought to take them to heart.

1. No man will escape a personal meeting with God, his Creator. As we have seen, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead to judge the world.... Paul also said that each one of us will give an account of himself to God. (4:12) Paul had a burdened heart for Israel that they would be saved from sin and death. (Rom. 10:1)... We must not relinquish the

preaching of a judgment day and the lake of fire. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Ps. 111:10)...

[God insists that His children conform to His laws. The law therefore needs to be preached so that the sinful heart can be prepared to be made right. But following the way of the Pharisees, which entails doing our best to make ourselves right, will never remove the selfish and self-seeking nature. It is this covetous nature that prevents God’s life of holy love from being revealed in every circumstance of life. Thus, those who still manifest the works of the flesh, such as “contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions...and the like...will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal. 5:19-21) These people can make themselves look as righteous outwardly as the Pharisees did, but Jesus assures us that this righteousness that comes from human efforts will never produce the kind of righteousness that fits us for the eternal kingdom of heaven. We must receive the very “righteousness of God” which is obtained by faith.

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law and the Prophets {all the moral teachings}. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill... For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees {who lived by high moral standards}, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 5:17, 20)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish {to make yourself appear to be righteousness}, but inside they are full of...self-indulgence {the covetous nature}. (Matt. 23:25)]

2. All sin separates from God... According to its scriptural definition, sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4) The law can discover our need, even though it cannot deliver us. The law is the Holy Spirit’s method of conviction, even as the gospel is the Holy Spirit’s method of conversion. Soul winners must therefore respect the law, which is God’s appointed means to convict the sinner and drive him to seek Christ. The law is God’s way of diagnosing man’s fallen condition; the gospel is God’s way of curing man’s condition. We must learn to use both law and grace. We need both in the ministry of the kingdom of God.

3. The way of salvation is never natural to mankind. We must press home to unsaved people that the way they are going is hellward... They need to know that their direction determines their eternal destination... [Either they are attempting to develop their own self-originated form of life through the strength of the flesh or they are looking to Christ in faith to be the source of their life. There is a right and a wrong way to live.] This truth is evident in many Scriptures: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov. 14:12) “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...” (Isa. 53:6) Jesus himself also said, “Broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby.” (Matt. 7:13)...

4. The only repentance that brings a man to the mercy seat of God is total repentance. Jesus made much of this truth. He told His disciples to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name. But repentance in the heart must be total. Tears, lengthy confession of sins, wordy resolutions, despair, desperation, even radical reformation, may not be scriptural repentance. True repentance, Paul declares to the Romans, must include a renunciation of all self-established righteousness and entails a total subjection to the

righteousness of God. Israel in the days of Paul (as well as many professing Christians today) may well be described by Paul's words:

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about {attempting} to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Rom. 10:3-4)

5. God's saving power is as available as the air we breathe. We call this saving power "grace." When Paul spoke of God's gracious righteousness in contrast to man's legal righteousness, he was actually talking about free grace.

The righteousness which is of faith saith thus, Say not in thy heart, Who shall ascend into heaven?...or, Who shall descend into the abyss?...But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach. (10:6-8)

Our conviction must be that the Holy Spirit is near us and is universally at work... The Holy Spirit cannot be evaded. David knew the Spirit was everywhere present... Today we know something David did not know. The ever-present Spirit of God carries the ever-present saving power of the blood of the Lord Jesus to all parts of the world at the same time...

6. Jesus Christ must be acknowledged as the new manager, the new Lord. The lordship of Jesus must be made clear to the one who is to receive Christ... Every man on earth begins by running his own life... To be converted, a man must renounce the old management of his life. He must completely and forever relinquish the right to run his own life and give it up into the hands of Jesus. Without this intention and purpose in his heart, his faith is unreasonable...

[For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom 8:14)

I say then: Walk in the Spirit {by permitting Him to direct all your steps through life}, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)]

7. From this time on, the new believer's relationship to Christ must be public and not private... The faith of the heart must be the confession of our lips—"confession is made unto salvation." (10:10) [Our whole purpose for remaining in this world is to work for the furthering of God's eternal kingdom according to the calling and giftings He has provided through His Spirit.]

8. Jesus said that our preaching should always terminate in teaching men to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded us. (Matt. 28:20) We should therefore make it plain to the new believer that Christ's words are to be his very spiritual life, his meat and drink. It is this word of Christ that will lead him into the blessing and the walk of sanctification as well as into the fullness and fellowship of the Holy Spirit...

There are, then, these seven or eight different phases of the salvation experience, and they cannot be neglected. If we do neglect them, troubles with far-reaching effects will arise in the church...

### **The Church and the Individual**

In the first eleven chapters of the book of Romans we have seen God working in the believer. Beginning with Romans 12 we now see how this salvation must be worked out.

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who worketh in you both to will and work, for his good pleasure.” (Phil. 2:12-13)

Romans 12:1-2 is Paul’s strong entreaty to the brethren to consecrate their redeemed personality to God.

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

The body is the earthen vessel containing Christ, the treasure. This body should reasonably and logically be given to God as a living sacrifice... Paul’s phrase “a living sacrifice” is equivalent to Christ’s phrase, “Take up thy cross, and follow me.”...

In Romans 12:3-8 the illustration of the human body is used to show that each person in the body of Christ has a God-given position to fill. We are members of the body of Christ, with differing gifts “according to the grace that is given unto us.”... [If we do not make this complete surrender to the leading of the Spirit so we may fulfill God’s preordained plans for our life, we are effectively living in rebellion regardless of how religious we may make ourselves appear to be.]

### **The Church and Government**

Christ is our Lord as well as our Savior. When we accept His government over our lives and choose to walk in His will...at this very point we must take up our cross. The cross is discovered and produced in our lives by living as obedient citizens of heaven among the citizens of this world, among those who are not subject to God but to the flesh and the devil. Whenever we are truly conformed to our Lord and Savior, the cross is evidenced in our lives.

The significance of the cross may be seen by the way it was understood when Jesus was on earth and by the impressions it made on the common, ordinary Israelites and Romans...

1. The cross was the emblem of rejection. Any man who carried a cross or was nailed to a cross was rejected by society... Anything that seemed to disturb the status quo of society was...condemned. That rejection was consummated on the cross. Of this the Prophet Isaiah spoke when he said of the Lord Jesus, “He was despised and rejected of men...” (Isa. 53:3)

2. The cross meant a loss of reputation and ambition... A man who was put on the cross was a man who had lost his reputation and whose ambitions were terminated. [The cross is therefore what prepares us to live by the eternal Spirit in the kingdom of God.] Paul the apostle says we are to have the mind of Christ, who was made of “no reputation.” (Phil. 2:6) [Have you truly come to know Christ and His way of the cross?]

3. The cross meant shame and exposure. No man every bore a cross in private. It was a public shame... A man carried his cross before the eyes of a mocking world. Because it was an open shame, the cross was utterly detestable to men. Thus it is said of Jesus that “he endured the cross, despising the shame”; that is, he would not let the shame of the cross deter Him from doing the whole will of God.

[The only way to be saved from the fallen form of life and to find Christ’s life in the heavenly realms is to follow Him through the cross. Again, have you truly followed

Christ in His way of the cross? “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city...” (Heb. 13:12-13)]

4. The cross meant separation. Those who bore a cross were willing to see the end of all their closest relationships... A man walking to his crucifixion may have seen his dearest relationships on the side of the road. His cross was as severe and sorrowful to them as it was to himself. It meant the end of any natural relationship, no matter how sweet it might be...

[If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple... So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:26-27, 33)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:1-3)

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction...who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship {our place of life} is in heaven... (Phil. 3:18-20)

No one can ever afford to ignore the teachings of God’s word simply because they do not understand them. The Spirit will reveal “all truth” to those who come to God with an open heart and begin seeking understanding in childlike and trusting faith. (John 16:13; Jam. 1:5) There is no room for error when we are looking at Scripture that clearly states who is and who is not a disciple of Jesus Christ.

It will help you to understand that God intends to begin the kingdom of heaven within your heart in this world. In the kingdom of heaven He is “all in all.” And if He is to be “everything,” that does not leave any room for you or anyone else to be “something.” God intended for His human children to live as vessels of His life of holy love. Once we are filled with the “righteousness of God” we will then have the same love that He continues to pour out to all people. It is then that we can truly love our relatives and our neighbors with a divine love that never stops flowing regardless of what they do to us.]

5. The cross meant suffering and loss of physical life. Those who bore a cross were heading for the end of their own personal security and life... Thus when Jesus says, “Take up thy cross daily,” he means that self-saving is utterly renounced by the cross-bearer...

6 The cross meant the bearing of blame. Anyone with a cross was esteemed a criminal. The cross was borne by one who was charged with an offense... Therefore it is significant that if a Christian bears a cross, it means that he is willing not to be the hero...but to bear the cross in order to follow Jesus Christ and serve Him. He is willing to have his intentions and deeds misinterpreted in order to follow his Master as described in 1 Peter 2:21-23: “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps...who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

7. The cross means conformity to the Lord and fellowship with Him. Jesus said we should lose our life for His sake and as we follow and love Him we will find it. In Him we will find our greatest joy... We begin to know “the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord.” We begin to have that divine passion in our hearts to “know Him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed unto his death.” (Phil. 3:10)

We need not think that we can live this life by the power of our own will or by gritting our teeth or by making resolutions. This life demands none other than the same anointing that rested on the Lord Jesus. We must have the power of the Holy Spirit to make this a joyful path even though it be the way of the cross. Jesus walked it because of the joy that was set before Him. We must share that same joy, that same exhilaration, that same vision, that same power that made Him triumphant and victorious.

In order that we might have the power to walk this way, Christ died and rose again, ascended into heaven, and received the promise of the Father for us, the power of the Holy Ghost, that we might represent His government on earth...

[He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. (Eph. 4:10)

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you... {may} know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:17-19)]

We begin in a life that is always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake. Out of death comes life... Our reasonable service to God is for us to be living sacrifices. God's will is then done on earth as it is in heaven and the power of redemption is released into the world. Men are faced with the Christian's abandonment to Christ. [The light of Christ's nature of holy love begins to expose their selfish and self-seeking nature.] The Holy Spirit is able to convict men of the fact that they are rebels and sinners against the Lord of the universe [the One who came to give them life from heaven], and they will begin to call out, “What must we do?” The Spirit-filled, Christ-following disciple can then lead such seekers into salvation and discipleship.

The world is insensible to God until they see the evidence of heaven in the lives of Christians. The “righteousness of God” is thereby revealed...

## **Epilogue**

The reason sincere Christians today live far below their privileges of victory and power is their failure to believe and receive the truth. Paul told the Thessalonians of the need for exercising faith in the truth. “God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” (2 Thess. 2:13)

The book of Romans declares the infinite value of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our union with Him in His complete victory. In this great, completely satisfying salvation, we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. May the Holy Spirit fill every believer and so lead each believer into all truth that the church may be radiant with the living Christ.



## Appendix F

Excerpts from the Book  
*Walking As He Walked*  
Written by Arthur C. Zepp  
Reprinted by Allegheny Publications

### The Obligation

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

This text is a startling statement for even the best of us to ponder! Correct theory of holiness and profession are widely different from an outworking of the life... He that claims to be a Christian, a follower of Christ...ought to give evidence of such profession by walking as he walked...

The chief foes of Christianity have been those within the camp, Achan like, professing to “abide in Him,” yet not “walking as He walked.”... If we ought so to walk even as He walked, then we may... Ought implies obligation... He requires no impossibilities of His creatures... We cannot conceive of God trifling with or mocking His poor creatures by holding up for their attainment impossible standards...

### Some Things Not Included

If you hold the standard too high, you drive men to despair; if you hold it too low, you drive them to hell fire.—John Wesley

There are many senses in which He walked, poor finite creatures may not follow Him. If we include irrational and absurd things in our concept we will stumble and confuse sincere souls...

We must ever be painfully conscious of limitations. “Absolute perfection”...belongs to God alone. Ours is relative, dependent, and finite... Faultless judgment and memory are not claimed. We may have, however, His pure mind. Let this mind be in you which was in Christ. [As spiritual Christians, “we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Cor. 2:16) It is a mind that chooses to be nothing in self so that God may be “all in all” and be the source of our glory. As we reckon ourselves to be dead to the old self-originated form of life, we depend on Him to be the source of our life. We then share with Him in His nature of holy love, which provides a] blameless judgment, and His blood to cover defects of memory and consequent blunders...

[Just as He chose us in Him {to live through Him} before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Eph. 1:4)]

In the present order of society it does not seem to be God’s purpose to destroy one essential element of our humanity... God’s purpose in sanctifying is to secure control of the animal instincts. Revelation gives no evidence that these functions, or their continued and legitimate use, in their proper sphere, are sinful. They are as pure as any other organs or functions of the body...

We are not to suppose Jesus inherited, as men do now, perverted instincts and a weakened constitution... He knew nothing of the carnal nature and its bent to sin, with consequent perversions of natural appetites... Many of us are subjects of prenatal markings and inclinations to various infirmities and weaknesses of which he was free.

Consequently, it is safe to say we may not wholly be free from purely instinctive elements of our physical constitutions which, unbidden, may occasionally and instinctively arise in the presence of their appropriate objects, though by watchfulness, carefulness, and prayerfulness these may be kept under proper subjugation and obedience to the dictates of reason and an enlightened and sensitive conscience. Said Paul, "I beat my body and keep it under."... I am not controlled by it; it is controlled by me...

By the obligation to walk as He walked, we understand it will be done in a relative, limited sense, up to our capacity. The wise schoolman does not expect eighth grade ability of first grade pupils... Not freedom from blunders, errors, infirmities, humanity, or mistakes, but willingness to be corrected... Not sinless or faultless, but blameless before God... As Mr. Wesley has stated, "The subject must be disguised and misrepresented to be opposed by rational men."

### **Positively and Practically Considered**

Be ye, therefore, perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

"As He is, so are we in this world." So then we are not to be mere imitators of Christ, but to partake of Christ so that He becomes "our life" and we have His divine nature and possess His mind and manifest His spirit and bear His image and "Walk even as He walked." He has provided "exceeding great and precious promises that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature."...

If we can see how He walked, the question how we ought to walk is answered. As we review the evidences of a Christ-like walk, let us humbly ask, "Am I so walking?"

Christ walked in undivided love for God... His heart was welded to His Father in Perfect Love and unity. Not the least intriguing with other lovers was in Him. He had undivided love. He delighted to do God's will... Jesus had the testimony, "I do always those things that please Him." His ambition was to please God and to finish the work God had given Him; seeking not His own glory, but His that sent Him...

He has made provision so that we may have this same undivided love for God and oneness with His Father... The Lord, thy God, will circumcise thy heart to love the Lord will all thy heart...

[And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one {sharing in the same life and nature}: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one...that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. (John 17:22-23, 26)]

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us... God's love was universal... "God so loved the world."... He chose deliberately, of His own accord, to lay down His life for the whole world...irrespective of race, nation, denomination, clime, or color. The obligation is on us to walk as He in His broad universal love...

Love for foes is also an evidence of walking as He walked. He loved and prayed for His bitterest enemies. They maligned Him...took Him to the brow of the hill to thrust

Him down the deep abyss; buffeted, bruised, smote with rods...ultimately nailed Him to the tree... Still His latest breath breathes a prayer of love and forgiveness for these cruel, merciless enemies; “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”...

The obligation is with us, however malignant, cruel, active, contemptible, to love our enemies and do good to those who despitefully use and persecute. “I say to you, love your enemies and pray for them.” No better gauge can be found of our love for them than the amount of good we seek to do them, and pray on their behalf... “Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink.”

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify it. This definite purpose of Jesus in giving Himself up for the sanctification of the church is worthy of emulation of all His followers. If He thought dying for the purification of the church an object worthy of pursuit—lived, sacrificed, prayed, toiled, died for that specific end; the accomplishment of this, the all consuming passion that fired His every energy; if this object was worthy of the best effort of the Son of God, it is a worthy goal for us...

He walked in Self-Sacrifice. He had nothing left over. He used up everything in His service for God. So poor, not even a life insurance policy to pay His funeral expenses... How little “walking as he walked” in self-sacrifice and denial among His followers today! Yet this is a first condition of discipleship...

### **His Expanding Life**

Dr. Upham...writing of the expanding life of Jesus, said: “The Savior was holy from the beginning. Every power of body or mind was fully sanctified. But, ‘the child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.’ ‘Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor (or grace) with God and man.’ What is the meaning of this increase of strength in spirit? How could He increase in the favor of His heavenly Father, if, with the increase of His expanding powers there was not also a corresponding growth in holy love?”...

Likewise, writing of the growth of man after entire sanctification, he says in substance, it is not meant by this expression, entire sanctification, that it is so entire as to exclude an increase and greater expansions and degrees of Divine Love in time and eternity....

Have we not neglected to “Walk as He walked” in His Expanding Life? Have we not traveled in too narrow confines and revolved around in too small a circle?... Are we not going around and clinging to the first principles of sanctification?... Should we not, like our Savior, advance?...

If precedents be needed to further establish this position, they can be drawn in abundance from the lives of men like Finney, Cookman, Baker, Keene and Jesus, who are all on record as having many gracious uplifts and blessings...and this was received while walking in the light of a full salvation from sin and acceptance with God...

### **His Magnetic Life**

Christ in a man’s life cannot be hid! He says of His followers, “I am glorified in them.” Literally, scholars interpret this to mean, “I burst forth in them in glory.” The normal condition of their lives is one which continually glorifies God. To illustrate. We were passing through Richmond, Va., in route to Va. Camps. A friend said, “You will meet at the Union Depot this morning a sister you never saw before, but you will know

her.” “Know her,” we replied, “How?” “O.” said he, “she has peace all over her face.” “All right, I’ll recognize her if she wears that badge.” We had not looked long among the many travelers until we saw a bright, sun-shiny face, beaming with heaven’s light and radiant with peace. Hastening to her side, and tipping our hat, we said, “You are sister M—...” Anyone could tell by a look at her radiant, spiritual face she was a child of the King. Everywhere she goes with her beaming face people take knowledge of her that she has been with Jesus, and glorifies God for the grace given to her...

### **He Withdrew Himself**

Jesus, though surrounded by the multitude clamoring for His attention and pressing to be near Him, many of whom He had just personally touched and healed and who consequently felt a claim on His time; and also, no doubt, by His mother, brothers, sisters, and disciples, still insisted on one thing of paramount importance to the Son of God... “And he withdrew Himself into the wilderness and prayed!”... If He found it necessary to thus insist on prayer time, how much more shall we in this busy age of multiplied duties, activities, and demands on our time...

Time spent alone with God is never lost. Contrary to popular notion, His example illustrates the truest, best, and most effective service done for God is through the power of “intercession.” The greatest thing anyone can do for God in the short space of life’s allotted days is to be much alone with God! One only has real power to grip men and fasten awakening conviction on them in proportion to time spent in secret with God.

When great multitudes came together to hear and be healed by Him of their infirmities, He withdrew Himself into the wilderness and prayed! Think of it! He withdrew Himself from what we, in our spiritual blindness, would call a great opportunity for service and into which we would, Sampson-like, go, in the energy of the flesh and shake ourselves (without prayer) as formerly when under the anointing of the Spirit, but, Alas! no one else would shake...

### **The Power of the Lord was Present to Heal**

It is all but useless to try to do God’s work until by “Intercession” the mighty power of God has been fought down from the skies, changing the atmosphere... How we have pumped and tugged, and sweat, and worked, and exhorted, to get men to yield when God’s power to heal was not present! And then how easily have we observed men come to God when the atmosphere had been changed by withdrawing and working the victory out on our knees! Here is the *why* of powerless services. The atmosphere has not been clarified by prayer and surcharged with God. “Jesus withdrew Himself...and, directly, it is added, the power of the Lord was present to heal.”...

Finney’s praying partner would so prevail the supernatural on his ministry that strangers passing through communities where he labored would feel it and yield to God... Evan Roberts has a right to speak. He has demonstrated what a changed atmosphere will do: “We must fight heaven down, we must fight it down, we must fight it down now and here.”...

The power present to heal was not accidental! Spiritual power and atmospheres are never so. Someone behind the scenes has met conditions. If I now have power, it is because of long drawn out seasons of agonizing intercession. A few lines back in the context reveals how through Jesus’ example this power was and may be secured: “And

Jesus withdrew Himself from the multitude into the wilderness and prayed.” Four or five lines further on it is added, “The power of the Lord was present to heal.” There is an intimate connection between these verses. They are related...

Power was present to heal them spiritually. This crowd was not only sick physically, but spiritually... All revival efforts that falls short of this result is spurious.

### **Christ, the Fearless Preacher**

Jesus was both a destructive and constructive preacher. He tore down and built up. There is great objection to what are termed “destructive,” or “digging” preachers... But God sent Jeremiah to “root out, pull down, throw down, and destroy,” and then, after this necessary work of destruction, to “build up and plant.”... The one thing God had against certain false prophets of Jeremiah’s day was that they healed slightly and did not reveal the iniquity of His people... God wants destructive preachers of unflinching courage, who will go to the bottom of sin and relieve sin’s disease altogether...

The heroic is needed in the ministry, men who will tear down and destroy the worthless and false and inferior and dig deep the foundation in order that a glorious superstructure of Christ-like character may appear. Such a ministry was Christ’s, and such must be that of those who would walk as he walked... O, for this Christ-like combination of fearlessness, courageousness, boldness, fidelity, and yet with all commingled a heavenly sweet, love, and tenderness!...

Christ never learned how to preach so as to offend none. Whoever will be God’s spokesman may as well know at the outset to speak what God bids him will mean opposition and offended hearers... His spiritual sons repudiate this rule and seem to think the more they please the people the more successful they are. Jesus offended his hearers. They sought to kill Him...

Let none suppose he can so wisely present the doctrine of the holy life as to offend none. If so, he has learned what Jesus and the apostles and reformers never learned... “Woe unto you when all men speak well of you.” “From that time forth many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him.” They were offended at Him; “Knowest thou not that thy disciples were offended at thee?” Surely if any one could so wisely and judiciously preach as to commend the Gospel to all classes and offend none, Christ ought to be that one. But this He never succeeded in doing....

He was God’s mouthpiece. “Whatever I speak, even as the Father tells me so I speak.” “I speak not of myself, but the Father dwelling in Me He doeth the works.”... “He whom God has sent speaketh the words of God.”... “All I commanded thee, thou shalt speak, diminish not a word of it,” keep back none of it, “declare the whole counsel of God whether they will hear or whether they will forbear.”... O, be not wiser than Jesus, be not above preaching the simple story; shun science, philosophy, vain conceit, wisdom of words, lest the word be made void.

### **“Follow Thou Me”**

We have often heard people sing lustily: “Where He leads me I will follow, I’ll go with Him all the way.”... Yet, the great mass who name His name know so little of fellowship with His sufferings; they know practically nothing of watching with Him even one hour in prayer... He must with a sad tone of reproach say to them, “What, could ye not watch one hour with me?” Ye, who, Peter-like, have so loudly and publicly protested

your love and loyalty, do you know so little of My mission as not to watch with Me in prayer-conflict with spiritual wickedness in heavenly places one short hour?

And when it comes to following Him in bearing His cross to the place of crucifixion, how few are willing! Sentiment considers it erratic and peculiar. "Pity thyself!" "Far be it from them to suffer!" How few self-indulgent modern Christianines and Christianettes realize following Him in bearing the cross is a condition of discipleship. "If any one will come after me let him bear his cross daily." "If any man will follow me let him deny himself."

Oftentimes following Him not only necessitates cessation from following the positively evil, but also much that is lawful and good. The disciples who first heard this command immediately left their ships, fishing, mending nets, following receipt of customs and other legitimate occupations to be in His best will... We must die to any thing, pursuit, or person, though as dear as a right eye or arm, even though not sinful, which hinders from following where He leads...

There is still such a thing as choosing your own sphere, rather than have God's choice; of having your own desires, but with it a consciousness of not being at your best for God... The lofty attainments of those eminent for piety are looked upon as desirable in the abstract, but the number who count the cost and pay the price for such experiences are few. They would gladly follow Him and the world too...give up some certain things which they care little for if only they may reserve others which they care more for; save their souls if only they may at the same time gain the world; *things which Jesus declares NO man can do!* "Ye cannot! Ye cannot serve God and mammon"; no man can serve two masters... Jesus taught men to give up one or the other!...

The disciples left their nets and, "going on from thence," they continued with Him. "If ye continue in my word then are ye My disciples."... To the very end of probation we have the power to cast away our confidence, apostatize, draw back, and make shipwreck of the faith. "If any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him." The power is with us to draw back or go on. We make the choice in either case:... "If thou continue, otherwise thou shalt be cut off."...

The unknown future is in His hands, and is only known a step at a time. Concerning it, He says, "Thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."... Here many prove as the hearers who joyously and emotionally received the word, yet by and by, after a little...they are easily offended... Sad is the number who, on discovering the conditions of continuing, turn back, "from that time and walk no more with Him."...

Dear reader, as He speaks, "Follow thou Me," in lieu of all this, does your heart still say, "Master, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest?" "Lead Thou me on; I have counted the cost, paid the price, and am going through." Blessed is the man who so says. He shall have manifold more in this present time (especially the joy of the Lord as his strength and pay) and in the world to come, everlasting life... These rewards are for those who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth...

## **Life and Light**

"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Influence and power are always resultants of the inner life. Jesus could say, "I am the light of the world," because he confirmed this statement by His life; because His inner

life was right. Life first, then light... The reason for little light, power, and influence, emanating from one's life, is invariably, a defective inner life.

Of paramount importance in the preparation for the work of ministry and Christian work is the inner life of the worker... The Gospel is an incarnation of truth through personality. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, full of grace and truth."... Life, spiritual as well as physical, has its manifestations. The power of Jesus was simply the expression of His victorious life.

In Him was life, then manifestations of light—"His life was the light of men." There must be life before there can be manifestations of life... Letting our light shine implies having light. Get it within, and then it cannot be hid... In Him was life, then out of Him went light!...

What is the use to dodge the real issue and blame conditions? Life, in Him, could not be hid!... God's plan is to manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place His providence calls us.

Have we not failed by magnifying unduly intellectual caliber as the road to attainment in the knowledge of God?... Paul said he received the Gospel by revelation from heaven. God will not bear witness to one's ministry according to his degrees, diplomas on the wall, or his white cravat; but according to his inner life...

Let us stop crying for the power of former times until our life is as theirs: Many of us are willing to have the power of men like Wesley and Finney possessed, without realizing that their measure of power was according to their entire devotedness to God, and the outcome of their inner life... Are we willing to pay the price of entire abandonment they paid?... We must quit claim our all, in God's favor; deed ourselves fully over to Him, and mean it. If so, the power of former days shall be ours...