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The Eternal Church

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All Creation is Longing

From the beginning of the creation, when God created man and woman, there has always been a struggle. Even when Adam and Eve had no sin in them, there was a struggle to be obedient to God. There was a power, or a force in this world that began to attempt to pull them away from God's presence. In Genesis 3, the Word speaks of how the serpent convinced Eve that it would be okay to eat of the tree that was forbidden. That was the beginning of man's rebellious walk towards God and His commandments.

As we look in the scriptures, we can see some of the things that God introduced through His people, and the walk of His people, until the Time of Christ. In Genesis 8:21, after the flood had taken place and Noah was released from the ark, the first thing he did was build an altar and make a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the God of creation for saving him, his family, and the created beings. God says in verse 21 of Genesis, chapter 8:

“And the Lord smelled a sweet savor; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from His youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.”

This verse is one of the most comforting to me in the scriptures. Because out of the mouth of the Father, the Lord recognizes man's heart is always bent on evil. That doesn't give me an excuse to stay that way, but there is comfort in knowing my Father understands and knows the depth and degree to which I have fallen. I also recognize that in Matthew 5:48 there is a command from our heavenly Father. Through Jesus He says:

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Jesus Is the Door

The need to be perfect is not an option for a born again believer who is a new creation in Christ Jesus. It is a command. Therefore, where there is a command God makes provision and a way for obedience to come about...in this case, to be perfect. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by Me." Jesus also said that He is the door to the sheepfold. Jesus said we are to feed on Him. He said "I'm making you the salt of the earth and the light of the world." He said the gates of hell shall not prevail against us. He said He has defeated the enemy.

There is a place in God that we can say, "No weapon formed against me can prosper!" He commanded us to put the enemy under our feet. He called us to walk in peace. He called us to walk in power. He called us to walk by faith. He's called us to walk in righteousness, in holiness, and to have all authority over the powers of the enemy. Why is it, then, that we see so little of victorious living in the church and in God's people as they walk from day to day? Good question. To find the answer, we must first understand that satan wants desperately to control and manipulate the course of mankind. To better understand

his motives, let's go back to Genesis 1:28. This is where the commissioning of man began.

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

The blessing of God gave mankind the authority, ability and knowhow to fulfill the commissioning of man. The “fruitful” (be fruitful) means that the labor of the hand of mankind should increase the earth. He gave us multiplication. We see multiplication all through the scriptures, including the time when our Lord blessed the loaves and the fishes and fed the five thousand. He blessed us to be able to accomplish our task, and walk in increase to fill the earth back up again with people and living things (replenish) through the care of mankind. “Subdue” means to bring unto subjection. And the word “dominion” means to prevail against, to reign, to rule over. In Isaiah 66:1, God speaks:

“Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?”

We see in this verse that God rules in heaven alone. He created the earth and all that is in it for His pleasure. He rested from His labor on the seventh day, for He had turned the earth and His creation over to mankind to care for it, and to have authority over all His created beings. The Lord God, when He finished the creation of each day, looked upon it and said, “It is good.” That

shows us the pleasure that God took in the work of His hands and entrusted mankind to care for the love of his creation. He loved His creation so much that He made man in the likeness and image of Himself. And when man fell, He sent Jesus to die on the cross. In John 3:16, we read:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

The word “world” in John 3:16 means “cosmos,” which is His entire creation...mankind, animals, plants, fish of the sea, and fowl of the air. Somewhere in the process of mankind, satan deluded our minds into thinking that we as human beings are all that God wants to save and enjoy. But in Isaiah, it says the earth is His footstool, and we are caretakers of all His creation.

Now, if satan could control mankind, would he not then have control of this world? If he found a way of working in and through mankind to control and manipulate, as an instrument of and for his desire, would not this world become his world? Could he not achieve the desires of his heart? Is that why Jesus, when satan came to tempt him three times, did not argue with satan’s authority to give Him things? In Matthew 3:9, satan speaks to Jesus:

“And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

Once again, Jesus didn’t argue with satan that he had it to give, but His answer in verse 10 was:

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, satan: For it is written,

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.”

It’s not hard to see that in this world, satan does have influence upon us, upon the church, and upon nations. Does God expect or teach that there is the possibility of mankind once again having authority over this earth like it was created and intended to be? Did Jesus come just to save us from this mess on earth and take us to heaven? Or did He call us to be a victorious church and to take back the earth that satan has tried to rule and have dominion over in every part of God’s creation? In I Corinthians 15:24-26 we read:

“Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

Jesus was the first of many sons. The sons of God are we that become like Jesus, which take on the mind of Christ. We that walk in the authority that Jesus released upon His church. Just as satan tried to rule our hearts, Jesus came to break the power of sin and death. What then, is sin and death? In John 10:10, Jesus says:

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Serving God or satan

Sin is separation from God: refusing to do God’s will. That

causes death, because life only comes in God. satan can only give us decrease. But in God, we increase. Life increases, death decreases. Each person has a choice. There are only two kingdoms in this world. The kingdom of God versus the kingdom of this world, which is satan. And the battle rages on. Who will win within your soul?

If you choose to be in charge of your own life, then satan will help you walk down that path of destruction. But if you choose to walk in eternal life, you must go to the cross, deny yourself, then pick up the cross and follow Jesus. You are in charge of your soul. It's you that chooses whom, this day, you will serve.

The question may be asked, "Does satan really control me, if I'm the one who makes choices?" Scripture says we are either influenced by the kingdom of God or the kingdom of satan. We talked about God having called us to subdue the earth, and that "subdue" has to do with bringing the powers of darkness under subjection.

In Genesis 1:1-5, we find the story of the first day of creation in which there was a separation of light and darkness. satan and his force of evil were already upon this earth, and during the first day, God separated the kingdom of God (the light or the day), and the kingdom of satan (the darkness or the night). These two kingdoms are often referred to in the scriptures in this way. It was not until day four that the sun and the moon were created to cause a brighter light and a lesser light to rule the day and the night in the physical.

If we don't serve God, who will we serve? The answer to this question will automatically be: The powers of darkness; because we fell into that kingdom when we rebelled and were separated from God. And when we fall into that kingdom of darkness, that kingdom will rule our lives whether we realize it or not. It will

affect us. It will change the course of our destiny and lead us down a path of destruction. The reason for this book is to reveal how satan operates in the innermost parts of man, so that the Holy Spirit can expose and eliminate the enemy from our lives. It is written so that through the authority of God, we can subdue every power and authority of darkness through the power and might of our Lord Jesus. In Philippians 3:21 we read:

“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.”

Significance of the Tabernacle Today

In the scriptures, the tabernacle was given as a road map into God's presence. That is why we want to begin to look just briefly at the tabernacle to get a better understanding of the way God intended for mankind to come into His presence.

In the Outer Court, there are two instruments. The first is the altar of fire. This represents salvation, which is the dying of our flesh and giving ourselves over to the Spirit of God. The second instrument is the laver. The laver represents our covenant with God to have our inward sin removed as we move closer to Him, toward the Holy Place. These two instruments speak of the new covenant. The altar of fire represents the removal of our transgressions. These are the acts of sin we commit. In Psalms 103:12 we read:

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”

So we see that transgressions are instantly removed as we come to God in repentance. Just as the sacrifice on the altar of fire is burned up, and nothing is left of it, so are our transgressions removed and nothing is left of them. But iniquity, which is

represented by the laver of water, is removed by God causing us to go through judgments and purgings to expose the heart. When Jesus was on the cross and the soldier took his spear and pierced Jesus' side, blood and water flowed out of Him. He was pierced in His side; this is the same place that God took Adam's rib and formed the woman. The woman represents the church. It takes the blood and the water from Jesus' side to 'form' the church. The blood represents the fire of sacrifice and the water represents the laver. As we enter into the Holy Place, we have the right to go in because we have covenanted with God, at the laver, that our hearts are willing to be inwardly cleansed. God chooses how and when each part of our inward being is cleansed.

In the Holy Place, we find three instruments. The first of these is the seven candlesticks, which according to Isaiah 11:2, represents the seven Spirits of God. The next instrument is the table of showbread. The showbread represents the Word of God, which is His government. The third instrument in the Holy Place is the altar of incense, which is intercession, fellowship, and adoration unto God. It is this area, the Holy Place, that we most want to look at in this chapter. Coming into the Holy Place relationship with God will bring us into a place that we can honor God and what He's called us to do.

The New Covenant: Relationship Not Law

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus said to pray, "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name..." Here we see that we must acknowledge the Creator as our Father and honor Him in every way. Acknowledging God as "Father" means that we submit to Him, His teaching, His correction, and His direction in our lives. It means submitting with such dedication that we learn how to

honor everything He says, everything He asks us to do, and every change that He asks us to make in our lives. It means we cooperate with the removal of all darkness, and all ungodly attitudes and mindsets. If we resist that submission, we're not honoring Him. We are rejecting Him as Father, and our relationship with the Father and His Son will immediately begin to be strained because we have covenanted at the laver that He can remove our inward sins at His will.

The new covenant with Jesus Christ is not law, but relationship. Jesus came to bridge the gap between the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) and mankind. We must believe that Jesus broke the power of sin and death that we might have life. When Jesus came into our hearts, He gave us resurrection power. That resurrection power will bring mankind to life in the way God originally created him. When man fell, death began to take place in our bodies. It is only as the new creation of Jesus Christ works in us that we realize the extent of the work death has done in us. To have a victorious walk and to be in the house of God, (as Isaiah 61 says, to be "oaks of righteousness,") our eyes must be focused upon Jesus Christ and the destiny we have in Him. That is our goal. Paul said he set his eyes upon the course to run with all diligence towards the high call of the race in Jesus. We don't look back, but our eyes are fixed upon Jesus and that call. Satan wants us to look at our problems and our difficulties to get us all tangled up and overwhelm us with the filthiness of our condition. But our covenant with God is that He will subdue and destroy the iniquity within us.

Why Do I Do What I Don't Want to Do?

According to Romans 7, it's the inward sin that makes us do

things we don't want to do. If we continue to look at sin in our lives and focus upon it, satan will keep us going around the mountain and never growing.

In Isaiah 42:7 we read:

“To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

To get out of prison, the doors first must be unlocked, and then we must get up and get out of our prison. That means, when God has forgiven us of the sin, we get up and get out of that place and never go back because we are on a journey to the cross, for the cross is where the glory is. The cross is total death to ourselves. It's God that opens the door, but I am the one who must get up and get out of prison because I've chosen the journey towards God and the cross. If I lose sight of the cross, even though God opens the door for me to get free, I'll not be free until I get out of the place of prison.

One of the biggest mistakes newborn and some maturing Christians have is that when God sets them free they don't move on. They stay in the same mud hole and continue to get dirty. They have to be cleaned up time after time because they don't get up out of the mud hole to continue down the path God has set for their course. The lack of vision, goals and determination keeps you where you're at. You are where you are at because of your choices and no one else's. God has made the way for you to be free. And only you and I can make the individual choice whether or not we will go on with God. The destiny of our eternity is in our hands because we have the freedom of choice.

The Power of Repentance

We're now going to look at the tools that God has given us to fight the enemy and to destroy his powers. The first thing we must do is to believe that God has destroyed the powers of the enemy through Jesus.

I John 1:9 says:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Confess means to repent. To repent of our sins is the most powerful tool God has given mankind to defeat satan's powers within us. There is no tool or weapon more powerful than that. It seems so simple that we think there must be more we should do to have our sins removed, but repentance and belief in God will always defeat the enemy. True repentance of wrongdoing towards God brings in the midst of us a deep sorrow for rebellion against and hurting the heart of God. That is why scripture says we must turn from our evil ways and seek the heart of God. If a turning away does not happen, then the heart of repentance has not taken place. Only intellectual repentance has occurred and little, if any, good has been accomplished. John 8:32 says:

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

The Holy Spirit comes to us and speaks to us in truth. When we recognize the truth of our condition and our own righteousness, which is as “filthy rags,” it is only then that we can be set free. Only through true repentance and sorrow of heart, which cuts

off the work of the enemy, are we truly redeemed.

John 1:14 says Jesus came full of grace and truth. If we come to God out of self-pity, and cry out to Him in that condition, we are not asking for the sin to be removed, but just for Jesus to comfort our soul. But if sin is working in us, the only way we can be comforted is to have that sin removed.

Just as a surgeon must remove an inflamed appendix in order for the body to be healed, so it is with sin. Sin must be removed for the heart and the soul to be comforted. And like physical surgery, that requires a short period of discomfort and even pain while the infected appendix is removed. After the healing process takes place, we are comforted. It is the same with the sin in us. It may require a painful process, but once the sin is removed we are comforted with God's presence. And only through that process can we be comforted.

As long as sin is at work in us how can we be comforted? When sin works to destroy us and everything God represents in us, how can we be at peace with that sin inside of us? So let us turn from the works of the flesh and allow the workings of God to be dealt in us and through us that we might walk in the comfort, the power, and the might of Almighty God.

Trying vs. Walking in Truth

I hear many people say they will try to do better. But when we say "try," our hearts have left us a way out. In our hearts, we have been conditioned to "try" to do things, knowing inside that if the way becomes too difficult we don't have to complete it. After all, I did "try." God says if you knock, the door will be opened; seek and you will find; ask and it will be given to you. It's not God that backs out of the giving, but us when we're not willing to go

through the process to come into that place with God where we can be instructed and qualified to receive what we ask for. Just “trying,” or making a little effort to know God, is not enough. It’s truth that sets us free. It comes when we learn the truth of who God is and the truth of who we are. Freedom is a process. Truth is what fuels the process.

Proverbs 16:6 says:

“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.”

Psalms 33:4 says:

“For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.”

Isaiah 61:8 says:

“For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.”

Psalms 51:5-6 says:

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

We see through these scriptures that God lives in truth. If truth is in us we are able to admit sin in us because truth exposes sin

and shows us the path of light and freedom and all the attributes of God's Spirit.

Walking in His Presence

After we are born again and become a new creation in Christ Jesus, all things become new. That means we are born into the spiritual world of the Trinity. We learn in the Holy Place how to communicate in the realm of the Spirit by hearing God and being obedient. Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice and they obey and follow Me." We begin fellowship with Him through worship and prayer and the reading of his Word. This process begins to renew our mind, because as we begin touching the heart of Jesus we begin to take on the mind of Christ. As we come into that place of fellowship, and darkness is removed, we learn from our teacher, the Holy Spirit, how to always stay in that place of communion and hearing His voice. Galatians 5:25 says:

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

This means that we not only can, and have the right, but God has called us into that place of fellowship that we are to walk always in His presence.

What are the kinds of clothes that people who walk and are taught by the Holy Spirit wear?

Isaiah 66:2(b) says:

"...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my Word."

THE ETERNAL CHURCH

To be poor is to be one who knows he needs teaching, guidance and power from on high, and that in himself he can do nothing. The poor know that unless God initiates something, God is not in it. A contrite person is one whose pride has been broken and will submit in patience to the process of the Holy Spirit's dealings with us. And to tremble at what God speaks to us means we work with the greatest strength and ability and knowhow that is within our spirit to accomplish His will with excellence and purpose.

Matthew 22:16 says:

"...Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men."

Everyone Needs the Seven Eyes of God

In the previous chapter, we mentioned that the new covenant Jesus brought was a covenant of relationship rather than law. Paul speaks much about it in Romans, teaching that the law in itself brought death, in that it was impossible for man in his own strength to fulfill, or to live up to, or to accomplish the letter of the law.

Romans 2:28-29 says:

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

The inward circumcision of the heart is made possible through relationship with God, which is hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit who is our teacher and comforter. I Corinthians 2 teaches us that the Holy Spirit will reveal to us the deep secrets of God, which are those things freely given to us by God. Also, this new covenant is a covenant of grace. In my own words, based on my own experience with God, grace is God’s willingness to give me

the time and ability to grow and learn how to become a mature son in God's kingdom.

The Hope of Walking as Jesus Walked

Hebrews 7:19 says:

“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.”

The hope he's speaking of here is the hope of walking as Jesus walked. It is the hope of being able to know the will of the Father as Jesus did. The Holy Spirit speaks to us and says that Jesus only speaks to us what He hears the Father saying. Jesus said I only do what I see the Father doing and He tells me how to do it. This new hope comes to us by faith. Because Jesus was flesh and spirit, we also can function the way Jesus did upon this earth. He even commissions us to walk as He walked in the power of His Father. So how do we walk the way He walked? In the physical, we have five senses. Those senses are our hearing, sight, smell, touch and taste. Without those five senses we would not be able to communicate in the physical world with anyone, nor would we be able to understand or relate in any way. Because God is spirit, and we must come to Him in spirit and in truth, we then must have a way of communication with God in the spirit. The Holy Spirit has been given to teach us how to see through the eyes of the Father. These eyes of God are represented by the seven candles in the Holy place.

Isaiah 11:2 says:

“And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;”

In different places of the scripture, the seven Spirits Jesus used are also called eyes. These seven Spirits, or the eyes of God, are only taught to those who learn to walk in the Spirit, and have continual fellowship in the Holy Spirit. This can only happen by being completely sold out to God, laying your life on the cross and feeding upon Him.

When we're born again, Jesus comes and lives in us. But for us to live in Jesus, we begin to feed upon His flesh and drink His blood. Or in layman's terms, we become consumed by His presence; meditating upon His word, His commands, and what He's taught us day and night. As we meditate upon Him, we begin to perceive and understand, and the knowledge in our head is transferred to our heart. As long as it stays in the mind, it comes out of our intellect. But if it's transferred to the heart, which is the work of the new covenant, then the heart of Jesus will flow out of our heart in relationship, because He has ownership of it.

If our relationship with the Holy Spirit is that we are always in fellowship with Him, He will begin to teach us the deep things of God, which is learning to see out of the seven eyes of God. As we grow and mature in God the more we will be able to see, perceive, and understand what God wants us to do in this world, and we will see the spiritual forces of darkness. How can we fight something we can't see? How can we take back something when we can't see who's holding on to it, or how he's doing it? Without the five physical senses, we couldn't function in the physical world. And for us to be mature sons like Jesus was, how can we function in the spiritual world we've been born in to, without our seven

spiritual senses. Everyone needs the seven eyes of God.

Isaiah 11:3 says:

“And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.”

Here we see that by operating out of the seven eyes, or the seven Spirits of God that were given to Jesus, He was given quick understanding. He didn't need to go off somewhere to pray and fast and seek God for what He should do, because He had the ability to see through the eyes of God, and He knew what the Father was doing in each person. He knew the next step the Father wanted to accomplish in them, and God even showed Him through the seven eyes how to do it. The last part of the verse verifies this, because He didn't use His physical eyes to see or His physical ears to hear.

After you begin to be taught by the Holy Spirit to function out of these seven eyes, the Holy Spirit becomes silent, and gives you the opportunity to begin to use them to see and to understand in the spirit instead of always speaking to you. It's like a test in school. The Holy Spirit teaches you... then comes the test. He watches to see how much ability you have gained to function in the spiritual realm. And when the test is over, he will begin to teach you again in the areas you didn't function in properly until you do learn how to function in each of those eyes, so that you may see clearly, and that you might know the mind of Christ.

Trained by the Loving Father

Romans 8:1 says:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

One of the most powerful tools the enemy will try to use against God’s people is condemnation. Condemnation will come upon every believer that is not in Christ Jesus. This is the first qualification to prevent condemnation from coming upon us. We must be IN Christ Jesus. To be in Him, we must be feeding upon Jesus with all of our heart, with all of our soul, and with all of our might. This eventually will bring us into the highest level of intimacy with Jesus and the Father. If this desire is not present, then the desire for intimate relationship with Christ is lacking, and there is rebellion in that relationship.

When we desire Christ with all of our heart, then we do not desire to walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit. This is intimate relationship with God and His Son. If I walk with a desire in my heart to be like Jesus, and my total focus is upon Him and His kingdom, and I am learning and desiring to have the keys to the kingdom, then I’ve begun the process to grow even as a tree grows. Slowly, but surely, I will eventually become a mighty tree.

If I’m a one-year-old in the spirit, I cannot expect myself to function and operate like a 10-year-old, and neither does God expect me to. But He does expect me to function as a one-year-old. A one-year-old may be just beginning to learn to walk. And when I take my first step, I may have fallen 10 times just previous to my one step that is successful. But a parent forgets the 10 times the child has fallen and with great joy watches the first successful step. When I say my first words, they forget the mumblings that I have and take great joy in my first word clearly spoken.

Did the one-year-old who made 10 unsuccessful steps sin? Or was it simply that it took time to learn how to walk correctly? If I live by the law, those 10 mistakes would require punishment. But if I live by relationship, I am learning how to walk in God's ways and in His kingdom with a sincere heart and not one of rebellion. Even though I don't do things right every time, God doesn't hold those mistakes against me. Why? Because I'm under the law of grace. If I would begin to walk in rebellion, or refuse to walk (or learn to walk) according to what God is asking me to, that would be sin.

This is why Paul could say, *in Christ Jesus*, (meaning those that have the desire to walk in relationship with Jesus) *there is no condemnation* that can come upon them. For we can say to the devil, *"I may have made a mistake. I may not have even done it right, but because the desire of my heart is to do His will and to please my Father, I will continue with my whole heart to do His will in hope until I do it with perfection! I'm under grace, devil, and don't bring your condemnation around to me. My Father loves me and I love Him. He will teach me, and with joy I will learn to do His will and accomplish, by grace, the desires of my Father's heart. And by the grace of God, I will grow up in sonship, laboring with His Son, Jesus, for all eternity...Life without end!"*

Hallelujah and amen!

The Government of Heaven Brought to Earth

Jesus told His disciples that He saw satan cast out of heaven and thrown to the earth. No scripture is given as to the exact time in which this took place, but we know that it had to take place before the fall of man. satan used the serpent to deceive Adam and Eve in the garden and bring separation between Adam and Eve and God. Shame came on Adam and Eve, and from that time on, mankind has tried to hide the shame of sin. Today it's only by the grace of God and the conviction of the Holy Spirit that we can admit our failures, confess them and have them removed from before us and within us.

In this chapter, we want to look at the areas and places in which satan operates from, and also at some of the ways in which he operates. We are going to expose only a few of the many ways in which he functions. The reason that I say "only a few," is because unless we learn how to see in the spiritual world through the seven eyes of God, we cannot grow with power to the degree that God has called His church unto to be victorious.

Following the Lord of Hosts

If we don't see out of the seven eyes of God, we may win a battle from time to time, but it is only by the direction of the Lord of Hosts, and by laboring with Him, who is Jesus, that we can have victory every time.

We do not fight satan and his host because we want something to do, nor because it's fun, nor because we have power over the enemy. The enemy will not totally be defeated until Christ comes back. Right now we come against the enemy and destroy him when he tries to stand in the way against the purpose of God that we have been called to fulfill. If we have any other attitude, our focus will become demon-focused and victory will never come. We will not be able to hold and maintain the victories and the ground we gain through our battles. Only when we battle to allow the will and the purposes of God to advance, to increase His kingdom for His glory and not ours, will our victory stand. That's why Jesus said to His disciples, don't rejoice that you can cast out an evil spirit, but rejoice that your name is written in heaven.

Yielding to the One True God

Now let's look at Exodus 20:3-5:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"

When I first received the baptism of fire, I was so tired of me being in charge of my life and everything that was connected to it. When I totally yielded to God and was baptized by fire, my biggest concern was that other things which could become my god would stand in the way. And so for several years, when I prayed, I would say, "I cry out to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel...to the God of creation and the Father of Jesus. To that God, and only to that God, do I speak and call upon." Because I realized that this verse says that there are other gods that we can make and serve, and I was tired of serving them. I wanted to serve only the true God.

In Jeremiah 10:10, we read:

"But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation."

As my heart began to understand that God is true, He's living, and He is the King of kings, it was at that point that I was able to give my heart to God in ways that I was afraid of before. The key to growing, and the foundational stepping stone in God, is learning to know who He is.

He is the God of absolutes and the One who disciplines and corrects to guard His kingdom, and also to teach us how to function in His kingdom. His kingdom is so great, that as long as we're in this body, we will only understand but a very little portion of our inheritance in God and His Son. To think that He would allow us to rule and reign with Him for all eternity! That is the love of God, released upon me through His mercy, which is His willingness to teach me how to operate in His kingdom and

the world He created.

Three Areas to Subdue

Exodus 20:4 speaks of three areas that we are not to make a graven image of, nor make any likeness of any thing that exists in these areas.

The first one is, “in heaven above.” The word heaven in Hebrew is ‘shaw-meh’, meaning where the clouds move as well as where the celestial bodies revolve. The second area is, “in the earth beneath.” The word beneath, ‘takh-ath,’ means the bottom, below or underneath. The third area is, “in the water under the earth.” Some would try to interpret this water under the earth as being the sea where fish dwell. But had this been the water he meant, they would have written “sea.” The Word says, “water under the earth.”

Verse five is a warning to us not to bow down to serve any of them, for God is a jealous God. He says that He hates the iniquity that would come from this practice. Iniquity is power from the enemy that resides in us and makes us do things we don’t want to do. When we are controlled by iniquity, power is available for us through this iniquity. We will talk more later about how we use this power of the enemy to destroy and control people around us to satisfy our self-centeredness.

In the Heavens

Ephesians 6:12 says:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,

against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

These authorities of the enemy operate and labor to control every human being on the face of the earth, to make man submit to them from their places in heaven, and under the earth, and in the waters under the earth. Principalities are an example of the government of satan that rules over regions, cities, states, and nations. Unless those principalities are pulled down, they strongly influence and control the district in which they reign.

One town will have a definite characteristic, then you can go to the next town and the personality of that town is completely different. When you become sensitive in the spirit and have the ability of discernment, you know exactly when one principality stops and the next begins. Principalities are the lowest level of authorities that operate in the heavens. Rulers and powers are above them.

Under the Earth

In Isaiah 14:9 we read:

“Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.”

The word “hell” or “sheol” or “hades” means “the world of the dead, pit, or grave.” Hell is waiting for satan, who was cast out of heaven to the earth. The people of the dead were stirred and moved to receive satan in that place. This is a very difficult verse to understand all the implications, but let me simply introduce

this to you as not only a place where the dead exist, but also a place where thrones of kings rule from, even kings of the nations. Their souls are alive, and because the word 'thrones' is used, they rule over these nations. We will pick this up in chapters ahead, but this is a very important part of satan's influence upon man.

We must understand that every place man establishes an authority or a place of rule, that either God is in charge of that throne or authority, or satan is. Again I will say that man is deceived in thinking that if he makes a decision on his own, that he has made the decision separate from one of these two kingdoms. Scripture says that we are ruled by one of these two kingdoms. Jesus said we will serve the one and ignore the other, but we cannot serve two masters. As we look at authorities in our own lives, in our husband, wife, and child relationships, and then broaden to church, community, and national authorities, because there is an authority established, one of these two kingdoms will be in charge.

In the Water Under the Earth

The third area is the most difficult. This area is the water under the earth. We find in Revelation 9:1:

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.”

And in Revelation 11:7:

“And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”

The bottomless pit is translated “the shaft of the abyss.”

The word “deep” is also associated with the abyss and bottomless pit. In Luke 8:31 we read:

“And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.”

The word “deep” is also translated as ‘abyss’, and it was the legion of devils who cried out to Jesus not to send them to this place. So we can see that the activity in those three areas are different and yet are of the same kingdom of darkness as the second commandment, which says, “have no other gods before Me.” And these gods they’re speaking about are allowed to come on the earth, and also to rule and to reign upon this earth.

Obedience unto Death

In Philippians 2:9-10 we read:

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;”

God exalted Jesus to the highest level possible under God the

Father Himself. Jesus was exalted because of His obedience to do what the Father wanted done, the way the Father wanted Him to do it. When Jesus didn't do something exactly right, he left a door open for satan to clobber Him, and He suffered. I am not saying that Jesus sinned...Remember the process of learning to walk? As a child learns to walk and then to run, does he not sometimes fall down and get hurt? Even when Jesus was obedient in every way, He still suffered so that He might learn to be obedient to His Father, and therefore became the perfect sacrifice.

As we learn what relationship is, we will understand how Jesus walked on this earth. He first fasted 40 days for His flesh to die. Then satan tempted Him to do things his way rather than the way of His Father in heaven. But because rebellion is sin, Jesus prayed that no one would be offended because of Him to the point that they would not enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus never sinned and no sin was found in Him, but that doesn't mean that His flesh didn't push Him at times. Even at the garden of Gethsemane He said to His Father, "Isn't there another way?" The scriptures don't say that Jesus heard the Father say, "There isn't," but the third time that He asked, He became obedient to the original call and the purpose of His coming. When His flesh was crucified in His heart, the rest became easier to carry out, because He was a Son who had learned obedience to His Father. And Jesus' testimony was that He entrusted Himself to the Father, and He let His Father defend Him. He became a servant and humbled Himself to die on the cross as King of kings and Lord of lords for you and me. He died that we might also have life and have the power to defeat the enemy of our flesh as He did.

Victory Over the Prince of This World

It is written in John 14:30:

“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”

Because the prince has nothing in Him, there is nothing for him to grab hold of or to inwardly influence Jesus. The goal of sonship and the mind of Christ is then to come into a place that Satan, or the prince, has nothing in us that would cause us to become obedient to him, or cause us to do his will. Then the spirit of death, who is the devil, cannot hold us in the grave. Death is swallowed up in victory.

We see by the scriptures in Galatians 2, that the authority which was given to Jesus covers all of the areas where the enemy has had freedom to influence and have power over mankind since the fall of Adam. The biggest struggle is not defeating the enemy, because Jesus already defeated him. But the struggle is understanding how his deception is used to keep us from walking in the victory that Jesus has and gives to us by faith. We must believe Philippians 2:22:

“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Then we too will share and walk in that victory, and turn over every authority God has given each one of us unto Him.

The cry of the church, even that of travail and mourning should be, *“God, give us eyes to see as You see. Give us the power of your Spirit. The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Might, the Spirit of Knowledge and the Fear of the Lord. That we might not be defenseless and helpless, but sons who are participants*

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within the structure of their Father's kingdom. May we join the labor of the eternal church, even join with the prophets of old who labored for us as they did for the Lord Jesus to prepare a way. May we take on the attitude that we are victorious through Christ Jesus. The enemy is defeated, and Jesus is exalted. May the church glorify Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Overcoming the Four Rulers of Man

In the very beginning of this book we looked in Genesis 1 and read that God commissioned man to be in charge of His creation. In fact, He commissioned him for every area...to populate the earth and to subdue it. We learned that this even includes the kingdom of darkness that He created, or separated from the light on the first day.

In chapter four, we saw the areas in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth, and as mentioned in the Ten Commandments, even the water under the earth. These are the areas we are to subdue. Because man fell and satan (or the kingdom of darkness) took over, Jesus came to set us free from the grip of sin and death so that it is now again possible for us to bring all things under subjection through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dominion over the Cosmos

The third thing God commanded was for mankind to have dominion. Dominion refers to the created things that we see in this world from day one to day six of the creation. That which is to be subdued (from Genesis 1) are the previously created, fallen beings. Most of the times that the word “world” is used in the

Bible, which means cosmos, are in the time frame of the first day and the sixth day of creation. The earth itself according to scientists and everything that we see, points toward the thought that the earth could be very old. For it says in Genesis 1:1 that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. We also know according to Revelation 21 the Lord speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. And so, the cosmos as we know it today will not be the same. (There will be no sun or moon, no sea and so on, according to the scriptures.)

Ephesians 6:12 says one of the things that we wrestle against is the rulers of the darkness of this world. Here again we see that “darkness” refers to our struggle with, (or the war against) the spiritual darkness of satan’s kingdom that is warring against our souls. The first thing that needs to be set free from satan’s power and grip is the human race. And that means me. How does satan control me? We know that according to many places in the scripture, the sin in us is alive and it is called iniquity. Unless we expel it from our inner parts we will continue to make mistakes day after day because we are influenced by that power; (even though in our hearts and minds we want to do God’s will.)

Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream Still Speaks Today

In Daniel 2, we read of a dream given to Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel interprets by the Spirit of the Lord. We will separate this dream into four parts and talk about each one. There are four areas of man that satan wants to rule. We need to know what they are and how he wants to rule them so we can defeat the enemy. We must keep him from overcoming us so that we become the servants of the Most High God, and not satan.

The Head of Gold...The Authority of God vs. the Intellect of

Man

The first area of man that satan wants to control is the head.

Daniel 2:38 says:

“And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.”

Gold represents the Father in heaven. The “head” is the ruler over the children of man including the world wherein they dwell, including the animals and birds. The head represents where the strategy and understanding comes from in the physical world. So the gold head of this statue represents two different authorities battling in our mind.

God says He rules alone, and His Son Jesus said if you want any part of Me, you must deny yourself, take up the cross and follow Me. So to sanctify this area, our mind must be turned over to God and His Son Jesus, and we must learn to hear His voice and follow Him. Our intellectual mind says, let me figure it out and I’ll do what I want to, the way I want to. And because satan operates through our flesh, if we use our intellect (which is our flesh) for spiritual matters, we’re in danger of being controlled, and in fact are controlled by the powers of darkness.

Scripture says man’s ways are not God’s ways, nor are His thoughts as our thoughts. So when we reason out of our intellect, even if we’re trying to perceive the things that are in the scriptures, we cannot perceive or understand them. Our intellect is to be used to carry out physical functions, and once we learn how to do them we do not need to be told over and over again how to do things in this physical world. But wait...we are physical beings! This is true, but we cannot use our intellect, which is flesh, to

perceive and understand the things of the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but spirit gives birth to spirit.

In 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 we read:

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds ;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

Here we see that Paul warns us against walking in the flesh and warring after the flesh, but we walk by the Spirit of God and in the spiritual realm, which is a mighty and powerful tool against the enemy. We can destroy imaginations or arguments that come from the intellect, and wonderful theology that sound good, but in reality sets itself up against the knowledge of God. And we bring every thought into obedience to the things of the Spirit, who is Jesus Christ.

One of the biggest battles I had when I began to walk in the Spirit was mindsets and teachings by people who perceived out of their intellect. I had to overcome many of their ideas and understandings of who God was, what He was like and how He responded in many situations. It took me a long time to break religious mindsets and limitations of who I became in Christ Jesus when I became a new creation. These intellectual people put me in boxes, and without realizing it, hindered me. They didn't want me to come out of the box of who they thought I was.

To take on the mind of Christ, we need to know who we are in Christ Jesus. We've got to break the mindsets and imaginations and put on the helmet of salvation (as it says in Ephesians 6) in order to protect my mind that is being sanctified from being

bombarded by intellectual arrows. I can stay in His presence and be protected from intellectual thinking by putting the headship of my being in the hands of Jesus, that He might be head and Lord of my entire being.

In Hebrews 4:12, we read:

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Here we see God’s word is living, quick and powerful. There are three ways the word comes to us. It comes first through the written scriptures, then by God speaking directly to us through the Holy Spirit, and also by the Holy Spirit using someone else to speak into our lives.

The Spirit of God’s word is sharp. It divides soul and spirit. This means either the Spirit of God is in charge, or our soul (of which our intellect is a part) is in charge. The Holy Spirit has been given to us to separate and know the difference between the two so that we know when to use the voice of the Spirit and when to use our intellect.

Joints represent the part of our body that moves flesh. The bones represent that of the Spirit. If we had no bones in our body, we would crawl on the ground like a worm. So the bones mean upright. On the inside of the bone is the representation of life, which is the breath of God. The marrow on the inside of the bone produces red and white blood cells. The red cells carry the breath of God, or oxygen. The white cells fight every infection and disease. So the Spirit of God brings life to us and gives us the ability to fight off the poisons that darkness, or the enemy,

throws at us.

All of these things represent a ruler that has been assigned by satan to control mankind. Even to this day we can see in the land of Nebuchadnezzar, which is now Iraq, a man who tried to be Nebuchadnezzar all over again. The whole history of Iraq has been to control and be god. Remember the tower of Babel. We can see that the throne of his kingdom has been established over that land and then goes from there to have influence all over the earth.

The Chest of Silver...the Righteousness of Man vs. the Righteousness of God

The second ruling force, or ruler of this dark world, is over Iran. You'll notice that the people in Iran are very self-righteous and they call the United States, "satan." This second kingdom that rules over the face of the earth rules in righteousness, not the righteousness of God, but of the ruler of this dark world. The ruler that God said is the head and is to rule this earth was mankind through Jesus Christ. According to Isaiah 11:4-5, Jesus will rule in righteousness. This area (the breast and arms) was represented by silver. When we see silver in the scriptures and also in the temple, it represents Jesus.

There are two components of righteousness. The first is grace, which is the gift of the ability to accomplish the purpose to which I've been called. It does not give me the right to be slothful, complacent or just plain lazy in my walk with the Lord. Grace in my life is the power of God, through the work of the Holy Spirit in my life, to get me out of the grip of darkness and to come in to His marvelous light. The other component of righteousness is truth. Jesus brought the new covenant and we are to be like Him.

In John 1:14 it says:

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

To be an oak of righteousness, we must know who God is and what He’s called us to do, and we must set our face and heart toward that goal. No person, nor any circumstance, will be able to take us off that course. Paul speaks in the scriptures of all the different things that would try to keep us back or to take us off the course, but nothing can keep us from the love of God, except ourselves.

The ruler of this dark world brings deception of righteousness by being “good.” He justifies that state of “being good” as all that is necessary to be a new creation. And so there are many people that walk in the deceptive power of this ruling force, even people that call themselves Christians. They spend their entire lives justifying the place that they’re in, being very loyal people and do-gooders, but denying the power and truth of God. It’s only as we come to God in truth that we are born again, by confession of our condition and separation from the darkness that is in us, through the power of truth.

The Belly and Thighs...

Truth of God vs. Philosophy and Theology

The third part of the image, (his belly and thighs) was made of brass. The country that was described as the third kingdom that arose, and the demonstration of this kingdom which represents the third ruler assigned to control man, is found in Greece. When we look at this nation, we see that philosophy and theology have

been stronger in Greece than any other country in the world.

Philosophy and theology are a search for truth. Mankind has always been on a journey to know truth. Scripture speaks more about the area of truth than any other thing in the Bible. The reason is simple; as we understand truth, it then begins to light our path, if we perceive and understand the truth of God according to scripture.

John 16:13 explains:

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

When we listen to the Holy Spirit, who is also truth, He will guide us and be a light to our path in all truth. Scripture also tells us that God’s dwelling place is in truth. Jesus said if we abide in His truth, we will know His will. In fact, truth is so strong, that if we know the truth, the truth will make us free.

John 8:32 speaks clearly:

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

I like the words that Jesus used there, “shall make.” That means that if we confess our sin and come to Him in truth, He *will* make us free. That builds tremendous faith in me, knowing that if I walk in truth and come to Him in truth, that the truth shall make me free! Why? Because I abide in His truth, and satan cannot abide in truth – for he is a liar! Darkness cannot be present when light appears, but it must flee. When we refuse to acknowledge ourselves truly as we are and come to Him as a Pharisee, which

is one who operates in man's righteousness, we cannot be set free. Instead we will flee from the presence of God, because light exposes darkness, and darkness does not want to be exposed. The reason people find a church that makes them feel comfortable instead of one that challenges them to walk in higher levels of obedience than they've been willing to walk in, is because they don't want the darkness in them to be exposed.

In John 4:23 we read:

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: For the Father seeketh such to worship him."

We have two ways of approaching God. The first is out of our intellect, trying to figure out how God wants us to approach Him in our mind, and how we think it ought to be by the righteousness of man. This means doing things a certain way, and if you don't do it that way, it is wrong. But worshipping God in spirit and truth means that God can move us by His Spirit in any direction or way that He chooses. It also means we come to Him in total honesty, which is truth, and acknowledge our shortcomings and weakness to allow Him to overtake us that we might be made strong in the power of His might.

John 17:17 says:

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

The reason the word washes our mind and gives us the capacity to take on the mind of Christ is because His word is truth. Therefore, as we take on His word and walk in His truth, it washes

and purifies our hearts. In this manner, we go through the process of sanctification, which is individually setting aside our spirit, soul and body, and totally dedicating ourselves to the work of God.

John 18:37 says:

“Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, “Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”

Here Jesus acknowledges that He is a king, that He came to rule as a king, and that He should bear witness unto the truth. Jesus came to give us truth so that we can live in God. When we're born again, Jesus, the Spirit of Truth, comes and lives in us. But for us to live in Jesus, we must begin to learn how to walk in truth. The desire of Jesus and the Father is not only for Him to live in us, but for us to live in Him. We begin the process of living in Him by living in truth. He even goes one step further by saying those that live in truth can actually hear His voice. That is the only qualification to hear God's voice. If you do not walk in truth, if you do not let truth surround you and overtake you, if truth does not become the light of your path, you are not hearing God's voice. Instead you're being led by the philosophies and theologies of the intellect and the kingdom of this dark world.

The Legs and Feet...Our Works vs. the Path of God

The fourth area is the legs of iron and the feet that were partly of iron and partly of clay. This empire came out of Rome. We can see even to this day that the power of darkness over this city is one

of works. The kingdom of this dark world that is over Rome is still trying to cause people to labor to gain their salvation through good works. Their headquarters is in Rome and it spreads to the ends of the earth.

In the 1500's there came a move within the church that declared, Salvation is the gift of God by faith, not by works. In the last supper Jesus had with His disciples, He used wine to represent His blood that would be shed for our sin. He used bread to represent His broken body that would bring forth government, or structure in God's kingdom. Then He washed the disciples' feet.

Peter immediately stuck his foot in his mouth by saying, "Jesus, you'll never wash my feet!" Jesus looked at him and said, "Unless you allow Me to wash your feet, you can have no part of Me." Because Peter wanted Jesus and every part of Him, he said, "Then wash not just my feet, but everything! Give me a whole bath!" Jesus again says a very remarkable thing. "Those that are clean only need their feet washed, and their whole body is clean." What is so important in the ceremony of washing one's feet?

Ephesians 6:15 says:

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"

This part of the warfare that we are to prepare our feet for is the preparation and the sanctification of our feet to labor in the message of the Good news, which is peace in our hearts. If we are led by the Spirit and taught by the Spirit, and our inward parts are cleansed by the Spirit, then we only need one more part of our body cleansed. And that is the willingness of our feet to go and labor for God's will and purpose, not our own.

Jesus: The Stone Hewn Out of the Mountain

It takes constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit to labor to do God's will versus using the intellect and the righteousness and philosophy of man to do good works to try to gain our salvation in God. If the kingdom and rulers of this dark world can control our headship, our righteousness, our philosophy and our labor, he has all of us. If this was our end, we would be most miserable.

But in the last part of this dream, there is a stone that is hewn out of the mountain. This stone was not made by man, but by God. This stone was whirled at the statue and shattered it so fine that the wind blew the dust away and it was no more. The stone, who is Jesus Christ, became a large mountain and covered the whole earth. Our only hope of victory is faith in the power of Jesus Christ, through the blood and water that flowed from His side, that we too might be kings and priests unto our God and rule with Christ forever. Amen!

Ephesians 6:12-18:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

Truth, Judgment and Righteousness

Jesus came to rule in righteousness and he taught us that we, His people, should also learn to walk in righteousness. And as we learned in the previous chapter, righteousness in its simplest form is the combination of grace and truth working together. There is another element that moved Jesus and that was compassion. It says often in the gospels that Jesus was moved by compassion. As a result, He healed, brought deliverance, and spoke freedom to many people that were in need.

Two Kinds of Compassion

There are two kinds of compassion: natural, human compassion and the compelling power of Godly compassion that Jesus operated in. The human compassion we see in operation today is that of sitting alongside someone and identifying with their pain and discomfort by saying to them, "It's okay, I understand." And to comfort them is to find people around them that they can blame or accuse which keeps them from taking responsibility. As a result, they are not changed and that which has happened in the past will happen again and again. Fear and bitterness will begin to set in. These are the strongest tools that the enemy can use

against any person.

First of all, fear binds you up and keeps you from trying to change, to achieve or even have the hope of getting out of your situation. Bitterness comes along and keeps you from being able to see your own fault and responsibility in the situation. Bitterness blames everyone else. Because I can't change the people around me, and I blame them for my problems, I'm also bound up in a place that I cannot move. Even as a spider catches a fly in its web and places within that fly a poison that makes it immobile and yet it doesn't die, so bitterness is a poison in our hearts. Bitterness immobilizes us. It keeps us from moving on with God, and it will eventually destroy and decay everything that's in us if it isn't removed.

The Compelling Power

The compassion of Jesus is opposite of human compassion. Jesus came to be our Savior and Redeemer. To *save* us means that He must come to us and rescue us out of the place in which we are at. To *redeem* us, He must pay the price that will set us free. God said in the beginning that when man sins, the shedding of blood is required to remove that sin. That is the price: the shedding of blood.

To receive the compassion of Jesus, we must be willing to repent, confess our faults, and move out of the place we are in. The Holy Spirit is our comforter. Again, we must understand that to be set free, we must come up out of the place in which we are bound. So to release the compassion of God, we are compelled by God to come out of that place of bondage so that true comfort can come to us.

Jesus loves us so much that He wants to take us by the hand

and cause us to come out of that place of discomfort so that we can have peace. When we are in the hands of satan, we are being destroyed. But in the hands of Jesus, life springs forth, even the resurrection life that was placed in us when Jesus Christ came into our hearts. The resurrection power demonstrates compassion by causing us to leave the clutches of the enemy and cling to Christ who is life.

The people who are healed and delivered are those who are ready to run away from the clutches of satan's grip and run into the arms of the Savior. Those that want to stay where they're at and want to be comforted there cannot be comforted by Jesus. So we must reach up and grab hold of Jesus and His promises, and pull on those promises with all our strength. And then we shall be healed! His promises are true! He is a just and good God, and He *never* fails.

Hebrews 1:8-9:

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."

A New Release

I believe the last movement of evangelism, and the power of God that will soon be released is that of the Saint's Movement. I believe that in this hour God is building the base for the Saint's Movement and a great harvest of the souls of man. We see in Hebrews 1:8 that Jesus ruled in righteousness with a scepter, and this scepter is God's kingdom. We know that in Moses' time, God gave him a rod to carry. This rod was one of authority. Every

time God asked Moses to do something he told him to take his rod along, and this rod was a physical representation of authority. They only mistake Moses made was the second time that water was to flow out of the rock. Instead of using his physical rod, God told Moses to speak to the rock, which was a representation of the righteous scepter God was going to release upon the earth in the new covenant. Moses was afraid to use the new authority of just speaking. Instead he used the old way and hit the rock with his rod, and it kept him out of the promised land.

In the charismatic movement, there was a release of the gifts of the Spirit. When I received the baptism of fire I also received the gifts as soon as the fire, or the power of God, was released upon me. As I look back, I see that there was fire all over me, including wild fire. What I'm saying is that I was using gifts God gave me, but was very immature in knowing how to use and implement the power of God. As I look back upon the charismatic movement, I see I was not alone in my lack of wisdom when functioning in the power of God.

I believe in this next move of the saints, the attention will be focused upon purity of heart and obedience. Purity has to do with the removal of iniquity. Obedience has to do with operating within the confines of government, which is His laws and precepts. Both of these come through intimacy and being taught by the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke to His disciples and gave them authority. Jesus didn't speak about the gifts of the Spirit, but His focus was upon cleanliness of heart. He taught them the circumcision of the heart through repentance, which brings authority.

Authority and Dominion

If authority will be released by the spoken word, how do we learn how to walk in the authority of the name of Jesus? First of

all let's look at the name of Jesus. A name always identifies the ownership and value of the owner's possessions, and his ability to powerfully back up what he says he owns. As we mentioned in the last chapter, according to Galatians chapter two, all authority has been given in heaven, on earth and under the earth to Jesus. At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow within that dominion by the command of the Creator. Those that choose to accept Jesus in their hearts and begin to follow Him by obeying His commands and dying to their own desires, which is living out the cross, may then come up alongside of Jesus. They may rule with Him according to His desire and His purpose to have authority over all the enemy, according to Ephesians 1:21:

“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.”

I'd like for you to notice even the word “dominion.” Remember that dominion refers to the cosmos, the created world in which we now live. Jesus demonstrated dominion over the cosmos by walking on the water and calming the storm. I always used to wonder if satan had power over storms. According to this scripture, he would have that authority because we were given power to have dominion over land and sea, but satan took it from us. But here we see that our Lord Jesus took authority even over the dominion of this earth. By now you can see the power and authority that Jesus wants to release upon this earth through His church.

Revelation 11 shows us that once again God will give mankind dominion over the earth. Dominion again refers to the created things that we see in this world from day one to day six of the

creation. That which is to be subdued (from Genesis 1) are the previously created, fallen beings.

Jeremiah 4:2-6 says:

“And thou shalt swear, The Lord liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory. For thus saith the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings. Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defended cities. Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.”

Now let's go back to the scripture to review all that we've said up to this point. The Lord lives in truth. Our path, our light and our way is all in truth and we can only approach God in truth. Remember the parable Jesus told about the man who came to God and said, "I'm glad I'm not like everybody else, but I do everything right." Jesus said nothing happened in him and nothing changed. But not so with the man that got upon his face and never even felt the worthiness to look towards heaven. He said, "God forgive me, a sinner." This man recognized his faults, and that his righteousness was filthy rags. Jesus said this man was changed. His filthy rags were changed for a clean garment.

How then does the Lord live in judgment? As we live in truth we see right and wrong. We see through the eyes of truth those

things that come at us, as well as those things that we do that are in us. The Holy Spirit came to give us the sword to divide or separate that which is of the Spirit, and that which is of the soul.

Judgment, in its simplest form, is simply choosing the life and the path of truth that sets us free. If we refuse that judgment long enough, according to Isaiah 11:4, God will give us a spanking. According to Hebrews, if we are His children and He is a good Father, we should expect when we're not doing something right that He should correct us. When we walk in rebellion and refuse to walk the path of truth even after several spankings by our Father, it says in Isaiah 11:4 that, "...with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked." This is the final and the most harsh judgment. It also says in the scriptures that the desires of God's heart and His Son is that none should perish, or fall into the hands of the wrath of God. Those that choose to walk in the judgments of God then receive the mind of Christ through truth and judgment, and they begin to touch the eyes of God's heart. The eyes of His heart are the seven Spirits of God. And those seven Spirits, or eyes, will lead us into righteousness, the true righteousness of God. And He will release the rod of authority in the midst of those that are willing to submit to Him, die to their own desires and ideas, and give their will completely over to the will of the Father. As that takes place we begin to walk in a new realm of authority that will defeat the powers and authorities of this dark world.

Knowing this, break up your fallow ground. Don't sow good seed among the weeds. Circumcise your heart. Remove all evil things. Blow the trumpet in the land and assemble yourselves to the defended cities. Begin to warn those of God's people who have set up walls of defense that have not allowed truth, judgment and righteousness to rule and reign within their walls. Set up a

standard in the land that a road, yes, even a highway would be built to the throne of God's grace. That His church might come into a place without spot, wrinkle or blemish. Unless we raise the standard in our lives we will stay in complacency. We will never see the things that keep us from understanding the Spirit of God, or how the enemy has set up roadblocks upon the highway that keep us from going on and completing the journey to the high call which God has preordained from the foundations of this world.

Isaiah 54:14 says:

“In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.”

It is in ruling and reigning in righteousness that keeps the enemy away. Verse 17 of the same chapter says:

“No weapon formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.”

Many people have used this verse to try and keep the enemy from tearing them to pieces. But let us notice who is qualified to claim this verse: only those who have had truth as their path, judgment guiding them, and the righteousness of God worked in them (which is the absence of iniquity) are qualified to say, “No weapon formed against me will prosper...” And then even the ungodly that judge the righteous shall see their judgment fall to

the ground and be condemned. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. It is their right to speak this judgment against that which would try to condemn them, or to attack them, or destroy them. In the righteousness of God, I now can say:

“satan, you have no power to win or defeat me because my iniquity has been replaced by the righteousness of God. And I claim that heritage and right to speak against every enemy or weapon that is formed against me. Because I now know and can see what you’re trying to do. I’m not blind to your ways, but I perceive your tactics and your deception that is trying to come on me. And I won’t open up through fear, anger or shame because I’m a new creation. I have the mind of Christ. My goal is heaven and my aim is living with my Father in heaven for all eternity.”

Journey to the Cross

At Christmas time everybody enters into what they call the “spirit of Christmas.” Did you ever stop to wonder what that spirit is? If your heart is open at all, let’s venture a look at the spirit of Christmas and begin to acknowledge what it really is. For each person, the implications of what I’m about to say will vary according to the degree of relationship you have with Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of Christmas, or the Spirit of Christ

First of all there are two times in life that people accept almost anyone. The first one is when you’re born. A baby is always cute, no matter what it looks like. Because a child is not offensive, it doesn’t challenge people personally. Therefore, everyone enjoys and can accept a newborn baby. The other time of acceptance in your life is when they bury you. There is a definite line between when you’re alive and when you’re dead in the opinion of what people remember and say about what a rascal you are (or were). When you are dead, those things that made you a rascal melt away, because people around you are no longer intimidated or confronted by you, nor do they have to deal with the issues that you represented. So when you are dead and those things are silent, they only remember the good things about who you were.

Christmas is a time where people can receive the baby Jesus and not be offended nor be challenged to change, but there can be fellowship between them and that baby.

There were times in Jesus' life as an adult, when He began to teach that we must drink His blood and eat His flesh. All of His followers except the twelve disciples left Him. He then turned to them and said, "Will you leave Me too?" And the only reason they didn't leave Him was because they knew He was the Messiah and they said, "Where else can we go?"

Let's go on to talk about the act of giving. At Christmas we usually draw names and give things to each other. If someone gives us a gift by surprise (someone that we didn't know was planning to give us a gift,) the spirit of Christmas comes on us and we feel guilty that we didn't give them anything. Usually we will run out quickly and buy a gift to give them. Now Jesus says in the scripture that if you can do something for someone else, such as give them a gift, or a meal or clothing, and they cannot repay you, then Jesus Himself will repay you. But if you exchange gifts, your reward has already been given and there is no more reward for you.

Now exchanging gifts, in itself, is not sin. But Jesus, when He came into this world to die, gave the gift of salvation to us and we cannot repay Him. It was freely given to us. And so if we really want the Spirit of Christ, to do something for Him, we need to do something every day for someone that cannot repay us so our Father in heaven can repay us. Those are the treasures that are in heaven that cannot rust, or corrode or disappear. So why do we have Christmas? I do not want to just single out Christmas, but I want to challenge you in the everyday life in which you live.

Purity of Heart

In Titus 1:15-16 we read:

“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

What is a pure heart? Jesus said the pure in heart shall see God. Most people think that the end result is all that counts. I’ve heard evangelists say, “different bait for different fish.” We have “Christian music” that sounds totally like the world. I’m going to challenge you in this chapter that it does matter what bait you use. There is only one message and that’s the message Jesus had. That is, “Repent if you want any part of My Father’s kingdom.”

In I Chronicles 28:9 we read:

“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever.”

David warns his son to know the God of his father. To know means to have relationship, to understand His character and His ways, and to know how He expects things to take place. In other words, not to be doing what we want, but doing *what* God the Father wants, *how* and *when* He wants it.

Secondly, he says to serve with a perfect heart. That means to joyfully, even with great excitement, serve God. That does not give us room to grumble and complain and to have an atmosphere

around us of “poor me” because I can’t do what I want. Where else could you go to serve the God of all creation and all the universe, and all the galaxies and everything that exists? What an honor it is to serve the Lord of lords and King of kings!

David understands the mind of the Lord by saying He will search your heart and He understands every imagination and every thought you have. So when you do something for someone else, the Lord will immediately know the motive behind everything you do. Have you ever thought about doing something for someone and trying to do it in a way that other people will notice or will know? No matter what you do, you could give a million dollars away, and if you told someone about it then you’ve already received your reward. Why? Because someone will say, “Wow, look how much he gave!” What was the motive behind the giving? The giver will say I gave because I saw a need. But according to scripture, Jesus will say, you gave so that people would notice and say, “Wow, what a guy!” That is focusing the attention upon you, which is self-centeredness, the very thing that got satan kicked out of heaven.

You can take that illustration and apply it to every work that you do. Those who are pure in heart have absolutely no motive of what they do to have ownership or for people to notice, but simply see a need and give out of the compassion of their hearts.

Now let’s go back to Titus 1:15-16. To the pure all things are pure. When someone approaches you that has a pure heart, you don’t feel ownership, nor that tomorrow you have to pay them back. And you know that they won’t hold it over your head to control or manipulate you at any time in any way. No strings attached, no requirements, but out of the goodness of my heart I’m freely giving this gift to you because the compassion of Jesus in the midst of me compels me to do this act of kindness toward

you. Do I need to go on and tell you what the person is like that is self-centered? Everything he gives, everything he does, someday he'll want to be repaid for. And you feel that pull. You know that the day is coming when he's going to want something from you. And selfish people take a whole lot more than what they give. Therefore, you feel bondage in that relationship. And if it's a husband coming to his wife and demanding she give unto him without giving anything in return, the well within her will soon dry up. It will be impoverished at best, if not destroyed. So what is the root of this self-centeredness? It is a power that is in us from birth, called iniquity.

Self-Centeredness and Iniquity

David says in Psalms 51:5:

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

When we were born each of us had iniquity, or self-centeredness, in us. To control this iniquity in a child is to use discipline. There are books out there that try to teach us to reason with a small child from our intellect. But the intellect of a very small child cannot process good and evil. The only way that they can comprehend the difference between good and evil is through pain or discomfort, or being denied certain rights.

I've just described how my Father in heaven disciplines me. If a child does not have this as an infant, his self-centeredness will grow to become a giant. He'll not understand the discipline of his heavenly Father, and in fact will run from it. Just as much of the church does today, because we've accepted Jesus as a baby in

our hearts and we've not known the love and severity of God our Father.

Psalms 6:8 says:

"Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping."

It's interesting that Jesus said also the same words in the day of judgment, "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity." You see, if iniquity is in our hearts then our motives cannot be pure, for what's in our hearts is what will come out.

Job 4:8 says:

"Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."

Now let's go back to Titus 1, where we learned earlier that to them that are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure. The reason that everything is defiled and is not pure is because the foundation that it came from is self-centeredness or iniquity. And the seeds of iniquity will bring forth reaping of iniquity, just as a kernel of corn will bring forth an ear of corn. So no matter what a defiled person does, his works are not good. And yet, we know that we will be judged according to what we do...our works.

We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ who can remove all our transgressions through the shedding of His blood. Our iniquity is removed through the washing of His water. Then our works will be accepted of the Father out of the pure flow of our heart. Through Jesus' words, "Depart from Me you workers of iniquity,

I never *knew* you,” we see that *relationship* with the Lord removes our iniquity. As we grow in Him, through the relationship of knowing Jesus and the Father, our iniquity is removed. That’s why it says in John 17:3:

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

Those who are born again are on a course of removing their iniquity and growing in Jesus. If that is not happening, then satan comes in and leads into works that are “good” and brings us into a place of religious acts which are founded upon the righteousness of man. Jesus said, unless your righteousness exceeded the righteousness of the Pharisees you cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Perhaps you are starting to understand that few are going to be saved. Many are deceived. We understand that we are born again by faith in Jesus. Jesus cleanses our inside as we yield to Him and die to our self-centeredness (which is the journey of the cross.) Then we begin to take on the compassion that Jesus had and our acts become works of righteousness for the glory of Jesus and no one else. I don’t have a ministry. I don’t have a work, except by the commissioning and purposes of Jesus Christ.

Psalms 40:12 says:

“For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.”

Here David begins to mourn before the Lord. He says, “There

are so many iniquities about me and they've taken hold of me. They're so strong I can hardly look up towards You." I have experienced that grip and that hold satan had on me many times. And the only way I could get out of his grip and out of the hold of satan was with all my might to deny him, to push him away and look up to Jesus and say I am going to follow the ways of His Spirit.

Living in Jesus

Jesus destroyed all the works of the enemy. Now if He destroyed all the works, why do I struggle? When I was born again, Jesus instantly came to live in my heart. But in John 17, Jesus prayed a prayer that they (the disciples and the others that would follow) would be in Him as Jesus was in the Father. The only way we can get rid of iniquity is for us to desire with all our hearts to live in Him. Our security, our hope and the deliverance from who we are will come as we are in Him. He defeated the enemy, we can't. In ourselves, we can do nothing. There are many that want salvation, but do not want to live in Jesus. They want to hang on to their own self-centeredness and will end up not entering into the kingdom of God.

So there is a journey to the cross, and on the way we remove one iniquity at a time. And when all iniquity is gone we will be at the foot of the cross where the glory of Almighty God is. Not only are we delivered of all iniquity, but we are healed and ready to be servants of the Lord Most High. And it's at this place that we can be taught how to operate and function in the high call. Those who do not take this course are endangering themselves against the day of judgment by the Lord saying to them, "Depart from Me, you did your own works; the works of iniquity."

Counting the Cost

Psalms 42:1-3 reads:

“As the deer panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?”

If we were in a place where there was no water, what would you be willing to pay just to get a cup of water? What do you think the value of water would be? Now David says, just as the deer pants for and needs water, so his own soul thirsteth for God.

Why did Jesus say that you need to weigh the cost before you start? A wise man who builds a house checks to see how much the house is going to cost him before he starts. That way once he gets started, he won't run out of money, be unable to complete the house, and look like a fool.

There are many people who call themselves Christians that say, “I'm going to try to do better.” Which means if I don't do it, it's okay, at least I tried. But the heart of that spirit is not one of completion at any cost. When the going gets rough, the seed that was planted in them will dry up because they back away. The one that says, “I tried,” is the one that when they fail, feel sorry for themselves and say, “Poor me!” They may even blame someone else.

The one that says, “No matter what the price, I'll go,” and runs the race until it's complete is the one who has weighed the cost. He has counted the price of dying to everything and when he fails or something doesn't work as planned, instead of feeling sorry for themselves (which is not a biblical attitude) they jump back

up and become even more alert and teachable. They listen and hear what the Holy Spirit said and how He's trying to teach them to walk in the things of His kingdom. That's why the Lord said that we must worship and seek Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. Anything less than this will not release us from the grip of satan. Our hearts must continually cry out to Jesus, so that we can enter deeper and deeper into Him where there is safety and shelter.

The Sword and the Battle Axe

Jesus came upon this earth to set us free from sin and death. He also came to teach us the way to walk upon this earth, and how to put all things under His feet. That means Jesus subdued everything that the Father sent Him to subdue. He accomplished everything the Father sent Him to accomplish. He could not subdue satan under *our* feet, but He did make a way for us also to walk in His path and put the enemy under our own feet. The way He made for us is by His power (the power of Jesus) and by the anointing from the Father to accomplish that very task.

Sanctification and Honor

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23 we read:

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The first word in this verse I’d like to talk about is “sanctify.” The word means “to set apart unto.” We can set ourselves apart to whatever we choose to set ourselves apart to. Either we are set

apart to serve satan and use his power to walk in self-centeredness, or we choose to set ourselves apart to God. That is to die on the cross to our own desires, our own will, and our own dreams. In the beginning of creation, God made us in the image and likeness of Himself. So whether or not we want to admit it, we must acknowledge the fact that we have a will in the midst of us that chooses the path and destiny of everything we think, do, or say. When we begin to walk in truth, we begin to understand that will. That is why it is so important to turn our will over to the Spirit of the Lord and allow Him to be in charge. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to give our spirit, soul, and body completely over to Jesus Christ.

Now, when we set ourselves aside to be sanctified, it does not mean that instantly we are healed and free of iniquity, or even free of evil desires. But it does mean we have begun to turn everything over to our Creator. It is a journey and a process we walk through to have each part of our inward parts cleansed and given over to Him.

I Thessalonians 4:3-4 says:

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor;”

Here we see that in the process of sanctification, we are taught by the Holy Spirit how to “possess” this vessel we live in. If we do not learn how to keep hold of the victories we have in Christ Jesus, we can never continue to grow in Him. We would always be fighting the same battles.

So we see that in every decision we make, we need the sword

of the Spirit, as it is written in Hebrews 4:12, to divide spiritual things from carnal things or the flesh. If we do not have the discernment and ability to know the difference, we can never have victory because when we do overcome in an area, the enemy will come back in and take over again. Therefore, it is our responsibility to guard against the works of the enemy, know how he attacks us, and understand his schemes of coming in to steal the deposits God has given us.

If we learn how to possess our vessel, we become completely yielded to God and function under the power of the Spirit, rather than out of our intellect or by the powers of the enemy. Not only that, but honor that comes from God will also be established in the midst of us. No greater honor has been given to mankind than to serve and to be a servant of the Lord Most High. Only in eternity will we know the depths of who our Creator is and how complacent we have been in our walk upon this earth, unless intimacy with God develops now.

Not Peace, But a Sword

In Matthew 10:34-36 we read:

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”

This scripture seems contradictory to the Christmas story that says Jesus came to bring peace and good will towards men. Whenever we see a sword that is in the hands of an angel or in

the hands of Christ, it means government. Isaiah prophesies that the government shall be on His shoulders and this government shall be on the increase. When the disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asks the disciples, how many swords to we have? They had two. He said, "That's enough," but when Peter rose up and cut the ear off the soldier, Jesus told him to put the sword away. Jesus also said that as long as He was with them they didn't need the sword, but once He left them, they would need this sword in their midst.

The sword He speaks of is found many places in the Old Testament and also in the New Testament. As we look through and study the scriptures, we find the sword is one of government that separates the kingdom of darkness from the kingdom of light. This same sword is also spoken of as the truth that makes a light for our path. Now why is He talking in Matthew 10 about setting apart, or destroying relationships in the family? Verse 36 says that man will find, even in his own home, enemies against the cause of God's government. And so as we follow God and His kingdom, we cannot let our family, friends or country dictate to use how we should live and what we should do when God says "do this."

Abraham was required to do the same. He was obedient and followed God by faith, not knowing where his destiny was. He walked in obedience to the point of even being willing to sacrifice his son, who was the hope of his promise from God, on the altar. All of his obedience was by faith and was credited to him as righteousness.

Matthew 19:28-29 reads:

"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have

followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

This scripture brings me great joy and my spirit leaps within me as I see the promises Jesus gave us if we allow the government of God to be in the midst of us. (That is, His government.) The laws, rules and regulations that were in the Old Testament are worked in our hearts through the new covenant which is in Christ Jesus. This brings life to our inner being, because not only are we *required* to follow these, but we have the *power through His grace and His blood* by the light of truth to be able *to fulfill* all those laws and requirements when they are fully dealt in the midst of our hearts.

Sanctification by the Sword

Matthew 5:48 says:

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

That means God expects us to walk in perfection, and we can when the hope of our sanctification has been completed. We've seen in Matthew 19:28 the sanctification process, which is following after Jesus in the regeneration process that He takes us through as we walk with Him. Now when Jesus came into our hearts, He immediately gave us resurrection life. We needed to

have that resurrection life just to be born again, but that's only the beginning of our journey.

You see, our bodies were dead to God. And we, including our bodies, served the kingdom of darkness which is death. Therefore, the parts of our body that were created to communicate with God were dead. That resurrection life, as we pray to the God of heaven through His Son, will take us through a step by step process of bringing back to life every part of our being that satan destroyed, or put to sleep. Our sanctification process comes through parts of our body being resurrected even now, through the power of His resurrection, until every part of our being is sanctified, set apart, and functioning in full capacity.

Even as Jesus was without sin we also can be made perfect through the removing of iniquity and the sanctifying power of God bringing us back to life. If iniquity is being removed from within us, and we now understand the need to guard ourselves and learn how to possess our vessel in sanctification and honor, then we must also guard outside of our vessel as well. You must understand that all iniquity is from the power of satan and that his job is to destroy every work of Jesus Christ. So when Jesus Christ comes to us and puts a seed of His kingdom in us, we must guard that seed. And if our hearts have been yielded, (our will has been turned over to God,) and we are going through the sanctifying process then satan can no longer use our will to get his way in our lives. So what's the next step? He will use the will of someone else to force his desire upon us.

The Sword Among the Family

Jesus came to bring a sword among the family. Those who choose not to go through the sanctifying process have iniquity

in them. And satan, without them even knowing what is going on, will war against the process that God is taking you through and he will even use your family members to try to destroy the very work of God and the government that He is establishing in the midst of you. Therefore, He brought a sword to divide from you even those in your family who choose not to walk to the depth and degree that you want to walk in God, because they will hold you back. Unless you cut loose, with the sword of the Spirit, the desires of their iniquity, you will be caught in a trap and eventually the iniquity in others will pull you down and bring destruction to the very kingdom of God that you wanted.

I would like for you to notice in verse 28, it even speaks of the wife. This is very important. Jesus expects there to be a separation and a gap in every marriage where only one chooses to go on in the things of God and the other one chooses to stay where they are at. That does not mean that you can't talk or communicate, but the focus of the mind and heart and the giving over of all things, even the earthly things are divided into two worlds.

This is contrary to many teachings of marriage, but I would rather go into heaven with one arm or one leg off than to not make it. When I stand before Jesus Christ, who is the judge of all, neither my spouse, nor my parents, nor my siblings, nor my schoolteacher, nor the President of the United States will be there with me, but I will stand alone before God. He will either say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, you have done what I have asked," or He will say, "Depart from Me, you did the work of those around you and labored for what they desired."

James 3:6 says:

"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among

our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

If you stay around a tongue that is harnessed with the fire of hell, which is a world of iniquity, you can be consumed by that power if you don't know how to defeat, separate, and cut yourself free from its force. Do not be deceived and think that you can withstand being in the midst of it. You are playing a dangerous game.

In John 2:4 we read:

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come."

Jesus says to His own mother, "What do I have to do with you?" Now if we're going to be like Jesus, we cannot allow anyone to direct our steps but God. Even Jesus did not allow His own mother to tell Him what to do, even though she was a prophetess of God. But instead He said to Mary, "I only take My commands from God." Somewhere between the time Mary spoke this to Jesus and the time He said to fill the jars up with water, the Father gave Him the okay to go ahead and perform this miracle.

Who Holds Your Reins?

We are not taught the deep things of God by being around people who speak out of their intellect. It comes through walking by the Spirit and being taught by the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 139:13-14 says:

“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

A horse has a bit in his mouth which is held there by a bridle and then reins are connected to that bit and bridle. It gives accurate and easy communication to the horse as to the direction and desire of its master. Here David says God possessed his reins, and that his soul knows the right way to go.

In Isaiah 11:5 we read:

“And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”

This scripture is speaking of Jesus. The “girdle of His reins” refers to the area of truth. Therefore it was prophesied by Isaiah that the reins of Jesus’ heart, or His area of truth, would be fully guided by the Father. Even as a horse is guided by his master, Jesus submitted to His Lord and Father the reins of His heart so that He would fully do the will of the Father. When we can give our reins fully over to Him, and are trained to pull His cart for His will, purpose and pleasure, then we are ready to work in His courts.

As it says in Zechariah 3:7:

“Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among

these that stand by.”

In God’s government, when we’ve been established to walk in His ways and have learned how to keep the charge or the call in which we’ve been predestined unto, (this is also the high call,) then we shall judge God’s house. We cannot judge, nor will God allow us to judge His house until we have allowed the work of the Spirit and Jesus and the Father to judge our hearts and correct us and bring perfection to our house. Only then He will allow us to walk in His courts and judge His house.

The Responsibility of Sons

Back in Matthew 19:28, it says we also will sit with Jesus on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. In other words, we will help judge His house, His church, His people. The release of judgment is not to destroy people, but to bring them also into the place of their potential in God. Jesus said there are others who are not yet in My sheepfold that are Mine. Therefore it’s a responsibility of His sons to bring the rest into the sheepfold. These sheep are those who are deceived and bound up by satan and cannot move or function until someone sets them free.

Jeremiah 51:20-23 says:

“Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider; With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man

and the maid; I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers.”

Here Jeremiah prophesies that we are to declare in Zion the work of our Lord God. We are to tear down, uproot and destroy all the works of the enemy in kingdoms of the world, in warfare, in relationships with family and friends, and even in the workplace. There has to be a separation between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness.

Joel’s army is arising in this last day with the sword of the Spirit in their hands and they have set their hearts to do the will of God. They have set their hearts to separate and destroy that which comes from the pit of hell, and the powers of darkness that are in the heavenlies, and the wickedness of men that walk upon the earth. It will all come to nothing and be destroyed.

We are the church of God, His battle axe to accomplish His will in destroying all the works of the enemy. Through sanctification and by honoring the King of kings we can and will silence the enemy around us and walk in peace and fellowship with our God. This is the deposit that is our inheritance of things to come. Come Lord Jesus!

Spiritual Lines of Communication

In the days of Hezekiah, King of Judah, the word of the Lord came to Hosea and said, “Go find yourself a harlot, one who is unfaithful, and take her to be your wife.” God used this marriage, as He often used the prophets, by calling them to carry out a physical demonstration of the way His people acted.

Drawn with Bands of Love

As I read the book of Hosea, my heart weeps. Only when we come into a place of intimacy with God to know His heart and to know His standard of relationship, do we realize that today’s church has very little difference from Israel then in respect to their relationships with God.

In Hosea 11:3-4 it says:

“I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.”

Our Father sent His Son Jesus into the world that we might be saved, healed and delivered from the power of the enemy; and yet we are unfaithful and we take so lightly the commitment that we have made to our God. Verse three says that God took the children of Israel by the hand and He healed them, but they didn't even know it.

They didn't know that God healed them. As I look back on my life, I can see that time after time I have grieved the presence of God. And I brought great sorrow to the Creator whose only desire was to draw me (to draw all of us) to Him.

In verse 4 He describes the bands that He puts around us are His love and that there are cords attached to these bands. His desire is to draw us to Himself by these cords. There is a difference between God and satan. God will not force us to do anything. We can reject those cords of God. In fact, we can cut them off so that He does not have the ability to draw us to Him. satan on the other hand, tries to force his way in. Without us giving him our okay he will tie us up, and we may not even be aware of it. The devil only comes to steal, kill and destroy.

This is the most difficult chapter in exposing the way the enemy works. It's difficult because in the physical you will only have a limited understanding of what I'm about to say. If you pay close attention to people around you, you will see them being used by others for their benefit. The intent of this chapter is to expose the way the enemy ties us up and keeps us bound in prison and under the power of his hand.

Cords of Sin

In 1 Peter 2:11 we are warned to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against our souls.

In Hosea 13:12 we read:

“The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid.”

At the age of 12, I accepted Jesus into my heart. At the age of 42, I received the baptism of fire. It wasn't until I received the baptism of fire that I began to see the iniquity hidden within me. There were so many ties and so many parts of my soul that were either bound up, suppressed or dead that I had little more than salvation until the age of 42. I always knew we were to be overcomers.

I always knew we were to be a victorious church; one that was radiant and full of the power of God. Paul said the Kingdom of God is not talk, but the demonstration of His power. And I knew I didn't have that in my life. And now I know the reason. It is because I was bound up with iniquity. My soul was tied up and I needed to be set free. In my personal walk with the Lord there was a period of 12 years of sanctification that God took me through for the cleansing of my soul.

In Psalms 86:13 we read:

“For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.”

Here we see David recognized his soul was tied to hell and would have stayed there except for the mercy of God which cut him loose.

Psalm 129:4 says:

“The Lord is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.”

Here we see cords that come from other people, the wicked. The two areas I would like to deal with in this chapter are: the soul ties we have with hell and the soul ties we have with people around us who want to control and manipulate us. Many people will say this is just common; everybody does this. But God calls people who want to control other people, “wicked.” Again, Jesus had the reputation that no man told Him what to do, but only His Father.

How do we begin to recognize soul ties that come from hell? In Exodus 20 verse 5 it says the iniquity of the fathers will visit the children to the 3rd and 4th generations. I cannot tell you in great detail how all of this works, but I can tell you how to get set free and when Christ returns we will understand the rest.

I have prayed for many people. I’ve spent hours upon hours in prayer for myself and for other people. As you pray, you increase your gifting and ability to see in the spirit. I remember the first time I saw into a person’s soul. He was a Christian, in his early twenties, and his soul was so black and so ugly that I withdrew immediately. I didn’t know if it truly was his soul I was seeing or if I should even be seeing it if it was. But as I began to study the way Jesus operated, I saw time after time where Jesus said I don’t look at the outside but the inside, and I realized that unless I learned how to look into a person’s soul, (with their permission) to pray for them and set them free, I would not be able to break the cords that bind them, or call back to life that which is dead, or to heal the areas in the soul that are sick.

How Cords Establish and Grow

In the spirit, a cord of communication can be built instantly through a feeling or spoken words.

Let me give you an example. Suppose you're in an elevator, and you are attracted to a person of the opposite sex. You can open your soul with the slightest desire for an ungodly encounter, and that will open you up to being controlled by that person's remembrance. Two years later you could be stirred by that encounter or be motivated to being stirred by that same ungodly thought or desire. This can bring you into a place of torment. Or, the remembrance of that encounter could be used as a fantasy before your eyes when having a relationship with your spouse. There can be hundreds and even thousands of those types of cords that can feed our mind and soul, keeping us from being able to focus upon God.

I've often heard people say, (and I have experienced the same thing,) that when they begin to pray to God, they begin to drift in their minds to everything but praying to God. This is caused by the cords of iniquity that are either attached to our forefathers, or to our relationship with people that now exist. These forces can become very strong. This probably happens the most with child and parent relationships. The child is so smothered and manipulated to be what the parents want them to be they never become strong enough to be independent and to function on their own. Sometimes, I have seen people physically jump as those cords are cut or broken. This is because those cords have had such a pull and the powers of darkness have had such a grip upon them that they didn't have the strength to resist that pull and power.

In Isaiah 55:6-7 we read:

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he

is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

Unless we have a desire with all our mind, soul and heart to be set free, we will never break loose from these powers that have bound us. We must totally and completely give our heart to Jesus. We must unconditionally and without wavering seek Him and Him only. In the last chapter we talked about taking the sword and cutting off relationships with those who do not want to give the Lord their whole heart. The reason this must take place is because the wickedness that is in every person, until it is removed, will try to draw you to a lower standard which would eventually take you down the path of iniquity once again.

Isaiah 54:14 reads:

“In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.”

We now have an understanding about what righteousness is, and according to scripture the only way we can function in the government of God is by walking in His righteousness. Fear has no part in God’s kingdom, nor does terror. There is a great security in God. David calls it the rock or the shelter of the Almighty that we come under when we begin to walk in obedience and die to our own self-centeredness. We find the rock when we lose our own desires and take up the cross and follow Jesus.

The House of satan

I would like to give you a simple demonstration of the building of hell. First of all you need a good foundation, and satan has a good foundation. It's called pride. It was the very thing that removed satan from heaven. God said, "I resist the proud but give grace to the humble."

The walls of the house that is built on the foundation of pride are deception. satan is a deceiver and he comes to every person desiring to make something look wonderful and special when it isn't. You can look anywhere in the world today and see many things that would satisfy your lusting soul. But all of it leads to death. There is no satisfaction that lasts in the kingdom of satan. So he gets us to participate in his actions and in his temporary enjoyment of our souls by deceiving us through justifying everything we do. I'll just do it this once, or I'm just going to try it. But trying it, or doing it, or desiring it one time builds a soul tie to that thing, and the release of satan's power will continue to feed through that soul tie. And it only takes one time. Not a hundred times, but one time and it's there. It is true that when we do it a hundred times the cord is bigger and it does grow so that it becomes more powerful in our lives. So when satan lures us to walk in pride, which cuts us off from hearing God, he then deceives us into participating in his destruction.

There are two main things that keep us on our way to hell. The first and the most powerful tool that keeps us in deception and pride is fear. Fear keeps us from turning our heart over to someone else. We're afraid of what God the Father will do. We're deceived in thinking we may not have any fun. And you can go on from there, because all of us have had to break the power of fear to walk by faith and to yield our hearts and our entire being to God.

It takes faith to trust that He'll be a good God, and that when

we ask for bread He won't give us a stone. Fear also is called wickedness because not only does it keep us from giving our hearts completely to God but it builds cords of iniquity with those that are around us to keep them from giving their hearts fully. Then you're not uncomfortable being around those that you love even in your own household.

One of the greatest examples of this wickedness is that when fear doesn't get its way, it cries and whimpers to get its way or it becomes a bully and demands its way. It doesn't matter which method is used. Both of them are very successful. Let me ask you this simple question: If you're riding in a car, can you allow the one who is in the place of authority, (the driver's seat,) to drive unhindered? Do you have trust that he will get you safely where you need to go? Or out on a golf course, can you play golf and enjoy yourself without telling another person how to stroke the ball or how to follow through? When you're having a conversation with someone do you feel a strong urgency within you to make them believe like you do, or do you simply give them information and let them make a choice?

I've read books that spend hours upon hours trying to name all the spirits that are in people and that affect them. They get very involved in name-calling all the spirits. I'd rather just give you a simple example. I have often heard people talk about and have been asked to pray for people who have a wounded spirit. Now a wounded spirit comes from one of two sources. The first is that someone has wronged them, either through a conscious act of being mean or by unconsciously doing something that was harmful. The other way you could have a wounded spirit is not because someone else has wronged you, but because you have misinterpreted their actions and motives in a certain situation. The only way a wounded spirit can be healed is for you to forgive

the wrongful act of the other person then give it to God and ask God to forgive you for the part you played in that wrongful act. When forgiveness is complete, your wounded spirit immediately goes away.

Other parts that work with fear in the house of satan are anger and bitterness. The kingdom of darkness, hell, or “the house of satan” has a foundation of pride. The walls are deception, and the cords of iniquity that keep you in this house are fear and anger. This is the vehicle that will certainly take you to hell.

The Way Out of Prison

Isaiah 42:7 reads:

“To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

This is a prophecy of what Jesus will be like when He is on this earth. Unless our eyes are opened to the devastation that iniquity brings, we will never be set free. One of the most harmful things I was taught as a child is that when Jesus comes into my life, my inner being goes from black to white. I remember when after about six years of continual dealings with God to remove my iniquity with all my heart, soul and mind I said to God, “I’m thankful now that all my iniquity is almost removed.” Instantly He opened my soul. I looked in and saw that it was still gray. Neither white, nor black, but gray. I remember commenting to the Lord and saying, “Okay I can see I still have work that needs to be done in removing all the iniquity that is in me.”

You see, I can rest in knowing Jesus will remove all iniquity from me if I stay in the hope of that salvation until it’s complete.

It is His responsibility to remove it and He knows the next step to removing one iniquity at a time. If He removed all iniquities at one time, we would not learn how, by the Spirit of God within us, to protect that freshly cleansed part of the soul. This is important so the soul can stay free from the power of iniquity attaching itself once again. And so we go from victory to victory and glory to glory.

My responsibility in this whole process is to be broken, poor and contrite with the fear of the Lord upon me. This removes pride and gives me the ability to hear God's voice so that I will not walk in deception. And if I yield my heart completely to Him and trust in his care, fear will not come near me. And where anger and bitterness still exist in me, He will reveal it to me and I will be willing to admit of that wrongdoing and be set free.

So according to Isaiah 42:7, our eyes will be opened to see our iniquity, He will bring us out of prison, and he will show us the darkness that is in the world.

Luke 4:18 says:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

Here we see Jesus quoting Isaiah and He says the “Spirit of the Lord” is upon Me. The Spirit of the Lord is one of the seven eyes, or seven Spirits of God, and God the Father has given the Son authority to preach the gospel to the poor. Jesus never tried to preach to the proud, only to the poor. We are not called to preach the gospel to the proud, but to the poor. It's the responsibility of

God to pull the proud down and humble them so they can become teachable and hear the message of deliverance and healing that only God can give.

The Wickedness of Drawing on Iniquity

Isaiah 5:18 says:

“Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope:”

How do we draw iniquity? Scripture says we’re either led by the kingdom of satan or the kingdom of God. All power comes from these two sources. We can draw from the power of satan through the sin of the generations, or we can create lines of communication with satan because of self-centeredness. There are three places we draw iniquity from. We have already spoken about the gates of hell, or the building in which satan builds his kingdom (powers under the earth,) and also his ability on the earth to work through people who are selfish and self-centered that allow him to work through them (on the earth.) The powers of the air, which are fallen angels, will not only give a person power but will teach them how to increase that power and to release that power through people, or directly from the heavenlies through authorities of wickedness which are upon the earth. You then become a vessel to destroy everything God has created, and directly attack the things He wants to do in the age in which we live.

I have seen many people come to the altar weeping. But their weeping was not of brokenness and sorrow because of the sins they committed, but instead they were hurting and feeling sorry

for the place or situation they were in. Many people want out of their circumstances so they can be comforted, but not to the place that they want to become a new creation. There is nowhere in the scripture that gives you the right to feel sorry for yourself. And the reason it's not there is because God can only help you if you want to become a new creation in Him.

Know that if you possess anything less than a compelling desire to become a new creation through the resurrection power that only Jesus can give, God cannot help you. But satan can. When we weep and cry out of self-pity, satan comes and gives us power to defeat those around us who are causing us hurt. And so satan gives people power to overpower other people, that they might control and bring them under submission to their own will, so they will act pleasing to you, and you are then comforted. That is why cords of iniquity that are attached to people out of manipulation and control is called wickedness in God's eyes. It happens every day in the church, in homes, on the job...everywhere. And the reason it takes place is very simple. Until we are transformed at the cross of dying to self, self will reign and self is selfish. Self wants its way. satan will gladly give us those powers to accomplish our self-centered desires.

Acts 2:31 says:

"He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."

We will not see corruption. Not in this day, nor in the day of the Lord that is to come, if we go to the cross and truly become transformed by the renewing of our mind and heart and acknowledging in truth that we are sinners and only through

SPIRITUAL LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Jesus Christ can we be saved by His grace. Jesus alone can save us and no one else. The way to hell is wide and many will go there. But few are willing to take the narrow path that leads to eternal life. I pray that you will examine your heart to be sure that you have been transformed into the new creation, into the new kingdom, into the new covenant that brings life and not death. Come Lord Jesus!

Overcoming the jezebel

In each chapter as we have exposed the enemy and how he works in man, the message has become stronger, and the intent is to open up the eyes of our hearts to see wickedness as God sees wickedness. This chapter is no exception. We will continue to shine the light of truth on the wickedness or the powers of satan and how we have allowed ourselves to be vessels for satan's use.

The Truth about Witchcraft

Witchcraft is simply using manipulation and control for our self-centered satisfaction, which is the opposite of dying on the cross and giving our lives over to Jesus Christ. God looks upon all manipulation and control as wickedness. We do not like to admit or acknowledge that every time we try to control someone by pressing upon them our will as being wicked. But we must call it what God calls it, and begin to see it as he does.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus asked us to pray that the Father's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. The only way that can be accomplished is if we go to the cross and die to our desires. Then we must allow Him to be Lord of our lives and take on His agenda, not our own. We do that by walking in the Spirit and

fellowshipping with Him rather than trying to perceive Him out of our intellect, which is part of our flesh. The reason the flesh counts for nothing is because flesh is the door satan uses to get to our soul. If our soul and flesh were truly sanctified and set apart unto God, satan would have no door to come into our hearts and destroy the deposits God has put in us.

In Revelation chapter two and three, we read about the seven churches. Each of the churches represents a stream or an anointing that will come forth in the last day. This anointing will destroy the works of the enemy that hinder the church from flowing in the power of God. In this chapter we will discuss the church of Thyatira and one of the seven eyes of God that is needed to defeat this particular enemy. The church is the Spirit of Counsel.

The Spirit of Counsel

The Spirit of Counsel is used to determine the right path according to His purpose and God's will.

Ephesians 1:11 says:

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”

Without the Spirit of Counsel, it is very difficult at best to know our predestined call. The fulfillment of predestination only occurs when we are faithful to follow God and be obedient to Him in every way. If we are rebellious and do not remove self-centeredness, we will never know the destination or the will

and purpose of God to which we were called and were placed upon this earth to accomplish, nor will we walk in it. As we know, there are many gifts, and all come together to bring fullness to the body of Christ. Therefore, we must each have such a level of intimacy with God that every person in the body of Christ can (and must!) personally hear and know the heart of God to see the destination in which God has called us. It is also the easiest path for us. Not because the path might be easier than someone else's, but because we've been given the gift or ability to accomplish the purposes of God in our lives and the grace to go with it. God always backs up what He initiates, and He gives us the strength and ability to accomplish the things He sends us out to do. (That is a promise.)

Revelation 2:18 says:

“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;”

To be a “Christian” means to be like Christ. This verse is a description of Jesus operating in the Spirit of Counsel. He has eyes unto a flame of fire. Fire represents judgment and destruction for the purpose of purifying and separating, just as gold or silver is purified by heating it up and separating the dross from the pure metal. Brass represents the judgment of God, and the feet represent action or labor, which together means going to the front of the battle and confronting the enemy.

Verse 19 says:

“I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.”

Here we see the fruit of the Spirit of Counsel at work which directs us into good works as a servant, enduring in service by faith with great patience. The Spirit of Counsel teaches us how to live out our actions of service in truth.

jezebel's Destruction in the Church

Verse 20 says:

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”

This verse brings up the fact that the church has not been able to live up to the will of God by the Spirit of Counsel. Jesus says here, according to John, that we need to open our eyes because we're not standing up against the spirit of jezebel which is in the body of Christ that teaches and seduces the people in the church to commit fornication. Eating things sacrificed to idols means to participate in satanic or occultic practices. The spirit of jezebel is a part of the force that is in the church that is called the anti-christ spirit.

All that I've introduced to you even at this point may appear to be a little on the strong side, but if you will open your heart and allow the Spirit of God to speak to you, you will see that this spirit has devastated and is trying to bring to utter ruin the body of Christ.

Revelation 1:18 says:

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

The spirit of jezebel is like Nebuchadnezzar, who wanted to be the head in the statue. This head is not to be touched by mankind, because this position of headship belongs to God alone. Jesus destroyed hell and death and it's up to us to journey into the presence of Jesus, so that all death and hell would also be defeated in us.

This process of journeying to the cross is the opposite of the jezebel spirit. Women who refuse to give up their maiden name, rather than fully taking on the identity of their husband's name, have the spirit of jezebel in them. The reason this is true is that God requires us to lose our identity of headship and be buried in Christ Jesus. The marriage where the woman is buried into her husband is a type and shadow of the church losing her identity into her husband, Jesus Christ. Therefore, those who are not able to lose themselves in their husband have no capacity to lose themselves in Jesus. There is a proportional relationship of the ability to die in each area. In fact, the very nature of this spirit wants the woman to be in control and dominate the marriage, or at least operate on an equal level.

Scripture says that Jesus Christ is the head and He only backs up what He initiates, just as man is the head and the woman to be a helpmate and laborer to the vision of the husband. When this takes place and the man does not need to fight for headship, he can spend his time honoring and treating his wife as a queen and the glory of his head. The woman, in response to this treatment, girds up her husband and makes him strong and prosperous through

honoring and respecting him, thereby bringing him into a place of prosperity. This prosperity is then released back to the wife because the husband loves her and will go to any length to protect those who honor him.

Laboring for God or satan

In the Lord's Prayer, the first thing Jesus asks us to do is to acknowledge God as Father to us. He is my Father. The second requirement is to honor our Father. There is tremendous power in honoring. When we honor someone, the fruit of that honor is covering, which is headship and protection which brings prosperity and long life.

The jezebel spirit does not honor, but demands its way. It operates either by force or by whimpering around and making every person around feel sorry for them. If they find those who will pity them, then those people will labor to make the person operating in the jezebel spirit happy (or to keep peace) which is laboring for their self-centered and selfish attitude. In God's sight this is called wickedness.

The person who labors for the jezebel spirit is in reality laboring for satan. satan's desire is to control you and consume your time in his work which robs you from building treasures in heaven. God does not pay you wages for laboring in the devil's work. Only what God initiates will He uphold for you to accomplish and He is a rewarder of those who do His will.

The jezebel spirit is found to operate mostly in women. The reason this spirit is allowed to come forth is because of the men who refuse to take their responsibility to be the spiritual leader and covering in the home. The women's movements all have the spirit of jezebel in them. These women operate out

of anger without even knowing why they are angry. They are angry because the men refuse to rise up and be men and take their responsibility in the home. But when the jezebel spirit arises, it begins to destroy any manhood that is there. When the destruction is complete, the man is not productive. The jezebel spirit castrates the fruitfulness and strength of manhood. So we see that men who are under the spirit of jezebel are weak. They get permission from their wife to do things because they have no ability to make decisions on their own. Many die at a young age. According to Jehu, the jezebel's power is witchcraft.

The Subtlety of the jezebel

In 2 Kings 9:7 we read:

“And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of jezebel.”

According to the dictionary, a “cult” is those that are led away from the teachings of the Bible by witchcraft and deception. We think that a cult is a group that separates themselves from the church, and its leaders are men. But the spirit of jezebel doesn't like to separate itself. The jezebel spirit wants to encompass the whole body of Christ and cause everyone to go her way. She disguises her work by slowly leading people off the road of the cross to the road of destruction, and she is leading them by the reins of their own self-centeredness...and at the end of those reins is the devil.

I would encourage you to go back and read starting in I Kings 17 through 2 Kings 14 to get a better understanding of what the

jezebel spirit does and how it functions, so that you will not be led down the path of destruction and isolation from God.

Revelation 2:21-24 says:

“And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.”

The children of jezebel are those who allow the spirit of jezebel to be in them and to be led by that force. The reason that God is putting the children of jezebel to death is because that spirit brings such a tremendous power of destruction upon you that you will forfeit your eternal salvation if you don't stand against it. Let us look at what this spirit has already done in the church and in this nation.

The Evidence of jezebel in America

Fornication and whoredoms that are brought in by the jezebel, when they are full grown, usher in homosexuality and every kind of perversion known to mankind. The very heart of this spirit that *demand*s acceptance in the body of Christ tells you it's not God.

People who are of God, when they believe there is error, do

not try to force themselves into any group, but will always separate themselves from the error and come together as one. Satan's tactics are always the opposite. When people demand and force themselves into other people's lives, it is to control and manipulate them.

The women's movement, which demands certain rights, is the same. Again, this is the opposite of the character of God. The demand for Women's Rights brought abortion that has destroyed millions of souls because of self-centeredness. It also ushers in the New Age Movement, which is worshipping the created. God has specifically spoken to mankind to enjoy the created things, but we are never to worship the creation, only the Creator.

The jezebel spirit perverts everything it touches to make it the opposite of everything God stands for. It is no exception that she is trying to change the scriptures and to call God a woman. To embrace homosexuality and to call God a woman is to call Jesus a liar, because He said God is our FATHER. This is the strongest perversion found in the church, which shows the true condition of the apostate church we see today. This is the very reason I say those who have chosen that path are cultish in their practice because it is doctrine contrary to the teachings of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can save us. He is the one who has the keys to hell and death.

Power to Overcome

These are just a few of the whoredoms and the seductions that the jezebel spirit has brought into the church. In Revelation 2:26-29 it says:

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him

OVERCOMING THE JEZEBEL

will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

Those who choose to stand against the teachings and seductions of the jezebel spirit, and hold to the works of God will receive power over the nations from Jesus. We will break in pieces the power of the enemy. The way we will defeat him is through the Morning Star, who is Jesus, the Lord of Hosts, the Mighty Warrior we read about in Revelation chapter one. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. Come, Lord Jesus!

You Will Know them by their Fruits

When the children of Israel went in to the promised land, God spoke to His people and warned them not to have mercy upon their enemies and those who possessed the land. By now we should have in our hearts the understanding that we love and embrace that which is good and of God, and defeat that which is wicked and attached to the destroyer.

The Strait Gate and Narrow Way

In Matthew 7:13-16 we read:

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?”

Do we really believe Jesus’ words when He said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man comes to the Father, except

through Me?” If so, it means that we believe every word that came out of the mouth of Jesus is true and still works today.

We know Jesus came full of grace and truth, and the truth sets us free. There are many who will try to enter into the sheepfold through ways other than by dying on the cross which is the straight and narrow way. It’s a difficult and bitter experience to journey to the cross. Because of that bitterness, few there be that enter.

Jesus spoke to the prophets and told them to eat the scroll; the word of truth. It will taste sweet in your mouth, but bitter in your bowels. Your bowels are the area where truth is absorbed into your being and you must walk out the word. When the word is in your mouth or your mind, it all sounds good and easy. To have the word of truth as your source of strength and commitment, it’s a bitter experience until it’s worked in us. Only at that point does it become freedom to us. There again, few are willing to stay in the hope of that freedom until the fruit comes forth.

Complete Transformation

Romans 12:2 says:

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

As we have touched before on the area of being born again, it means a total transformation. The depth of that transformation depends upon the level and the degree of brokenness, which is the sorrow of repentance that pushes out the iniquity within us.

In the last chapter, we talked about different types of sin that

ravage the church. I have heard people say, "This person was born a homosexual." I would like to tell you that I was born selfish. The cross teaches me that to have salvation, I must die to myself, take up the cross and follow Jesus. That means I have to give up my own ideas and desires and then He will transform my mind to think like, and literally take on, the character of heaven.

According to Psalms 51, all of us are born with iniquity in us, even in the womb of our mother. And because of that very reason, Jesus came to die and to set us free...from homosexuality, from controlling and manipulating people which are the fruit of satan, and from all the manifestations of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16-21 reads:

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulation, wrath, strife, sedition, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

These sins of the flesh, according to this scripture, will hold us back from inheriting our place in God. People can hide their actions and thoughts but they cannot hide their heart. Jesus said that which is in the heart shall come forth. It's not a choice to try to do better. If that were possible then the law would have been complete and fulfilling. The law is good in itself. In fact, it's

perfect. We are imperfect. And because we are imperfect we are not capable of doing anything good. Unless Jesus touches us and transforms us to become a new creation, we are helpless.

In Matthew 7:17-23 we read:

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

This again shows us that unless the transformation takes place from being a bad tree to becoming a good tree by the cleansing process, we cannot produce good fruit. If your heart is transformed, and your mind is renewed in the heavenly kingdom, then you *will* produce good fruit. You could be the most controlling jezebel on earth, or the biggest liar, or the cruelest killer, or whatever you might be, but if God had the power to create you, He also has the power through Jesus Christ to set you free to live forever in Him.

If there is not sin in God, then He can bring no death to us. He promised us life. We need to look at His creation. Paul says creation itself speaks, even cries out, declaring who God is. The fruit of satan, like the homosexual, cannot sustain and bring forth

life. Without even looking at the Bible, it is clear that anything that does not bring fruitfulness of life has no part in God.

Many people who try to get in His presence some other way will say to the Lord on that last day, "Look at all the things we did in Your name!" The reason Jesus will respond, "Depart from Me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you," is because they never knew the work Jesus had for them, nor did they spend the time before Him to find out His will. Trying to come in to His sheepfold some other way is to go out and do a work you thought might please God. This is man's fleshly works and not God's. Many people are spending a lifetime building their ministry when God never called them to it. These are the people Jesus was addressing in the following passage.

Feed the Right Fruit

Galatians 5:22-26 says:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

I met a man several years ago who was in the occult for several years. He had learned how to do divination and other strong occultic practices. At that time he had been transformed by the power of God, through Jesus, for two years. He knew more about the things of the Spirit and the deep things of God than any man I had ever met. I was shocked at the depth of understanding and

the purity of heart that I saw in him. We talked about God and the things of the Spirit for approximately six hours straight without stopping. I have tried to help people at many levels to get out of controlling powers of many kinds and they had much difficulty in separating from it and walking in purity. And yet here I met a man that had invited satan and his powers into his life to learn the deep secrets of evil, but was now becoming a pure vessel of God.

I finally asked him, "How were you able to overcome satan and all his forces in such a short time?" His answer seemed so simple that at first it almost seemed wrong. This is what he said. He looked into the Bible and if what he did brought fruits of the Spirit, he continued to do it. The things that he had done that were out of the lusts of the flesh, he quit doing. I said, "You mean that's it?" And he said, "That's it."

When we stop any action that is fed by powers of darkness, that line of communication with darkness begins to dry up because it is no longer being fed. Over time it dies, just as a tree that has no water will eventually die. There is also another step beyond quitting the works of the flesh. Those areas must be filled by the works of the Spirit. Any place where light comes in, darkness must flee.

We try to make everything hard and dramatic and tough, when God says in the scriptures, just quit doing it! But our flesh rises up screaming, whining and kicking. Paul said, I beat my flesh and make it come into alignment. I *choose* to go on with God and I *will* take the right path, no matter what the cost. I'll do it no matter how hard it is, because God is good; and because God is love, it will be the easiest path in Jesus. He alone stands at the end of my path. There is none other. He is my Savior, my Lord and Master, and I cannot fix my eyes upon anything else. Everything

around me becomes shadows in the light of Him who can save and keep me, and increase me in the kingdom of my Creator; the One who was, and is, and is to come.

Sons of the Most High God

I John 3:1-3 says:

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

I hardly can contain myself when I begin to read what John wrote here by the Spirit. We are sons; we become sons of God in Jesus! Many people are happy just to be children in God’s kingdom. But I see much more available than just being a child, I am grabbing hold of sonship. The Lord’s heart is for us to enter into the eternal church of those throughout the ages that have labored together to advance the will and purposes of God. These are the sons of the Most High God. This sonship is available to every person. And according to Romans, all of creation is waiting for the rising up of these sons to liberate planet earth. And so with great joy and vigor I press on to become pure that I might be called worthy of sonship.

I John 3:6-9 says:

YOU WILL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS

“Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, Let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Sons of God were manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

The nice thing about John’s writings is that he’s straight to the point. He tells it like it is and he leaves no doubt in our minds about how we need to walk. Most teachers don’t like to use these passages because it divides those who are serious with God from those who are lazy and slothful.

We have talked about God as our Father, which is the second part of the Lord’s Prayer. We understand that we are to first hallow, or honor Him, and then those around us. As we learn the power of knowing Him and the power of honor, we can then enter into His heavenly kingdom here on this earth. This is the love of God.

I John 5:3-8 says:

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the

Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."

Honor always protects. Honor is a covering. Honor is like the roof of a house that keeps the rain, the snow and the heat of the sun from coming against us. On the inside of this house of honor dwells a safe place for God to place His love. Another way to explain His love is His overpowering generosity of showering us with His gifts and favors that only He can give. In heaven, everything is perfect and at peace, with great joy and total safety. Those who honor Him are qualified to have heaven on this earth. May His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

The Blessing of Multiplication

Deuteronomy 28 speaks of the blessings and curses. They are still intact today. Exodus 20:24 says where God causes His name to be honored, He will come in the midst of us and bless us. Jesus said, Seek first Me and My righteousness, which is the cleansing of the heart that brings us into a place qualified to receive His blessing. Then all these things shall be added unto you.

If you're not waking in the blessings of God, if you're not prospering in Him, it's not because you didn't give some evangelist or some man on TV your seed-faith gift. I have never given any seed away to anyone. I was a farmer, and I've never yet seen a farmer give his seed away. You see, Jacob's promise to God was that of everything God gave him, he would give Him back ten percent. Guess what? I'm no longer giving ten percent, but much more. The reason is simple. If I have nothing that He can increase, how am I going to be increased? But if I take the seed and put it in the

ground and ask Him to bless it, I would have many more times the amount of seed to give away at the end of the harvest rather than the start. You see, I'm still giving seed away. But it's the seed of multiplication that I'm giving. God is a multiplier of seed. Those that have an ear to hear, let them hear.

Perfect Love Casts out Fear

We have the promise that if we are born of God we shall be overcomers as Jesus was. Verse 7 of I John 5 says we have the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost laboring for us to be overcomers, to become a victorious church. All this happens through the workings of the Spirit by the water and the blood which will defeat every power of the enemy.

I John 4:18 says:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

If we do not fear, but yield ourselves completely over to God, his perfect love will come upon us and make us perfect. The love of God is not about getting our own way or satisfying our selfish desires. The love of God is about Him being a Father who is faithful to raise us up to be strong sons by teaching, correcting, and encouraging us until the maturity comes forth that we might participate in His kingdom. There is no shortcut. The road is narrow, the way is death, the end is victory and His glory is at the end of the journey.

Satan is a liar who tried to convince me that if I gave my life to Jesus completely, my life would then be boring and unfulfilled, in

light of my dreams in the reality of this world. But I can testify that because of the hopes and dreams the Lord has placed in my mind and in my heart, it will take me an eternity to fully understand the depth of love that He has so richly poured out upon me. We once were not a people but now we have become the people of God. Thank You, Lord Jesus.

Purity, Government and Healing

Throughout the scripture the Lord portrays Himself in relation to His church as that of the Bridegroom to the Bride. The Bridegroom is Jesus and the Bride is his church. We know that every man walks with great anticipation as he becomes one in flesh with his bride. In turn, the bride spends countless hours anticipating the moment that she will walk down the aisle and meet her bridegroom, who stands waiting for her at the destination of their union. Not only does she anticipate what it will be like, but she spends all her time consumed in preparation so her bridegroom will be very pleased. Not only does she want to be received by the one she gives herself to; but she comes with great anticipation of acceptance and longs to be strongly desired by her lover and companion. There is nothing more desirable for the bride than to show honor for and to be an honor unto the one that protects and brings security to her life.

A Glorious Bride

In Ephesians 5:25-27 we read:

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church,

and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

What kind of a bride is Jesus coming for? There’s a labor Jesus is now doing in the sanctifying and cleansing process of the church and His bride. This whole book was written for this very purpose: that the Word will wash and cleanse each one of us, that we might be presented to Jesus as the glorious church or the beautiful bride which is no less than any man would ask for in his bride. I believe Jesus will not come back for anything less than a beautiful, glorious bride who is glowing with love and passion for Him; beaming with great anticipation of meeting her bridegroom.

Now there are three or four key words that are used in the previous scripture explaining the labor Jesus is now doing to bring His bride to the place He can marry her. The first is “without spot.” If we have spots in our clothes or on the walls of our home, they need to be washed to remove the dirt. David talks about removing our spots, or our inward sin. Jesus came with water and blood that flowed from His side. The blood cleanses us from our transgressions and allows us to come into the kingdom of God. The water then washes our insides of our iniquity.

There is no fellowship nor anything in common with the life of God that Jesus gives us and the iniquity or death that is released in us when we follow satan. I believe that by now we have covered enough scripture to realize Jesus is looking for a people who are willing to take the tools of warfare Jesus gave us and to prepare us for that day of the wedding feast. No bridegroom would feel honored, nor would he be excited about his bride coming down the aisle, if she had soiled clothes and didn’t care how she looked.

The second word here is “wrinkle.” Your clothes may be clean, but if they look like they’ve been slept in overnight, it would also tell the bridegroom of the dishonor his bride would walk in. The wrinkle has to do with the government of God. Jesus asks us to give the reins of our hearts to Him so he can guide us and direct our paths because He’s the head and not the tail. Even if we are clean, but do not have our lives in order, and instead operate in confusion and disarray, we would not line up with the character of Jesus who created all things with order and beauty. He is coming for a church that is cleaned up and whose clothes are ironed. We need to be wrinkle free and have everything in order.

The third phrase that is used is “holy and without blemish.” I can go to the tire store and buy tires called blems. These are tires that will work fine on my car, but they are flawed. They are not perfect. They cost less because they are not desired and have less value than one that is perfect. Somewhere in the production of that tire someone made a mistake and caused it to be blemished. I find blemishes in my life from past hurts. Perhaps they’re from when I was not treated right, or when I was misunderstood, and so on.

Now there is only one thing worse than a bear in the woods, and that is a *wounded* bear. Even after the scar is healed, a bear remembers the cause of its injury and it can be very dangerous from that point on, because he will do everything in his power not to allow that injury to happen to him again. There are many wounded people within the body of Christ who need to be healed so they are not dangerous to those around them.

In this hour Jesus is saying, *My Bride will be cleaned up, all the wrinkles shall be removed from her gowns and her heart will be healed so she can give all of her heart to Me without fear. There will be no*

fear of Me hurting her nor will she need to hold back from giving all she has in order to protect herself. In other words, Jesus wants His Bride to give Him all that she has.

In Joel chapter two, after the second trumpet sounds, He assembles the congregation, the elders, and the children together to be sanctified. Then the Bridegroom will come out of His chamber and the Bride out of her closet. The Lord of Hosts is about to march upon the face of this earth to display His Bride. He will lift her up in His hand to the church and to the world and say, "Look! This is My Bride!" I believe the second trumpet is an invitation for those who are willing to go through the cleansing process and discipline of the Lord and those who allow the healing hand of Jesus to do His work. Then the Bride will grow in numbers and glory, the kind of glory only a Bride can give to her Bridegroom. Again, once we were not a people, but now we have become the people of God.

The Seven Churches – Foundations of the Bride

I would like to take you back to Revelation chapters two and three. These are the seven churches Jesus described to John, and they are for a warning that we should not follow the seven greatest tools that satan will use in the last day to deceive the church and cut off God's people from becoming the Bride of Christ. In Chapter Ten, we looked at the jezebel spirit, and saw that to become the spotless bride, we must release ourselves from all manipulation and control. Let us look at the six remaining churches so we will have the proper foundation to build our relationship in Jesus upon.

The First Love

Revelation 2:4 says:

“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”

In the first love, there is a burning passion and an innocence we walk in. But when misunderstanding and hurts begin to come into a relationship, we pull back and withhold our full commitment to allow the passion to continue to burn. And so by our choices other interests begin to creep into our lives, such as doing works for people, rather than truly pouring out of ourselves. Coldness begins to set in.

How does that work in relationship to Jesus? Unless we know His ways, misunderstandings in our relationship with Jesus can take place, just as with any relationship that we have with mankind. Jesus is God and He has certain absolutes that He walks in, and must walk in, to maintain this world and the kingdom He has created. Because we are carnal and self-centered, we have disappointments and misunderstandings of God’s kingdom. Because of what we think we deserve, the disappointments and misunderstandings discourage us from giving all of our hearts to God in the journey of cleansing. We must guard ourselves against this. Other times we allow our hearts to regard the relationship too lightly, or to treat it as something common.

A man who works in a bank and handles money all day long at first is awed by handling hundreds and thousands of dollars in a day. Six months later, he has become used to handling hundreds and thousands of dollars. Has the value of those dollars lost its power? Or has he just become used to seeing it every day and it becomes common and no longer stirs excitement in his soul?

Fear of Your Cross

In Revelation 2:10 we read:

“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

Fear is not of God. Fear keeps us from giving our hearts completely over to God. Here Jesus says, *Beware that you don't allow fear to tie you up. If you do, I cannot test your heart so that you will see your condition so you can change. The reason that I bring you through the trials is to show you your heart so t you can cleanse it by repenting. This is a process all of My Bride must go through so that I will know you will give all of your heart to Me.* There will be many who will make it to heaven, but not everyone will act as the Bride who will sit on thrones with Jesus to rule and reign with Him as His Bride. Only the Bride will have the right to sit by His side.

Ephesians 2:6-7 says:

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

The Heart of Balaam

The next warning Jesus gives is in Revelation 2:14:

“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling

block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

The heart of Balaam is a stumbling block to anyone that God has released an anointing or gift upon them that other people desire to have or receive from. In this case, Balaam was a prophet of God that wanted to gain finances through his power to curse Israel. He worked every angle he could to try to please Balak and receive this reward of money, but God would not allow him to curse Israel, only bless it. Nevertheless, his heart was exposed before God through his intent to use the gift of God within him for the profit of his flesh.

In James 4:3 we read:

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

God knew our fleshly weaknesses and so he warned us against the focus of worldly pleasures to satisfy our self-centeredness. Many prophets are on their way to being shipwrecked because their focus is becoming stronger on satisfying their flesh rather than crucifying it. A prophet has two things to see; his ability to tell the future, and also the release of God’s anointing. Because of the power a prophet is called to walk in, he is taken through many testings and trials to prove his heart will be more faithful to God than his flesh before he is truly released by God. These testings are also required of the Bride of Christ in order to be called the Bride of Christ.

The Undefined

Revelation 3:2 says:

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.”

How does the inheritance of God die? Verse four says there are a few that still have white garments because they have not defiled themselves. If we expect to walk as Jesus walked, and still have the desires of this world, it is like the man who marries his bride but also expects to have marital fellowship with other women. Not a very good idea. Jesus doesn't think so either. To be perfect in Jesus' sight we must understand: Do not defile yourself!

Intimacy and Knowing the Lord

The next church is about the open door which no man can close, and the closed door that no man can open. This has to do with the calling which we were predestined to from the foundations of the world.

Revelation 3:11 says:

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown.”

Paul was commissioned by the high priest according to Acts 26, to put Christians in prison and kill them. Jesus stopped him on the road of one of those commissions and told Paul, *You're fighting against Me. I have appeared unto you to make you a minister and a witness to the things I am going to show you and teach you. I am delivering you from the hands of the religious church which has*

commissioned you and gives you the authority in which you walk. You will now walk in My ways and do what I ask you to do.

This commission is found in Acts 26:18:

“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.”

Hot Passion

Revelation 3:15 says:

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.”

Jesus wants His Bride to be hot with passion for Him. One that is hot with passion has no fear or shame of their feelings. They have been overcome by a driving passion that supersedes intellectual reasoning. God created that in our hearts and intends it to be directed towards Him and also our mate. Who would marry a woman who had no passion towards him?

The Love of the Bridegroom and the Bride

Now we go back to Ephesians 5:25 where he commands husbands to love their wives even as Christ also loved the Church. The labor of Christ was to give Himself up for the work of purifying, bringing to order, and healing His Bride. It is also the responsibility of the husband to purify, bring in order and heal his bride. The biggest problem both have in doing this is that the purification must come first. Government follows. It is

only when these two things are in place, that healing can then come. If we refuse that process with Jesus, He can do nothing for us. Neither can the husband help the wife.

I Peter 3:5-6 says:

“For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”

If we are children of Abraham, we can also expect the blessings of Abraham. But if we do not take on the character of Abraham, neither can we expect the blessings of Abraham. Sarah said to her husband, “You are my lord.” Abraham said to God, “You are my Lord.” Only to the degree that the husband has worked in and through him the heart of Abraham (which is seen in his obedience to the Lord Jesus, and his ability to truly say, “You are my Lord,”) can we expect the wife to say to the husband, “You are my lord.” Until the heart of the Abraham and Sarah covenant comes upon each one of us, we cannot be called the Bride of Christ. It is only when we come to Jesus with that heart of full trust and allegiance that we may be called His Bride.

The Stream of the Eternal Church

Up to this point we have devoted the entire book to becoming free from the life we lived before the Lord transformed us. We became a new creation. We have expounded upon the meaning of Matthew 19:28, where it speaks of those who follow Jesus in the regeneration. They are those who are being completely set free of all iniquity, have government working in them and are being healed of all wounds, to become perfect in His sight, as is the commandment of God. We are to be perfect, even as God is perfect.

The Labor of the Generations

What is the reason the Lord wants a people who are a royal priesthood? There is a work and a purpose God has ordained for every generation since the time of creation for mankind to complete. We have examples of faith in Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses. We could also speak of Samuel, Elijah and Elisha, David, Jesus, the twelve disciples and multitudes of others who labored in what God wanted to bring forth upon the earth.

I Peter 1:9-12 says:

“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are not reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

Here we see that Peter recognizes the labor of the prophets of old who prophesied paths for those who would come after them. And even though they were not able to participate in it directly, they were very much in the middle of everything because they labored to see what was coming and they prophesied accordingly. Prophesying is making a path for those who will walk in it, so they will know the way in which God has chosen mankind to follow. If you understand the desires and purposes of God, you can see throughout the scriptures a remnant of people who were always faithful to give themselves over totally to God to advance the desires and purposes and the pleasure of Almighty God. These people were willing to lay everything of their own intent, desires and self-centeredness aside, and take up the cross and follow Jesus. This is also what we do now in this dispensation. And when we do, we step into the stream of the eternal church.

In the ages past there were only a few, a small remnant, that ever achieved this end to advance the kingdom of God. The clearest example we have is John the Baptist who came out of the desert to make the way for Jesus. He lowered the mountains, which are powers on this earth. He filled in the valleys, which made the

lowly people accessible to Jesus. And he made the way straight, so it wouldn't take us long to come to Jesus.

He came dressed in camel's hair, which represents willingness to live in an uncomfortable world and to be a carrier of the burden of God. He chose a place where people would not influence him. In the desert he ate locusts and wild honey. Even the food he took in was untouched by man so that he would not become defiled. He knew his ministry would be less once the path was made, and he would be an example to all because the end of his journey was death. He was unpopular and stayed only on the fringes of society. But in eternity, he will be honored among the greatest because he submitted to the will and purposes of God. He was willing to step in the river of God's eternal purposes so Jesus might have a path rightly made to fulfill the will of the Father.

With this understanding you could go through the characters of the Bible who followed the purposes of God and find men throughout all the ages of the Bible who were willing to completely give themselves over so God could be God upon the earth.

We are in a unique time in the history of the Church. Many of the things that Daniel, Zechariah, the major and minor prophets, and John wrote about were to give us revelation about that which was to come in our time. Because of all the prophetic words spoken for this current time period, there is a special need for many people to respond to the call of God the Father and of His Son. It is necessary in this time period, the age in which we now live, to fulfill all of the words spoken by His servants in times past.

A Resting Place

In Isaiah 56:11 we read:

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

The words spoken out of the heart of God will not rest nor return to God until everything that was spoken is accomplished and completed. One day I began to realize that all the words God agreed with of what man has prayed for or prophesied out of God’s heart, are looking for a person they can rest upon to complete the desire of God’s heart.

When I saw that, I began to ask God to allow all the prayers of my ancestors (that came into agreement with Him) to find rest upon me and be fulfilled. Then I began to look at all the promises and all the words of fulfillment God wanted to complete in this day and age in which we live. I began to ask God that the words that were prayed, that fell into the gifting in which God gave me, would also find a resting place in me.

I knew that if I did not become a part of the Bride of Christ, I would not receive my full portion of the spoken words. I would not have full participation in what the prophets of old saw that was coming upon the earth in our time. When I stepped into the water of the eternal church, I literally felt the fellowship of Jesus and all of those who labored before Him and after Him. Now I too am laboring and advancing along with them in what the Father desires to accomplish upon the earth. I feel so honored to be a part and am so excited that I am not alone. I have literally joined the eternal church of overcomers who have refused to allow the kingdom of this world to influence them anymore.

I’ve been joined through the blood and water that flowed from Jesus’ side. I am a part of those who have been set free and brought through the cleansing process, the establishing of government,

and the healing of heart. I am so excited that I could add even a trickle of pleasure to the Father by advancing what He's called me to advance. A place in this mighty and eternal army is available for every person alive if they're willing to pay the price: die to self and become alive and obedient unto the eternal purposes of Almighty God.

Isaiah 46:8-11 says:

“Remember this, and show yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”

The first thing God says in this passage is to stand up and be a man. That's quite a statement in this day and age. There are few statesmen, that is, men who will stand up for what they believe to be right no matter what the cost or consequence of that stand will be.

The statement, “I am God,” refers to an absolute Presence. No one is like Me, no one can compete with Me, and no one can destroy Me. I am God, and there is no other. Then He says, “I'll tell you what the beginning and the end is about. The words I speak, they shall come to pass, and I will fulfill all my pleasure. I will do it in My time and in the way I desire to do it. I can use godly men to fulfill certain parts and I can also use ungodly men, even nations to fulfill My will.” If God speaks it, He will also bring

it to pass. Because He has chosen to do it, no one can stop Him. At first this may seem very harsh. But when you submit and flow by being obedient to the things of God, it becomes a giant rock of security, protection, and love because you can always depend on Him.

There are many in the church today who are born again and will be highly honored in all eternity by having the opportunity of fellowshiping with the Lord and all God has prepared for His people.

I ask you to weigh the price and consider going all the way with God, not holding anything back, but determining in your heart, *“God, I want all of You. Hold nothing back. Pay no attention when my flesh cries out for mercy and my flesh wants to stop.”* It’s at that point that I know God will give new strength to go on until the course of your race is complete, that we would not be satisfied with anything less than the high call which He has purposed for our lives.

Choosing Your Destiny

The price you will pay is so small in comparison to all eternity. And yet, the price is high. It requires all of your desires, all your hopes, all your dreams, and all your accomplishments to die. You must take on the mind, vision, character and purposes of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. *It’s not a matter of waiting to know how, but it’s a matter of choice.* When I was born again, I didn’t wait until I became strong to receive Jesus in my heart; I received Him because I was weak and needed help. He came and fulfilled every need I have. If you choose to go on with the high call, He’ll take you by the hand, show you the path and walk with you down the way to the most wonderful and perfect eternity beyond anything

man has ever been able to conceive or imagine. This is not just an invitation for a chosen few, but it's for you. Just think, it is for you. May this phrase burn in your heart and cause you to respond to Him with all you have. May God richly bless you in all He's called you to do. Amen.

