

A large, simple wooden cross stands on a hill, silhouetted against a bright, hazy sky at sunrise or sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that fills the sky and casts a soft light on the landscape. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright yellow and orange near the horizon. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

NORTH AMERICAN BIBLE STUDY

The Light of Love Shines from Above

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NORTH AMERICAN BIBLE STUDY

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NORTH AMERICAN BIBLE STUDY (Going Back to the Gospel)

Acknowledgements

With praise and gratefulness to the Trinity
The Father – the Son – the Holy Spirit.

Preface

‘There is Life Beyond’ – a much higher form of life than on earth, God wills to bring man to where man was intended to be before the fall. You are able to verify this with evidence that there is a Creator. The choice of our free will determines our destination for eternal life.

Scriptures are in italics, indented in most cases and taken from the Holy Bible in the King James Version. In places they are revised for clearer understanding according to the Strong’s Concordance of the Bible – this is indicated by the word paraphrased. Italics in bold represent words or phrases meant to be meditated on.

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CHRISTIANITY IS BASED ON REALITY

Jesus listens to everything we say.

Believe we are standing before Jesus.

He died for our sins and by

giving them to Him,

we release them into His Hands.

We no longer have them.

Our relationship with Jesus

does not stop here.

It continues to grow.

The words in the Bible are in the Dictionary.

Chapter 1

Introduction to Salvation

When God created male and female, they were created to live forever (**Genesis 1:27**). When Satan deceived Adam and Eve, this changed and sin entered the world. In Genesis we read Satan existed on the earth but didn't have any power over the earth and all that existed within it. That was until on the sixth day of creation God created humans. Satan then had a vessel (a person) to work through to gain control over what God has created.

God created the Garden of Eden and when God created Adam and Eve, He put Adam in charge of it. God said to Adam,

“Of every tree of the Garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (**Genesis 2:16-17**)

Knowing this, Satan had an open door to attack and gain control over mankind. So he made his move and approached Eve saying,

“Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, (meaning right away) then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil.” (**Genesis 3:4-5**)

Satan set a snare for Eve to disobey what God had asked of Adam and her. Their disobedience toward God introduced the concept of evil into their lives as well as sin and destruction into the world we live in. To this present day

we continue to experience evil through being disobedient to God. Through the disobedience of God's word, Satan continues to use opened doors into humankind to attack and deceive wanting to separate us from God.

However God made a way to restore mankind back to Himself. He sent his son Jesus, a divine being to redeem us in order that we might have eternal life and be with Him forever. When virgin Mary was expecting Jesus, an angel appeared unto Joseph (**Matthew 1:23**) saying to him, the son she shall bring forth shall be called Emmanuel which means *"God with us! "...for He will save His people from their sins."* (V:21) It is through Jesus we have our relationship restored back to God – like it was meant to be in the beginning of creation.

When we commit ourselves to Jesus something happens to us – our Father opens our eyes to see, our mind to understand and we become more aware of the spirit world around us.

We are spiritual beings living in a spiritual world. God is Spirit and His angels are ministering spirits. Satan is a spirit and the fallen angels are tormenting spirits. We are protected and comforted by the Holy Spirit who comes to dwell in us when we ask Christ into our lives (**John 14:17**). Before we made a commitment to God we were children of disobedience (**Ephesians 2:2**). When we ask Jesus to be our Lord, God's spirit begins to work in our life – cleansing, regenerating, purifying, and renewing a right relationship with Him (**Titus 3:5**). When we leave this world, our spirit – the spirit which made us talk, think, – lives on forever in heaven to be with our creator, but our body remains on earth. (**Genesis 3:19**) *"Till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust you*

are, and unto dust shall you return.” For more detail see page 95-96.

Prayer for Salvation

One way which is familiar to many people is by praying our Father’s Prayer, with understanding, (Matthew 6:9-13) Pray this:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Many people recite this prayer but very few touch Our Father’s heart by saying it. The following chapter on prayer will explain how we enter into the Lord’s Presence through His prayer.

Questions

1. In what ways do our lives begin to transform when we commit our lives to Christ?
II Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; Colossians 3:10-15
2. What does it mean to be born again? Galatians 4:19; 6:15, John 3:3
3. What takes place in being born again? I Peter 1:23
4. What scriptures are there that explain who Satan is? Isaiah 14:9-19; Ezekiel 28:13-17
5. Is Satan still looking for people to work through? 1Peter 5:8
6. In the past, what doors have we left open for Satan to attack? Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:8-9
7. Can these doors be closed by accepting Christ into our lives? Hebrews 10:16-17
8. What are some ways in which Satan can rule and control the world? Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1Samuel 8:5-19
9. Can we be lead into temptation?
In the Garden of Eden, Satan led Eve into temptation. Genesis 3:1-6; Psalm 91:3

Chapter 2

The Lord's Prayer

Read Scriptures Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4

By saying the Lord's Prayer, what exactly did we say and ask for? Let's look into this prayer – section by section.

Section One – Luke 11:2-3,

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as it is in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread.

Note the word “**our**”. Jesus asks us to address our heavenly Father. This speaks of a relationship between the Father of Jesus whom we adore as “**our Father**” – the One who created us (**Galatians 4:6, 7**). We are asking for Jesus to be with us day by day, continuously. Jesus is our Lord our daily living Bread (**John 6:32, 33, 51**). Without Jesus we can do nothing - we are helpless to understand God's ways (**John 15:5**).

Section Two - Luke 11:4

And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us:

In saying these words to Jesus from our heart we fulfill what He came to do. He forgives us for all of our wrongdoings against God and against others. He did this by dying on the cross for our sins.

Many know and say this verse but do not consider to hear the meaning of these words. By our free will we come before Jesus asking Him to take away our sins: As in

Romans 3:4.

That thou mightiest be justified in thy sayings and mightiest overcome when thou art judged.

It is by saying these words we stand justified before Jesus. He takes our sins and we no longer have them. These words spoken **from our heart** bring us into His kingdom, beginning a new personal relationship with Jesus.

Being in agreement in praying the Lords' prayer with people on their death bed is rewarding. Most people know the lords' prayer and will pray it with us. After praying some likely will not consider what they said, especially the part, "**And forgive me my sins; for I also forgive everyone that is indebted to me.**" By explaining, Jesus died for our sins and we come to Jesus with our sins asking Him to take them from us. He hears our prayer and takes our sins away; we no longer have them. What power there is with these few words spoken sincerely, that God would forgive us and erase all of our wrongdoings – instantly.

There was a man in the same nursing home my father lived in. Every time I went to visit my father, I would stop by to see him. I always noticed his eyes looked like they had much fear in them – like a frightened animal. One day I asked him if he knew the Lord's Prayer and if he would repeat the prayer with me. He agreed and when we finished I asked him if he understood the meaning behind the Lord's Prayer. Like some before him he didn't,

So I began to explain my understanding and perspective to him. A couple of weeks later when I met with him I noticed the look I had seen in his eyes earlier was gone.

There was another man in the nursing home I was able to visit with and got to know before my father passed away. I could usually count on him to be sitting in the front entrance greeting the visitors to the nursing home. Every time he would extend his hand to greet me.

After my dad died I got permission from the nursing home to take him out to Tim Horton's or A&W and spend some time with him, listening to his stories and talking to him about his life. He told me he once attended the local Baptist Church where he used to teach Sunday school. It was encouraging to have the opportunity to talk with a fellow believer, when I asked him about the time he asked Jesus to become his Lord and Saviour, he said he never felt worthy enough to ask Jesus to come into his heart. I asked him if he would consider us to pray to Jesus, again he felt unworthy to ask for Jesus to save him.

I continued to visit with my friend, we'd talk about our lives and share stories to encourage and support one another. During one of our visits the topic of church came up. Again I asked if he would like to say the Lord's Prayer with me and this time he agreed. When we had finished I said to him, "Jesus had died for our sins and when you asked Him, He forgave your sins. He heard you and took them; you don't have them anymore. You were justified by what you had said." He looked at me with a surprised look on his face and said, "I never understood this like that before." Today he confesses Jesus as His Lord.

The word "**indebted**" in Luke 11:4, has greater

meaning than someone owing money who cannot pay us back. “Indebted” goes much deeper. It can represent people’s hurtful actions towards us – those that cannot be forgotten and healed. They could be hurts from our family – sisters, brothers, parents, uncles, aunts, husbands, wives, or people in general. These are wounds that will not go away.

Jesus forgave us and we too must forgive those who have offended us. They are indebted to us. Inner healing will come to us as well as to the ones we forgive. When we forgive we also fulfill His Word and release the ones indebted to us.

In **John 20:23**, Jesus relates to this Scripture,

Whose soever sins ye remit (meaning to forgive or pardon), they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain (or hold onto), they are retained.

I understand this to mean, when we forgive we release them unto God; (**Mark 11:25-26**)

Some years ago a person shared this testimony which brings out the meaning and power of forgiveness. A family’s two younger children had been sexually abused by a neighbour. Hurt and angry the family took this neighbour to court. To their shock the neighbour received only a suspended sentence as punishment for the crime, then in a matter of a few months this act was repeated. Frustrated and disappointed by the justice system the father of the children went to his priest for counseling. The priest told him that he needed to forgive his neighbour. For sure this was something he didn’t want to hear or do. Night and day he greatly struggles with

this. This neighbour wronged his family and violated his children and he wanted to see justice done. His reply was, I would rather kill him than forgive him. The priest reminded him of a scripture in **I John 3:15**, "*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer;*" Which is the greater sin, rape, or murder?

Although he knew this was right, the father struggled to forgive his neighbour. Then one day when the neighbour was driving into his driveway, the father walked over and forgave him. Months later the father found out that his neighbour repented of his sins and gave his heart to Jesus. By this testimony, we see **John 20:23** fulfilled, as mentioned in page 12.

Section Three

LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

Luke 11:1 "*And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples to pray.*"

Jesus not only taught His Disciples to pray, He taught them **how** to pray. He taught them to pray persistently with importunity.

Read **Luke 11:5-8**

And He said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed: I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give as many as he needeth.

The word **importunity** is a very powerful word to use in praying, it means to keep insisting, to annoy with frequent demands, not to give rest. The middle of the night is the most unfavorable hour to choose to disturb a person from their soundest sleep and ask them for a favor. Notice the question mark at the end of verse six? It is there for a reason. The person going to his friend during the middle of the night is desperate for an answer to his inquiry and is preparing himself for resistance – will my friend give me some loaves; what is he going to say; how will he respond to me coming to him at this hour? He debated within himself over disturbing his friend and although he met resistance from his friend at first, he reasoned that it was important enough to persevere. He had nothing to set before his guest and decided he would not take no for an answer. Yet, because of his importunity he received as many as he needed. This is saying to always be prepared

for resistance when we pray, and keep insisting.

We see a parallel to this in Luke 18:35-39. When a blind man sitting on the side of the road heard that Jesus was passing by he began to cry out loudly,

Jesus, Thou son of David, have mercy on me, (verse 38)

Although the people around him rebuked him, he persistently continued to cry out to Jesus to get his attention (verse 39); He was desperate to receive a healing. Again we see importunity displayed in order to be healed.

Throughout the Bible there are illustrations of Jesus teaching people to be persistent when they pray. For example in Luke 18:1-8, Jesus shared with his disciples a parable about a persistent widow: This woman displayed importunity till she received.

“There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in the city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continuing coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him? Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on earth?”

There are times we question if God does hear us or even answer our prayer the way we desire Him to. Often, instead of trusting God to answer our prayer the way which is best for us, we discourage ourselves and give up by believing there is no use praying. This, I believe, is

the enemy stepping in with resistance and discouraging us from being persistent in our prayers and not receiving what God has promised us.

The Israelites in Deuteronomy, chapter 1. After roaming in the wilderness for forty years, the Lord said it was time to

...go in and possess the land which the Lord swore (promised) unto your fathers... (Verse 8).

Rather than trusting and obeying what the Lord had told them, they sent twelve of their men to search out the land first. When the men returned they reported the land was good just as the Lord has promised. However, they also discouraged the group by saying the people here were greater and taller than themselves, and the cities were great and walled up to heaven. They discouraged the whole camp with this negative report making them lose sight of what God had promised them and giving the enemy victory over God's plan. The giants seen in the land was the enemy stepping in with resistance to discourage the Israelites and made them doubt to receive their inheritance. Just like the man in Luke 11 and Luke 18, they needed to be persistent – not giving up in believing God would and indeed had already answered their prayers.

There are giants like these in our lives that want to make us believe our prayer will never be answered. Just before the answer comes, the powers of resistance become more intense. It is during these times our faith is put to a test. The powers of darkness (evil) have been stirred up and try to discourage us by putting spiritual distance between us and God. John 6:29 tells

us our labour is to believe in Jesus. We are reminded in Ephesians 6:10,

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

In facing resistance, doubt and discouragement, when we persevere through this, we will receive what God wills for us. This could be personal promises God has made or having our needs met like the man in Luke 18 needed healing, or help like the woman in Luke 18 needed. Praying with importunity, believing and trusting God to help us accomplish his will. Read Isaiah 55:11 encourages us.

Read Luke 11:2 again. The word “say” has significant meaning. Whenever a word is spoke, a sound is uttered and immediately a point of contact has been made. Every word we say is transmitted to someone listening and we enter into the presence of our Father who is listening.

There may arise times in our mind when we doubt and question whether our Father does hear our prayer. The Lord assures us our prayers are heard – he hears every word we say as it is written in

Matthew 12:36-37.

“But I say unto you, that every idle word that man shall speak,

They shall give account thereof in the day of judgment”.

Luke 11:9-10,

...Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find;

*knock and it shall be opened unto you,
For every one that asketh receiveth;
and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh
it shall be opened.*

Verses nine and ten seem to repeat the concept of asking and receiving but with a slight difference between the two. The difference is in verse 10. Jesus is saying that everyone who continually keeps asking; continually keeps seeking; continually keeps knocking will receive because they did not give up; they insisted to receive.

The word “knock” in these verses puzzled me, why would the Lord use the word “knock”? I kept wondering about this, and this came to my mind, the first thing we do when we go to someone’s house is knock on the door and wait. We don’t just walk in, but wait until we receive a reply. In bringing our request before the Lord, quite often we too must wait for an answer. The first thing the man in Luke 11 had to do when he went to his friend’s place at midnight was to knock. Quite possibly too, he had to knock for some time before his friend was woken up. When Jesus uses the word “knock” in Luke 11:10, it could be, at times we have to wait for the answer to come.

There is another example of waiting for a prayer to be answered. Read Luke 1:5-25. It took years for God to answer Zacharias and Elizabeth’s prayer to have a child. Both were “*well advanced in age*” (verse 6), and, “*they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.*” Some prayers are answered in God’s timing because Jesus knows the right timing as how it fits into His plan.

Before I went to bed one night, I was meditating on the verse in Luke 11:9-10 where the Lord said, “*For everyone who asks receives.*” God said He would give us what we ask for, if we ask in His will. About half an hour after I fell asleep, I woke up frightened, struggling for my life. It felt like a hand covered my mouth and nose. This encouraged me, showing how important it is to believe for what we ask, knowing there are spirit beings who resist our prayers being answered. Everyone who keeps asking keeps seeking, keeps waiting will receive. In prayer there is a common hindrance we must overcome, which is, to know and be prepared for stronger resistance that will come before the answer comes.

How do we hear from God to pray in his will?

Read John 14:26. It is the Holy Spirit who puts it on our hearts to pray in His will. This is confirmed in Romans 8:26,

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities;

for we know not what we should pray for as we ought;

but the Spirit itself maketh intercessions for us with groaning (to mourn) which cannot be uttered.

I find it rewarding to spend a quiet time with Jesus. It is in times like this we learn to patiently wait upon Him. Most importantly when I am quiet in his presence, I come to understand He is God (Psalm 46:10).

Prayer is not coming to God with a large work order; He knows what we are going to ask for before we ask Him. When a need arises, we present it in a humble way for His mercy and grace to help.

God is sensitive, desiring and appreciates praise and thanksgiving from us. In a pleasant way not to compel Him to do things. My greatest need is to seek Jesus more than having needs and wants met.

Questions

1. If God forgives us, should we forgive ourselves? (Phil. 3:13 Isaiah 65:16; Hebrews 10:17)
2. What does our Father require from us? (II Chronicles 7:14; John 17:3, 21, 23; Psalms 62:8)
3. Is Jesus the only way to be saved? (Acts 4:12)
4. Can we be saved by our good works? (Based on Acts chapter 10).

Acts chapter 10 answers this question. It speaks about a man named Cornelius who was very devoted to God, all His household honored God. He gave much money to help the poor; always prayed to God and fasted. He was a just man with a good report among the nation of the Jews. God honoured him, but something in his life was lacking.

Then we read an angel was sent by God to warn him, instructing him to send for a man named Peter who would tell him how he and his family might be saved. (Acts 11:14) Cornelius could not earn his salvation by works. Without Jesus it is impossible to be saved.

All our good works cannot die for our sins.

John 3:3 *“Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God”*

CHAPTER 3

Seeking Jesus

A little while ago I dreamt of a young lad who came to our door and handed me a folded piece of paper. A drawing of a large cross was in the upper half of the paper, there were many little crosses on the lower half. I wondered why there was a division; why wasn't the larger cross perhaps drawn among all the other smaller crosses. After meditating on this, I realized this dream was revealing there is a separation between man and God. The dream spoke to me saying – revealing we don't know Jesus as well as we could get to know Him. Whatever divides us from Jesus needs to be addressed. I need to spend more time seeking Jesus to have a deeper relationship with Him.

Several months after I heard a voice say, "Go from the fairy tale to the guaranteed branch." – meaning Jesus is not being honoured like He would will to be honoured. We celebrate and participate in events at Christmas and Easter, and completely miss the true meaning of them. For example, at Christmas time we mainly hear about Santa Claus, his reindeer, and songs of 'Jingle Bells'. At Easter, it's rabbits and Easter eggs and Halloween its pumpkins and ghosts. They have become fairy tales – fictional stories drawing people away from the truth. These holidays aren't made-up stories passed down from generation to generation, these holidays have significant meaning in history, and because of Jesus they should be celebrated to reflect this. Jesus is the guaranteed branch to be honoured as the deity He is; God with us **Matthew 1: 22-23**.

CLEAVING TO THE LORD

That our faith should not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God. I Corinthians 2:5.

The word “stand” can be translated as to remain or exist. When we stand in the presence of God and focus our attention on Him rather than on man or the ways of this world, we will be able to draw closer to God and build a stronger foundation to stand on.

I Thessalonians 3:8 also refers to the word “stand”,

For now we live, if ye stand fast in the lord...

The word “stand” is used to describe something that is established to a point where nothing will move or shake you. This is where we STAND in our walk with Jesus – being firmly fixed on Him, pressing forward trusting in Him, having His will done in our lives. **Psalm 112:7** Relates to this.

STANDING FIRM

Reading God’s Word is like watering His seed in our heart. Every time we seek Him, we start to grow in faith. We grow to stand fixed CLEAVING TO HIM.

(Deuteronomy 4:4) *“But you that did cleave unto the Lord your God are alive every one of you this day.”*

The idea of cleaving is leaving or separating ourselves from something and attaching on to something else. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we leave our old life style and cleave to our new life in Him. It is like our arm being attached to our body; it is a part of us. Likewise we become a part of God’s Kingdom, No one

can separate us from Jesus, read **John 10:28-29**.

Although man can not separate us from God we could draw **ourselves away from Him**. We may get discouraged, we could fall into snares and replace God with things of this world.

What we expose ourselves to and fill our time with, these same behaviours start to mirror in our own lives. Our standard of living can change. Our spirit, like a seed will only grow according to how much we water it with His Word.

Exodus 12 demonstrates this point. A mixed multitude of Israelites and Egyptians went out from Egypt into the wilderness. The word mixed is explained as strands of cloth interwoven into a garment – strong mixed with weak (**Numbers 11:4**). Together the Israelites and the Egyptians had to endure the hardships of the desert. The scripture points out that the Israelites, who were suppressed for hundreds of years were much stronger and more capable of enduring the hardships they would face in the wilderness. The Egyptians on the other hand were less capable of enduring these hardships. They were also quicker to complain about their situation. As more and more Israelites heard the complaints of the Egyptians, they too, started to complain. The spirit of the Egyptians eventually weaved itself into the spirits of the Israelites.

Some of the things we allow, the things we occupy our lives with can become idols in our lives. An idol is any person, place or thing we strongly set our attention on other than God. Idols rob us by decreasing our time with God. (**Mark 12:30**).

A prophesy which is a word from God specifically for a person by someone who is chosen by God to give the Word (**Acts 3:22**) came forth in the home church some time ago about having idols in our lives. The message in the prophesy was that these idols must be removed because God is a jealous God and HE will not share His glory with idols. Read **Deuteronomy 5:7-9**. In a subtle way, idols will separate us from God.

There are different ways of spelling the word “idol”. For example: idol, idle or idyll. Although each word is pronounced the same, their meanings are very different. We know what “idol” means, but let’s take a look at the word “idle”. Idle the act of what we do in our leisure time. It is possible for Satan to take advantage of us during idle times.

Some learned to be idle, and some turned aside to Satan. (1 Timothy 5:13 & 15)

DESIRING HIM

God looks upon the desire of the heart and our longing for Him. Just like Isaiah longed for a greater manifestation of the Lord in **Isaiah 64:1**.

Oh that Thou wouldest rend the heavens, that Thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at Thy presence.

God desired us to have this in our lives – calling out to Him for that same desire to be put in our hearts; desiring God to stir us so that we take hold of Him (Isaiah 64:7) to want

more of Him. Jesus wills for us to seek Him, hunger and thirst for Him, be excited to develop a deeper relationship making every effort to want more of Him. "O taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalms 34:8).

By seeking Jesus we get to know Him better. We soon establish a bond with God that will help us to be prepared for what His will is for us (Isaiah 55:6). When we call upon Jesus, meaning to invite, asking Jesus personally to spend time with us to fill the vacancy in our heart. We seek Jesus to answer our prayer as He delights in us calling upon Him, growing in Him and hungering for more of Him.

BEING HUMBLE DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD

QUESTIONS

1. Is the Lord far from us? Romans 10:6-8 and Deut. 30:10-15.
2. Why does He hide His face from us? Matthew 5:6.
3. Is it rewarding to cleave unto the Lord? Deut. 4:4.
4. Matthew 7:24-27 is another Scripture relating to standing fixed and trusting in the Lord as being a solid foundation.
5. Is God emotional? Can we hurt His feelings? Read Isaiah 49:15-16 and Jeremiah 13:17.
6. Can we have a deeper relationship with Jesus? Matthew 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall **humble** himself as a little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of Heaven."

Deuteronomy 4:29, Isaiah 55:6 and 64:7, Jeremiah 29:13, Hosea 6:6 and Luke 11:9-10.

7. What reward is there in trusting Jesus? Jeremiah 17:7.

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly fellowship is with the Father and his son, Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:3.

CHAPTER 4

Servants of God

QUALIFICATIONS OF A SERVANT

The term “servant” is referred to many times in the Scriptures:

Exodus 14:31,

Moses the servant of the Lord;

Job 1:8, Have you considered my servant Job,

Psalms 89:3, David my servant,

In the New Testament Paul is referred to as,

Titus 1:1 Paul a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ,

II Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ.

A servant is a person giving themselves to do another person's will; one surrendering his free will in obedience to a master; someone who doesn't give orders but waits to receive them and then carry them out. He is a servant, he is no longer his own. Read **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**.

Quality #1. Dependency on God

Matthew 18:2-5.

Jesus called a little child unto Him,

Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Using a child shows great qualifications a servant

should have. A child holds no position in the world, has no opinions, makes no big decisions, has no authority in the home, will do as told to do, puts all his or her trust in the parents totally depending on them, has no responsibility except to obey them. A child is a perfect model of a servant. A child will believe what they hear. Children trust and depend on parents like it is hoped we would trust and depend on God.

Quality #2. Equality – Scriptures relate God regards all members to be equal.

In **Mark 9**, after Jesus cast a demon out of a child, the disciples questioned Him and disputed among themselves as to which of them should be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven. The Lord replied,

“If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. (Verse 35).

The same principal is applied in **I Corinthians 12:20-27**:

Verse 20: *“But now are they many members, yet but one body.”*

Verse 21: *And the eye cannot say into the hand, I have no need of you: nor the head to the feet, I have no need of you.*

Verse 22: *...much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:*

Verse 23: *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable (weaker), upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely (more feeble) parts have more abundant comeliness (greater honour).*

Verse 24: *For our comely parts have no need; but God*

hath tempered (arranged) the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked (the less honourable members)

Verse 25: *That there should be no schism (division) in the body; that the members should have the same care one for another.*

Verse 26: *And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all members rejoice with it.*

Verse 27: *And now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

Quality #3. Humbleness

Another characteristic of a servant is to be humble. Jesus, the greatest Servant of all demonstrated this in **Matthew 3**. When it came time for Jesus to be baptized, He went to His cousin John the Baptist, (**Matthew 3:1-6**). But, John thought it to be only right that Jesus should baptize him because of His Divinity. **Matthew 3:13-15**,

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered Him.

Another illustration of a servant is **Matthew 8:5-13** which is a story about a centurion who was a general in command of a small group of soldiers. He had a sick servant who was very dear to him. He went to Jesus and told Him his servant was grievously tormented. The Lord's

reply was,

I will come and heal him.

The centurion said, *I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but just speak the word and my servant shall be healed.*

He went on to say he himself was a servant and had servants under him.

Verse 9: *For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; to another, Come, and he cometh; to my servant, Do this, and he does it.*

Quality #4. Obedience and Being Subjective to God.

In **Titus 1:1**, Paul's first words are, Paul, a servant of God. In **Titus 2:9** he goes on to relate more deeply into the responsibilities of a servant.

Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again.

The same idea is presented in **Proverbs 29:19**,

A servant will not be corrected by words; even though he understands he will not answer.

In both Scriptures the words 'not answer' is to 'not talk back, not to gainsay'. Even if they are right and accused of being wrong, a servant will not defend himself. This is brought out clearly in I Peter 2:18-23 where Peter relates to servants and Jesus relates this about Himself.

Verse 18: *Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward (a harsh master).*

Verse 19: *For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.*

Verse 20: *For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*

Verse 21: *For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ Also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps;*

Verse 23: *Who when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.*

Jesus who is sinless leaves an example for us to follow His steps. It is pleasing to God when we forgive and endure the trespasses that come against us. Mentally we embrace this teaching developing love and compassion for people. Humility, forgiveness is dying to self, building strong character which God permits His people to partake in, to become more like Jesus.

ANOTHER QUALITY OF A SERVANT IS A WAY OF PEACE

Paul, in **Romans 3:17**, writes, “**The way** of peace have they **not known**.” (I like to look at this verse as ending with a question mark.)

We can read this as – “there is a way of peace that we should know.” **The way** is explained as a road, a progress

or a direction to take or follow; **not known** as not being aware of, not understood.

If we can gain understanding here, then the result is peace in our lives.

Jesus, in **John 14:30**, stated, “Here comes the prince of the world but he has nothing on Me.”

Two questions I ask myself:

1. What is this highway that lead to peace? And
2. What does the prince of this world have on me?

In going back to where we just read in **I Peter 2:18-23** (pg.32), we come to understand Peter is referring to **self-denial**.

I cannot explain self-denial any better than recalling a book I read about a story of a saint who was born in 1873. She was referred to as **the Little Flower** who did no great outstanding things. Her standard of living was: “The smallest act of self-denial is worth more than the writing of pious books or of beautiful poems.” It was soon realized whatever happened in her life she would never complain.

This was the path of mortification trodden by her – *“Please don’t worry about me, I am far too well looked after.”* At the time of her death, there had been rain all day with a cloud covered sky. Just before seven, the clouds broke up and vanished. When St. Therese died, the stars were shining brightly in a clear sky.

Some of the nuns reported to have experienced supernatural happenings: one noticed a very strong smell of violets; one said she felt a kiss given her by an invisible

being, another saw a bright light in the sky, yet another saw a luminous crown rise into space.

St. Therese totally fulfilled the scripture in **Philippians 2:14**, "*Do all things without murmurings (complaining) and disputings.*"

Her strength and delight came from speaking to Jesus, confessing, 'You did so much for me, I can do so little for You'; 'Is not Jesus my only Friend? To Him alone I could open my heart.'

As a servant of God, she knew the way of Peace by accepting and forgiving all wrong done to her...knowing only Jesus saw her heart.

QUESTIONS

1. Other Scriptures which relate to being a servant: Philippians 2:3-5; Romans 12:3, 20, 21; John 13:16; II Corinthians 12:15.
2. What qualifications does God require from us to be called or chosen? 1 Peter 2:18-23, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

CHAPTER 5

Mystery of the World

Jesus created the world, (Read **John 1:10-11**;- **Hebrews 1:2, 10**, but the world is not the Lord's kingdom; (**John 18:36, Matthew 4:8-9**).

Ephesians 6:12:

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.

We don't wrestle against people but against a ruler ruling over the world, and we live in his territory, living in a world influenced by spiritual darkness. Matthew 4: 8-9 explains this:

...the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And He saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Satan reveals his hold on the world.

Viewing this spiritual fact helps to understand why we experience fears and doubts which we struggle with, why at time we have low levels in our spirit man, feeling evil presence, and times of oppression. We know the reason for this as they are spiritual attacks from the rulers of darkness. Daily we hear about murder, crime, violence, drugs, gambling, and drunkenness, divorce, hate, injustice, suicides, etc., which are the works of evil.

Spiritual darkness is just the opposite from spiritual light. Evil characteristics express or convey the idea that you don't have to endure; you have a right to do whatsoever you want to; if it feels good do it. There are no commandments to follow in spiritual darkness, no 'thou shalt not'. If we choose to follow this way the end result of living this lifestyle has a cost that is never ending, unbeatable, being without God forever. Surrendering to God's way, to live the way of righteousness here on earth reaps a reward to forever be with God in eternity. By our free will we choose to follow God. We live in a world which is influenced by powers of deception, God is superior over Satan's power because of the cross where Jesus defeated him. Only through believing in Jesus we overcome the world through His word which abides in us.

Since the beginning of time God created the world, it was meant for people to live forever in a perfect world, without pain, disappointment, sorrow, anger, jealousy, a world with no end.

View of the World in the Psalmists Eyes

Why do the nations live in fear, in violence, anger, crime? Why do the people live in a state like they do? They are unhappy, discontent, empty, complaining with little purpose to life? This is being done by the influence coming from powers of darkness which overpower the earth. These kings set themselves up as rulers and take counsel together against Christ and against His anointed saying, "Let us do away with their teachings, correction, discipline, let us break loose from their ties."

But He that sits in the heavens shall laugh. He shall expose them for what they are. He will mock them; in His

wrath He will trouble them by great discomfort. By God's wisdom be wise there O you Kings of the earth, be instructed you judges and He will show you something. Serve the Lord with great respect and reverence and rejoice with fear. Seek Him while He may be found. Embrace Him, attach yourself to Christ lest He be angry with you and you perish by the way when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed will you be when you flee for protection to Him.

The angel of the Lord is encamped round about them that fear Him, and He delivers them. Taste and see the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusts in Him. O Fear the Lord you people, for there is no want to them that fear Him. Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile. Stay away from evil and do good, seek peace and follow it. Evil shall slay the wicked and they that hate the righteous shall be judged. The Lord is near unto all them that seek His way. Blessed are they that put their trust in Him.

THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS EXPOSED

It is evident there is a battle going on here on earth between two powers not seen by the Human eye, greater than we imagine. There is a much higher form of life after one's death than there is on earth. We prove this by stepping out in faith believing in Jesus, who delivered us from evil.

I would like to relate to this by a true story I heard about an evangelist whom God anointed with a healing ministry. There was a time an evangelist arrived in a country where he was met by a police commissioner and his men at the airport. The commissioner personally presented him with a letter of warning. Its said, 'In this

nation, preaching the gospel in the name of Jesus Christ is strictly prohibited and any mention of Jesus Christ's name was forbidden. Anyone doing so is held liable and put in prison.'

The night of the meeting, thousands of believers of different faiths gathered. All was going well as he presented God's Word, and many miracles of people being healed took place with no mention of Jesus' name. Then a lady stepped onto the stage and said to the evangelist, 'You have a little book which I want. Will you tell me what is written in it? The evangelist froze and tears started coming down his cheeks. She kept insisting on, 'what is written in your book'. The commissioner and his policemen were sitting in the front row. Who do I obey, God or the people who believe in worshiping differently, he thought. He kept hearing an inner voice speaking the Word of Paul the apostle,

"Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel." (I Cor. 9:16).

Then he made his choice in front of all the people. He explained the contents of the little book he wrote – How Jesus Christ came and died for our sins that we might invite Him by asking His forgiveness and take us to be with Him into His kingdom. It was Jesus who healed you. Then he turned to the audience and asked, "How many would like to ask Jesus to come into your lives?" To his surprise, many hands were raised – even the commissioner and his policemen. The preaching of the Gospel is the most powerful tool in God's kingdom – making a difference between life and death in eternity.

It is comforting to know Jesus saved us from living in spiritual darkness. He did this by sacrificing His life

on the cross, purchasing our souls back from Satan (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

V19 “WHAT? KNOW YOU NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YOU HAVE OF GOD, AND YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN?”

V20 “FOR YOU ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD’S.”

I John 4:4: *“Ye are of God little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world; therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.”*

GOD’S GREATNESS OVER THE POWER OF SATAN

Exodus 3 gives us understanding that God’s power is greater. The Lord said to Moses (paraphrased),

I have seen the afflictions of my people. Come now and I will send you unto Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Moses replied unto God,

“When I come unto them and say the God of your fathers hath sent me, they will ask what is His name? What shall I say unto them?”

God’s reply was,

*Say **I am** that **I am** had sent me unto you. Furthermore tell them the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you. **I will** bring you up out*

*of the afflictions of Egypt unto a land flowing with milk and honey. I will stretch out my hand and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in their midst, and **after that** Pharaoh will let you go.*

The Lord in **verse 21** said,

I will give my people favour in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall come to pass that when you go you will not go empty.

There are three things which stand out. The first is the Lord saying ... say **I am that I am** hath sent you, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We read the same in **John 8:58** where Jesus answered the Jews, saying, I say unto you before Abraham was I am. Jesus again made mention of this in **Exodus 6:3** along with relating to being Jehovah, revealing Jesus as God, (**Matthew 1:23**).

The second are the words **after that** which speaks of events that had to follow which the Lord didn't explain to Moses; also the word **when** indicating a period of time. At this time these are hidden to Moses.

Moses obeyed the Lord's command but wasn't quite prepared for the unseen which the Lord had not spoken about, which are "**after that, then**, he (Pharaoh) will let you go." This was a difficult time for Moses to go through, but a valuable time of growing in waiting and trusting.

Moses went to Pharaoh demanding that he let the people go to worship God in the wilderness. Pharaoh strongly refused and made the afflictions of the Israelites more grievous than before – to a point where the Israelites turned against Moses and Aaron saying in **Exodus 5:21**:

Let the Lord look upon you and judge; because you have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh and his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

Then Moses turned to the Lord and said in **verse 22** *Lord, why have You so evilly entreated these people? Why is it that You have sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.*

Exodus 6:1-8, the Lord's answer to Moses was (paraphrased),

*Now you shall see what **I will** do to Pharaoh. I am the Lord, and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God **Almighty**, but **by my name JEHOVAH** was I not known to them.*

The two things that were hidden to Moses showed up which are: **when** these things happen, **then after that** Pharaoh will let you go.

Verse 4-8 (of **Exodus 6:4-8** paraphrased):

*I have established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan. I have also heard the groanings of the children of Israel, and I remembered my covenant. **I will** bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, **I will** rid you out of their bondage. I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgements: **I will** take you to me for a people, **I will** be to you a God: and you shall know that I am the Lord your God. **I will** bring you in unto the land; **I will** give it to you for a heritage: I am the*

*Lord. You shall speak all that I command you. I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply my **signs and wonders** in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh shall not listen unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring my people out by great judgements, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.*

The third thing which stands out are the four miracles the Lord permitted to be performed. As the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, they went and cast down the rod before Pharaoh and it became a snake. Then Pharaoh called his magicians of Egypt. They also in like manner did the same.

The second command the Lord gave was in **Exodus 7:19**:

The Lord spoke unto Moses, say unto Aaron, take the rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the water of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water; that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

The magicians of Egypt also did the same, and Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

The third command the Lord gave was in Exodus 8:5-6:

Say unto Aaron, stretch forth thine hand with thy rod, over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause the frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt.

Verse 6: *Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt and the frogs came up, and covered*

the land. The magicians likewise did the same.

As the magicians were able to perform the three miracles it is likely Moses had questions on his mind as to what was happening. One of the questions quite likely was, 'Where are you God? Are you sure about all this?' He could have just as easily gotten discouraged and given up.

We could look upon this as a lesson of encouragement not to give up no matter how discouraging circumstances may appear. Moses continued to trust in spite of the circumstances, and not question God about the magicians having equal power with God.

The fourth miracle in Exodus 8:16-18 prove God to be greater than the power of Satan.

Exodus 8: 16-18,

"The lord said unto Moses, say unto Aaron, stretch out thy rod and smites the dust of the land that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt."

Verse 17: *"Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast, all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt."*

Verse 18: *"And the magicians did so with their magic to bring forth lice, **but they could not.**"*

Read **Exodus 8: 21-23** (paraphrased),

Now shalt thou see what I will do. I will send swarms of flies upon Pharaoh, upon his servants and upon his people. I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarm of flies shall be there. I will put a division between my people and his people.

We observe the spiritual forces of darkness had power to perform the first three miracles – to do the fourth miracle they were limited in power. The Lord exposed them by revealing to them that they could perform to a point, **after that** the Lord's power takes over. I believe the same applies today. Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. **Compared to the Lord Satan's power is limited**, even in our lives.

A MIRACLE FROM GOD

There were many miracles which took place in Egypt. One which stands out especially is in the parting of the Red sea. As a young believer when I read about all these miracles I thought they were great – but believed they were imaginary. I thought it would be impossible for things like this to take place. Today our oldest son John and myself are convinced God did part the Red Sea for His people to walk across on dry ground.

John had his pilot's license and his own airplane. It was in the year of 1973 – around the end of July on a Sunday afternoon we decided to visit our aunt and uncle. They lived on a farm in Calder which was about thirty to thirty-five minutes away – flying time. For a landing strip we were aware of a well-travelled alfalfa field road which was harvested, and led right to the yard. Our intention for going was to share Jesus with them. As we sat around the table talking, the time was approaching three o'clock in the afternoon. John said we should be going as he had to be at work at five o'clock. When we went outside, we saw a very dark cloud approaching from the west. My uncle suggested we should wait as it could only be a quick shower and would pass over. We were to fly southward and it looked clear, so John said, "Seeing we are going

south we will pass it.” Peter answered that if we didn’t we can turn around and come back.

We started out, After flying about ten minutes the storm closed in on us. We didn’t know where coming back was. A wall of water was hitting the windshield. At a time like this one’s prayer can be very sincere. Then we saw a miracle take place right before our eyes! The clouds split in two and on both sides it looked like walls of water. In the middle was a stream of sunlight which looked like a lit up road. We flew in this for about twenty or twenty-five minutes when suddenly the plane took a ninety degree drop, and plunging downward so sharply I hit my head against the door of the plane. As it continued to descend, right below us was the Esterhazy airport hangar. John was able to take control of the plane and direct it to a safe landing. Oh what a big God we have! He has not changed! He is the same God He always was and is able to do the same miracles today as He did in Egypt. WHEN HE PARTED THE RED SEA.

MYSTERY OF JESUS

Scriptures relate Jesus was with the Father before the creation of the world, (John 17:5). We read in Hebrews 1:2 that the worlds were created by Jesus. We read in Colossians 1:16,

For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth...

Jesus was with the Father in **Genesis 1:1**

In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

In **verse 26-28:** (paraphrased) we read where God said,

...Let Us make man in Our image, male and female created He them. Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.

Jesus was in the Old Testament, or in the Old Covenant known as the First Covenant, which the people could not continue in, (**Hebrews 8:9**),

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in My covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

Verse 7 *For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.*

Verse 8 *writes (paraphrased), God found fault with them and He would make a new covenant with the House of Israel and Judah.*

Prior to the second covenant, Isaiah the prophet writes,

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign;

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel, (Is. 7:14).

In **Matthew 1:23**, an angel appeared unto Joseph in a dream and told him, *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel which being interpreted is, God with us.*

Isaiah 9:6,

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Exodus 6:3 Relates to Jesus

“And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them.”

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is our **Great High Priest** unto Him we confess our sins. **Hebrews 4:14**

In the book of **John chapter fourteen**, Jesus was with Thomas and Philip. In **verse 7**, Jesus relates to Himself,

If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him.

Verse 8: *Philip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*

Verse 9: *Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

Verse 10: *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in Me He doeth the works.*

John 10:30, *“I and the Father are One.”*

(In Spirit United as One)

MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM

Mark 4:11, Jesus tells us, to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God.

When it is on our heart to want to know more of the Kingdom of God, it is certain we will be confronted with some trials.

By seeking Jesus we venture into new territory and are spiritually challenged.

John 10:10 Writes, *I (Jesus) am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

DISCUSSION

1. Consider the greatness of Jesus; Colossians 1:16-20; John 1:1-10.
2. Why is it important not to be in the world? I John 2:15-17; John 14-30; Matthew 4:8-9; James 4:4.
3. Are we called to share the Gospel? Mark 16:15; II Timothy 4:2.

CHAPTER 6

Armour of God

Ephesians 6:10: *“Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil.”*

Note the word **of**. It is the armour **of God**, God’s armour we put on.

By putting on the whole armour **of God**, we withstand the devil’s trickery, deceit and craftiness.

What is the armour of God? **Titus 2:10** explains it is His Word which protects us ---“*Not purloining (stealing), but shewing **all good fidelity**; that they may **adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, in all things.***”

Showing all good fidelity is keeping one’s promise to be trustworthy, Faithful, to be true and loyal.

Adorn to beautify self, deck oneself, decorate (adorn oneself with His word as armour).

Doctrine of God – the teachings of **God**, His Word; to adorn oneself with His Word decreases the enemy’s attacks; by partaking of **His Word**, we are not leaving doors opened to come under attack.

Ephesians 6:11: tells us to: Put on the whole

armour of God. Something which is required of us is to embrace God's teachings. This is what Paul instructs us to do in **Ephesians 4:22-32** – to put off the old man, the old nature, and to put on the new man. The old man is the man of the world and the new man is Christ-like – having His nature being formed in us.

Verse 22: *That you put off concerning the former conversations, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.*

Verse 23: *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*

Verse 24: *And that ye put on a new man, which after God is created (created like God) in righteousness and true holiness.*

Paul further adds to this by saying there are things we must put off. One is **anger** – anger is like a sudden storm, repent of it quickly. Another is **wrath** – which is severe stored up energy, seeking revenge with passion to injure oneself or others. It is related to malice, to want to get even.

Verse25: *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members of one another.*

Verse26: *Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath: -- upon wanting to get even.*

Verse27 *Neither give place to the devil.*

Verse28: *Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

Verse29: *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

Verse30 *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

Verse31: *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.*

Verse32: *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Over the years I've read this verse of Scripture many times. One morning as I read **verse 32**, it was like a finger pointing to the power there is in the word "you" – like an arrow hitting the bull's eye on target. Much emphasis was put on the word "**you**". The Holy Spirit is saying:

"You be kind one to another."

"You be tenderhearted one to another."

"You forbear one another."

"You love one another."

"You forgive one another."

These are powerful words revealing the nature of love and forgiveness.

I alone am responsible to fulfill this Scripture regardless of how others respond to me. Even if I am treated in an ill manner I must forbear and forgive. Jesus said, Love one another with no stipulations attached. There is no focus on any return as the word "you" applies only to you. It is not what others think about me, it is what I think of others in terms to love them.

In **2 Corinthians 12:15**, Paul relates to this,
And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you

*though the more abundantly I love you, **the less I be loved**, -- a powerful verse to practice in dying to self.*

Colossians gives us a similar exhortation about “putting off” certain kinds of conduct.

Colossians 3:5: *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection (passionate desire) evil concupiscence (unlawful pleasure), and covetousness (eager for gain), which is idolatry.*

Verse 10: *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.*

Then in **verses 12 and 13** Paul tells us what to “put on.”

Verse 12: *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels (tender) mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering;*

Verse 13: *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

Verse 14: *And above all these things put on charity, which is the **bond of perfectness**.*

As was mentioned earlier, Satan has no weapon formed against love.

A KEY OF UNDERSTANDING

Earlier we mentioned a verse of Scripture in

Colossians 1:12-13:

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Verse 13: *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.*

This is a rewarding verse of Scripture to understand and remember. It is a **key** to decrease demonic attack as well as other Scripture which cannot be changed; all Scripture is forever settled in heaven. **Matt. 24:35:**

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

Demons know **Col. 1:13**, when we don't understand the meaning of this verse, they take advantage over us. We are able to confront them with it when we take hold of what this means.

Colossians 1:12 reads we are to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light ... To be partakers of things in Christ's Kingdom tells us something happened. We were delivered from evil, and were translated in to the Kingdom of Jesus. This is where God begins working in our lives by **molding** and **reshaping** us into His image to become more Christlike. At this point in our walk, we could become somewhat confused between **God working in us** and **Satan hindering us**. By not totally understanding what took place here, it seems natural to us to rebuke Satan which only makes matters worse for

us. Satan delights in this as he is getting attention. It is not always Satan attacking but God working in us trying to reshape and mold us to what He wants us to become – by us partaking in what He wills for us. The more attention we give Satan the more we encourage him. The less attention we give him, or resist him, the sooner he will flee. Rather than rebuke, we embrace what God wants us to be partakers of; having our focus on Jesus. *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”* **Philippians 2:13**.

Our life style has to line up with the Word of God as much as possible – adorning ourselves with His Word as our armour. Otherwise we leave the door opened for being attacked. Should we fall short in any area, we could repent, asking God to forgive us.

A WEAPON AGAINST ATTACKS

Jesus overcame the enemy by using scripture in **Luke 4:3 to 13** Each time Satan came, Jesus quoted scripture, saying **“it is written.”** For us to debate against the attack prolongs the situation and brings discouragement. We could accept Jesus’s advice, developing a habit, and to building a hedge of protection around us, by applying scripture to the areas in need: saying, **“it is written.”**

Using **Luke 10:19** For Example: *“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

OUR WILDERNESS WALK

Hebrews 3:5-6: *And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; Verse 6:* *But Christ as a son over His own house; whose house we are; if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

Hebrews 12:2: *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;*

The following verses further illustrate this:

Philippians 2:12-15: *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

Verse 14: *Do all things without murmuring and disputing (complaints).*

Verse 15: *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*

Hebrews 12:5-8: (5-8 are paraphrased) *My son, don't turn away from the correction or discipline of the Lord.*

Verse 7: *If we endure chastening, God deals with us as sons;*

Verse 8: *But if we don't, of which we are all partakers; we are not His and not sons.*

I Peter 4:12-13: *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.*

Verse 13: *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; ...*

The purpose of our wilderness walk is in **Hebrews 13:21**

*Make you **perfect** in every good work **to do His will**, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever, also **Luke 1:17**: ...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

In submission to this understanding, I have experienced my walk to be considerably more restful. It is entering into **His** rest. It isn't that at times I am not hindered by attacks or testing, instead of resisting as I used to, I accept what our Lord allows and remind myself I am in His Kingdom and His way brings more peace and lessens the attacks.

TEST THE SPIRITS

Evil spirits will not give up easily, they are overcome through Jesus. One thing very profitable in dealing with demonic attacks is to test the spirits. Whenever our spirit seems to be troubled or heavy, or when we are in doubt as to whether we should do this or that, we can try this disturbed feeling by asking, "Lord, do you permit this?" If this isn't in Your will would You give me Your peace? By asking, most of the time the heavy feeling lifts and peace comes, Read **1 John 4:1**.

A verse of Scripture confirming this is **Colossians 3:15**: *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Also, **Romans 16:20**: And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.* Not only does the Lord hear us, but He knows what we think. I woke up one morning with a burden to phone a certain person which seemed to be going through a difficult time. This kept pressing on my

mind all morning. I reasoned, is this what I should do? If it is, I will do it. If it isn't Lord, would You give me Your peace. Instantly the feeling lifted without a word spoken.

JUDGMENT

It was helpful to understanding how Satan uses **judgment, condemnation, lust of the flesh and unforgiveness** to his advantage. In understanding this, I gained more victory over the battle in my mind which I often experienced.

Ephesians 6:12: *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.*

Our enemy is not flesh and blood, our battle is not against people. Satan would like to make us think it is against people, our warfare is against spirits who want to blind the eyes of the people, spirits try to deceive us, turn our hearts against one another. Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, to do good, not to judge them but forgive them, pray for them.

Matthew 7:1-3: (paraphrased) *Judge not that you be not judged.*

Why behold the speck in your brother's eye, but not Consider the beam in your own eye. For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged.

Romans 2:1: (paraphrased) *You have no excuse when you judge another, for when you judge another, you condemn yourself, for you that judge do the same **things**.*

I once heard a person say, "It is far more rewarding to observe and pray for people than to judge them." I have fallen short many times.

CONDEMNATION

The mind is the battlefield which comes under attack. The harvest of the attack on the mind is that it brings much torment, feelings of guilt, oppression, and condemnation.

Paul encourages us to protect our mind with truth, by avoiding any fellowship with sin. In **Ephesians 6:14**, he writes, (paraphrased)

Stand firm, having the loins of your mind protected with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

This is sound advice but I still feel condemned at times. **I John 1:9** exhorts us,

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

WHAT CONDEMNATION MEANS?

It is helpful to understand two things: First, condemnation comes from our adversary the devil: **REV.12:10** "For the accuser of our brethren is cast down which accused them before our God day and night."

Second, to be condemned is to be pronounced to be utterly

wrong, found guilty, sentenced to punishment.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

The condemnation that comes is from the accuser of the brethren which we overcome by testing the spirit.

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God. (1 John 4:1)

LUSTS OF THE FLESH

Galations 5:16; *Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

The word “fulfill” means to bring it to pass, completion, perform, put into action.

I believe many would agree it is a common experience to have the enemy fill our mind with impure, unclean thoughts and have them masquerade as legitimate thoughts, camouflaging them as if they were our own. They are fiery darts from the powers of darkness tormenting the mind with accusations of having the lust of the flesh. Dreams, thoughts condemn us in our mind, make us feel bad to lose our joy. The Word of God tells us we are not guilty **unless we fulfill them.**

James 1:15; *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth death.*

At a Promise Keepers convention, after the convention everyone was asked to pray for one another. A young lad came to me and asked if I would pray for him

to be set free from a spirit of lust. He said he keeps being tormented by unclean thoughts in which he admitted he had no involvement. I explained to him these were not his thoughts as he was resisting them. They were fiery darts which the enemy casts at us to make us feel guilty, and he was not guilty of them unless he fulfilled them. I could see a big smile come on his face.

I Peter 4:12; *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.*

Verse 13; *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings.*

In **John 8:4** a woman was taken in the very act of adultery and brought before Jesus. The accusers wanted her to be stoned. Jesus replied, He that is without sin, let them cast the first stone (paraphrased). As Jesus kept writing on the sand, one by one left. The Lord's reply to her was, I do not condemn you, **go and sin no more!**

I John 1:9; If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

FORGIVENESS

How important is forgiveness, and what benefits are there to forgive?

Matthew 6: 14-15 brings out one benefit.

If you forgive men their trespasses (meaning sins), your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Verse 15; But if ye forgive not men their

trespasses, neither will our Father forgive your trespasses.

II Corinthians 2:10-11, Paul is addressing the church where the church body is forgiving a certain person. **Paul is uniting with them** – in order to overpower Satan, and strengthening the forgiveness in the presence of Christ.

Verse 10: *To whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also; for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgive I it in the person of Christ.*

Verse 11; *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

The meaning of forgiveness in the Greek Concordance relates to having many benefits which are: deliverance, freedom, pardon, happiness, a divine influence **upon the heart**, to be set free.

John 20:23 speaks about forgiveness which says, *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them, and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

Our unforgiveness is a power exercising dominion over a person, a link of chain Satan uses as bondage.

Luke 23:34; When Jesus was crucified, His prayer was, *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*

Had Jesus not forgiven, the world would be lost without salvation. Today we have eternal life through His forgiveness.

Acts 7:60; When the Jews stoned Stephen, Paul was making havoc of the church by consenting to his death.

Stephen kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, Lord; lay not this sin to their charge. Whether this was an answer to Stephen's prayer or not, we know after this the Lord called Paul into the ministry. Paul was forgiven.

Another Scripture on forgiveness is in **II Samuel 16:5**. King David came to Bahurim and there was a man who came out of the family of the house of Saul whose name was Shimei; and he cursed David as he came.

Verse 6; *And as he cursed, he cast stones at David and all his servants (paraphrased).*

Verse 11; *David's reply was, Let him alone, and let Him curse; For the Lord hath bidden him.*

Verse 12; *It may be that the Lord will look on mine affliction, and that the Lord will requite (reward) me good for his cursing.*

In Chapter 19:18-19 we see the results of David's forgiveness.

Verse 18; (paraphrased) *And Shimei fell down before the king, as he came over Jordan.*

Verse 19; (paraphrased) *And said, let not My Lord impute iniquity unto me, neither remember what I did perversely, and don't take it to heart.*

Verse 20; (paraphrased) *For you know I have sinned.*

Because of Shimei's repentance, King David said

unto him, *You shall not die.* (paraphrased, verse 23).

We Minister By Forgiving

As Jesus forgave us we too must forgive others. Not to forgive others who hurt us is to hold ourselves and others in bondage, allowing bitter roots to grow inside our heart. Satan works this two-fold- as well as holding others to be bound, he hardens our heart making it hard for us to forgive. In both cases we are losers with devastating results by Satan taking advantage over us. When we separate sins from people who hurt us we set them free by not laying the charge on them. Vengeance belongs to God, He will determine right from wrong -(**Romans 12:19**).

THERE IS POWER IN THE WORDS WE SAY.

In knowing Jesus we have an opponent who is not too pleased with us.

Ephesians 6:12 *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

Luke 10:19 *“Behold, I give unto you power (authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

Matthew 18:18 *“Verily I say unto **you**, **whatsoever you shall bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (referring to **you**, one person).*

V19 *“Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall*

ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.” Either way, singular or plural, through Jesus we have the same power to agree and to disagree when evil comes against us.

I disagree with you attacking my body, You are not welcomed here. Remove your presence from my body in the power of Jesus name. No evil can withstand the power of God.

Matthew 21:22 *“And **all things, whatsoever**, you shall ask in prayer, **believing**, you shall receive.”*

Note: two words which stand out, **all things** and **whatsoever**, includes everything.

Our body responds to words positive or negative, the words we say have power.

Proverbs 18:21 *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*

DISCUSSIONS

1. **Is there any disadvantage in judging others?** (loss of peace.) Romans 14:10-13.
2. **What advantage is there to not judge?** Romans 12:17-21; Romans 14:16-19.
3. **Who is the old man?** (Man of the world; the old nature.) Colossians 3:8-9.
4. **Who is the new man?** Galatians 4:19; 6:15; Colossians 3:10-14.
5. **Will we still feel condemnation at times even when we are not condemned?** Revelation 12:10.

6. **Would peace be the reward of forgiveness?**
Galatians 5:22; Romans 3:17; Ephesians 6:15; I Peter 3:11; Roman 12:17-19; 15:33.
7. **Why do we experience fiery darts?** I Peter 4:12-13; 5:8
8. **Is there more advantage to come into agreement with someone else in forgiving, and why?** II Corinthians 2:10-11, 2:7; I John 5:14-16.
9. **Can we ask forgiveness for others?** John 20:23.
10. **Are there other benefits to forgiveness?**
Colossians 3:15.
11. **Do the Scriptures encourage forgiveness?**
Romans 12:19-20.
12. **Does darkness hold any power over love?**
Romans 13:10.
13. **Can Romans 13:10 be overdone?** Proverbs 25:17.
14. **What are some ways we are delivered from the power of darkness?** James 4:7-8; I Peter 5:6-10.
15. **Should we verbally attack the devil?** Jude 9; II Peter 2:10-12; I Peter 2:23.
16. **How did Jesus overcome Satan?** Matthew 4:1-11.

Chapter 7

Who is the Holy Ghost

When we become the children of God through Jesus, we can be baptized in the Holy Ghost. It is a gift we received from God. I heard this said in the church but knew nothing as to what it meant. One evening I knelt and spoke words similar to, "Jesus if you will for me to have this gift I would like to have it!" As I spoke this something quite dramatic went through my body which caused me to tremble...words started coming I didn't understand.

It was a beautiful experience which I have never forgotten. Many today have been blessed with this gift and gotten to know that the Holy Ghost does dwell in us, **II Timothy 1:14**

Understanding the Holy Ghost

Jesus replies,

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for **You** that **I go away**; for if I go not away, **the Comforter will not come unto you**; **but if I depart, I will send Him** unto you, **John 16:7**.*

Who is the Comforter?

*The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **John 14:26**.*

The power of the Holy Ghost

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost, **Matthew 1:18***

Luke 1:35,

*And the angel answered and said unto her, **the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that Holy One which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.***

How do we receive the Holy Ghost?

Luke 11:4...*In the Lords' Prayer we ask Jesus to **forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us**".*

*By saying **this prayer with a sincere heart to Jesus** we receive **our salvation** which changes our life. The same way we asked Jesus to forgive us our sins; we come and ask our **Father** for the gift of **The Holy Spirit** to come upon us.*

Acts 2:38; *Then Peter said unto them, **repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

Many of God's people have already received and experienced this gift, it is for every believer who asks and is prevalent today. (Chapter 9 - Page 79)

The Holy Ghost Dwelling in Us

The Holy Ghost came down to earth but He does not dwell in the world, He does not dwell in church buildings nor in temples and not in our houses. we prove this as to where the Holy Ghost dwells in the following scriptures.

John 14:17 "*Even the Spirit of truth whom **the world***

cannot receive **because** it seeth Him not, **neither knoweth Him, but** you know Him for He **dwelleth** with you and **shall be in you.**”

The word “ **dwell**” means **to stay** or **continue**, to have a **permanent residency** in any **state** or **condition**. The Holy Ghost will dwell “**with us forever**”, even into eternity, (paraphrased) **John 14:16**. He is with us, in the state of our marriage, daily life, health; through all conditions He dwells in us. Relating this to **Psalms 91:1-16**

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

*The Psalmist speaks of obstacles which arise around us; we are exposed to the snare of the fowler, noisome pestilence, terror by night, arrow that flies by day, pestilence that walks in darkness, destruction that wastes at noon, He protects you from plagues, lions, adders and dragons. By dwelling in the secret place and abiding under the shadow of the Almighty, the Holy Ghost dwells in us through all difficult times, fulfilled by a key word ***because.*** (paraphrased) *I will be with you in trouble, I will deliver you, and honour you, ***because*** you set your love upon me: I will set you on high ***because*** you have known My name.**

Who is the Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost is God, as the Father and Jesus are.

*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus) and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. **1 John 5:7.***

Jesus addresses the Holy Ghost as a male person,

John 16:13-14... *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. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of mine and shall shew it unto you.*

The Holy Ghost gives gifts

I Corinthians 12:8-11 (paraphrased)... *to one He gives the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge, to another faith, to another the gifts of healing; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues: dividing to every man severally as He wills.*

The Holy Ghost is very gentle and will come in **His own timing** when we invite Him. He will confirm His presence with the gift Peter spoke about. Can we imagine the love our God has for His people – He, coming from heaven and **confirming His coming with gifts**. When this is fulfilled in your life, believing is an alleged fact standing on the **ground of evidence, believing becomes receiving**.

This verifies the Scriptures are true. Eternal life is real and no one can take away this truth. With this evidence no one will dispute God is not real.

*Faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Hebrews 11:1***

By this we know there is a **higher form of life** in this world.

THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

In **Luke 24:49**, Jesus gives these instructions,

And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye (wait) in the City of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Before Jesus was taken up to Heaven, Jesus made a promise in **Acts 1:8** where He said,

Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

The words “*after that*” mean to follow. At this point Jesus was taken away and the disciples were left on their own with a command to

Wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4)

Acts 1:14: *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. “Supplication”-meaning to humbly keep seeking and waiting for the power to come from on high. Today we also wait for the power of God as in the days of the disciples.*

In **Acts 10:38**, we are told,

How God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

There is a difference between being baptized in the Holy Ghost and being anointed in the Holy Ghost with power.

Acts 1:8 *You shall receive power **after that** the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and all Judaea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the Earth.*

Being baptized with the anointing power of the Holy Ghost which is promised to come, supernatural power as the disciples received.

Jesus tells us to wait for the promise of the Father for the power, **Luke 24:49**. With the power of the Holy Ghost, the disciples were able to perform supernatural power.

Discussions

1. Is it our Father's will to give us the Holy Spirit?
Luke 11:13.
2. Can we have communion with the Holy Ghost? **II Corinthians 13:14.**
3. Does He lead to evangelize? **Acts 10:19-20**
4. Does the Holy Ghost express a heart of love? **Rom. 5-5, II Cor. 1:22**
5. In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us? **Romans 8:26-27; I Corinthians 2:9-10.**
6. Does the Holy Ghost have feeling and emotions?
Ephesians 4:30; Mark 3:29.

CHAPTER 8

Led by the Spirit not by Works

Being led by the Spirit is trusting and waiting for the Holy Spirit to direct His people to do as He wills.

Galatians 5:5.

For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. By being obedient to the Spirit, we are justified by faith in Christ and are no longer bound to the works of the law.

Galatians 2:16.

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

If I try to serve God by striving to justify myself, going ahead of God, doing works on my own: Jesus has become of no effect. According to **Galatians 5:4**, I separate myself from Jesus and from His grace, unintentionally, I am trying to build His kingdom on my own without being led by the Spirit. (**Psalms 127:1, Galatians 5:18**).

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT VERSUS THE LAW OF WORKS

What is the Law of works? “Law” is a set of rules passed down by a lawmaker. These rules are then put into practice as a guide to daily living. To the best of one’s ability we live by God’s law and no longer abide under the works of the Law. **Galatians 2:19** says,

For I through the law am dead to the law, that I

might live unto God.

From this point we advance unto the law of the Spirit of life

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Abiding in the law of the Spirit of life Jesus walked in, would be accomplishing God's perfect will **John 5:19**

The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Zechariah 4:6

Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

To be led by the spirit would require **dying to self** and submitting to the Holy Spirit, **Galatians 2:20**,

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: The life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

The word 'now' speaks of a complete turnaround – believing in Christ Jesus to take full control of one's life. I can do the works of the law, **but** I cannot do the works of the Spirit without the Spirit to guide.

WHAT DOES DYING TO SELF MEAN?

A preparation to do what God wills us to do.

COLOSSIANS 3: 9-10 - Writes, "*We put off the old man and put on the new man.*" John the Baptist explains this in **John 3:30**. "*He (Jesus) must **increase** and I must **decrease**.*"

Hebrews 12:5 - 7 - "*My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of Him : For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If you endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons...*"

Verse 10 - He chasteneth "*for our profit, that we might be partakers of His Holiness.*"

BEING JUSTIFIED BY WAITING AND NOT BY OWN WORKS

In **Genesis Chapter 15 and 16**, we learn waiting is a perfect way before God. Abraham and Sarai received a promise from God, (paraphrased) **Genesis 15:4-5**

He that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: so shall thy seed be.

After eleven years with the promise not being fulfilled, Sarai said, **Genesis 16:2** (paraphrased)

It may be that I may obtain children by Hagar, our handmaid.

By not waiting was not the right decision for Sarai and Abraham to make. Hagar gave birth to a son which Abram named Ishmael. When Abram was ninety-nine years old and Ishmael was thirteen years old, God appeared unto Abram to confirm His covenant with him saying,

Sarah shall bear a son indeed and you shall call his name Isaac, (paraphrased) **Genesis 17:19.**

In spite of a time element in waiting, waiting proved to be a perfect way to serve God.

HOW CAN WE BE LED BY THE SPIRIT?

By my free will, I received salvation, asking Jesus to come into my heart. The same way I received salvation, the same way I ask the Holy Spirit to come dwell in me – which He does in His own time and in His own way. My prayer and desire is that He may have His way to do His will in my life.

To understand the leading of the Holy Spirit is to know He can move upon our heart. He will **quicken** our heart – see **I Peter 3:18**. He will stir upon our heart - **Act 17:16**. He will press our spirit to activate it to do what He wills – **Acts 18:5**. **The Holy Spirit will speak through dreams, Matthew 1:20; 2:12-13.**

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

DISCUSSIONS

1. What Scriptures encourage us to be led by the Spirit? Galatians 5:18; Romans 4:3-5; Romans 8:14.
2. What Scriptures can we use as a foundation to be led by the Spirit? Hebrews 4:1-11; Galatians 5:1; Galatians 5:4-5; Galatians 5:13; Romans 11:6.
3. How are we crucified with Christ? I Corinthians 15:31.
4. How can the word 'quickeneth' be applied in John 6:63?

The Holy Spirit is able to overpower and guide people to do as He wills.

Chapter 9

Knowing How Believers Become Receivers

(reading from the King James version)

John 1:12, *...but as many as received Him (Jesus) to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name;*

There is hidden knowledge of God in this verse. The word power which is used here has many **qualifications** and is known as **exousia power**; there is also **dunamis** power, (miracle working power) which is different from exousia power. Exousia relates to having **authority power, liberty, privilege, exercise, freedom, strength, take control.**

The same meaning for power is referred to in **Luke 10:19**...*”Behold, I give unto you power (authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you”. This authority power, Jesus gave His disciples to exercise over demonic forces.*

ARE WE INCLUDED?

Colossians 1:12-13... *giving thanks to the Father who has made us to be **partakers** of the inheritance of the saints in light. V.13 who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear son.*

This authority power Jesus gives to every child of God to exercise, to take a stand, resist, saying no to **all** evil attacks.

Our dependency is on Jesus.

John 15:5...*Jesus is the vine and we are the branches: without me you can do **nothing**.*

John 1:12...*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*

Note the words **received** and **believe** – in the body of Christ there are **receivers** and **believers**.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

John begins with the word, **but**: He wants to get our attention. **But as many as received Him (Jesus) to them gave He power**: Then He goes on to say **even to them** that **believe on His name**. The Spirit uses the word **even** which includes the believers, this is **not saying** they have become receivers. Received is something you have received, it is past tense. **But** the promise is made **even** to the believers. The Will of God is for the believers to receive the same as the receivers received.

WHAT IS IT THE BELIEVERS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED?

The word even, is a key word, relates to after that – even after you believe you shall receive the promise of the Holy Ghost.

Ephesians 1:13 explains how to become a receiver.

*In whom (in Jesus) you also trusted **after that you heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation**: In whom (The Holy Ghost) also, after that you believed you were **sealed** with that **Holy spirit of promise!***

SEALED

Ephesians 4:30... and grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Received (sealed with) a gift the Holy Spirit gives us.

THE PROMISE WE RECEIVE BY ASKING

Luke 11:13... *How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*

John 1:12... *but as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*

Every human being on earth God created, God gave **all** free will to choose, including eternal life. **By exercising our free will, we also receive the promise,** by asking.

Joel 2:28... *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy and your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.*

Acts 2:39... *For the promise (evidence) is unto you and your children, and all that are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

THE HOLY GHOST

John 14:16: *And I will pray to the Father and He shall give you another Comforter that He may abide with you forever.*

John 14:26: *But the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

Act 1:2: *Until the day in which Jesus was taken up, after that Jesus through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen.*

Romans 8:11: *But if the Spirit of Him that raised Jesus from the dead **dwell in you**, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING IN US

Scriptures tell us we can **have communion** with the Holy Spirit. In putting our trust in Him we establish a relationship with Him, He is our helper. By us submitting to the Spirit, He wills to do God's work through us. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, He is our friend, very gentle, sensitive and easily grieved. **Ephesians 4:30**

II Corinthians 13:14: *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God **and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.***

CHAPTER 10

Cleansing the Heart

Luke 6:45, ... *...for of the abundance of the heart his (man's) mouth speaketh.*

In **Luke chapter one**, we can see this took place in Zacharias' heart. Elizabeth and Zacharias found themselves to be childless after receiving no answer to prayer. Now they are both well stricken in years. This left Zacharias with a hidden hurt in his heart and possibly with resentment why their prayer was not answered. Next, we read Gabriel came to Zacharias and said,

...your prayer is heard, your wife shall bear you a son.
(**Luke 1:13**, paraphrased).

In hearing these words, Zacharias' heart manifested itself by his answer.

How shall I know this is true? I am an old man and my wife well stricken in years. (paraphrased).

Gabriel wasn't too pleased with Zacharias' reply

I am sent by God to speak to you and because you did not believe my words, you shall be dumb and not be able to speak until the day these things shall be performed and fulfilled in their season.
(paraphrased).

The message we get is to not allow the hurts to remain in our heart. By us releasing the hurts to the Lord is to not allow our heart to harden. If not dealt with, hurts will in time expose themselves to our disadvantage.

Moses was faced with a challenge:

Numbers chapter twenty. The people were complaining to Moses about the difficulties they were experiencing in the wilderness walk in the desert. They said (paraphrased),

This is an evil place; no place to plant seeds, no fruit, no vegetable, no water to drink. Why have you made us to come out of Egypt?

We get a picture of what Moses was faced with – surrounded with pressure put on him by many people complaining. Aaron and Moses withdrew themselves from the congregation to seek the Lord. The Lord instructed them (paraphrased),

Take the rod and speak to the rock before the people, before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water for them and their animals to drink.

In obedience, Moses replied to the people,

Hear now ye rebels; must we fetch (bring) you water out of this rock?

Moses being stressed, instead of speaking to the rock struck it twice to release the pressure in his heart.

From the abundance of our heart our mouth speaks.

SUBMITTING TO GOD

Scriptures tell us God's people, go through wilderness training where He purges His people to make stronger in the Lord.

John 15:5; *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I am in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.*

Verse one tells us the Father prunes every branch that it might bear fruit. The natural tendency of a fruit tree is to grow taller, and by pruning the tree It remains smaller and bears more fruit.

What Jesus is saying go hand in hand with **Hebrews Chapter 3** – which involves us.

Verse 1, *Holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession Christ Jesus.*

The word “consider” means to take another look – look once again at who Jesus is. **Hebrews Chapter 3:3-8** explains, when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses was faithful in building a house in the wilderness – “house” relates to our soul, spirit and body as a temple for the Holy Spirit to dwell in. Moses was building character into peoples lives by taking them through difficult times in the wilderness. Today, Jesus is also building His house of which we are.

Verse 7: *Wherefore, as the Holy Ghost saith, today if ye will hear His voice,*

Verse 8: *Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation (testing), in the day of temptation in the wilderness.*

The meaning of the word “provocation” is to provoke, to excite, to stimulate – all for the purpose of growing stronger in the Lord.

TO TRUST AND DEPEND ON THE LORD

The same promise given to the Israelites, is given to us in **Hebrews 4:1-3,**

Let us therefore fear (meaning to be reverent), lest, a Promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Verse 2: *For unto us was the gospel preached, as Well as unto them; but the word preached did not Profit them, not being mixed with faith.*

Verse 3: *For we which have believed do enter into rest.*

The Lord is referring to this as **His rest**, coming to rest in Jesus.

We understand the training program service men and police officers go through in order to prepare them for duty. With this in mind we see a similar parallel in the spiritual – the Lord leading His people and training them to bear fruit for His kingdom to shine as lights in the world.

I am reminded of a scene I saw watching TV. An army sergeant was in charge of a platoon of men which he marched to a slime pit. On command he ordered them

to drop, then rise. This continued for a half dozen times. You could see only the whites of their eyes. The rest of their faces and bodies were covered with mud. Their eyes were filled with hate – thinking the sergeant was doing this to spite them. When they returned to camp and got all cleaned up, they were called to order and the sergeant spoke these words to them, “Men, I know what you went through and the feeling you had towards me for putting you through this. I didn’t provoke you for the sake to irritate you; I did this to save your lives. There will be times in battle when training like this will be beneficial to you.”

At times in my life I don’t understand why things happen like they do. It is rewarding to come to rest and trust in the Lord to see me through difficult times. I experience peace when I embrace the things He allows me to walk in, in order to grow in belief in Him. In accepting what He permits, believing in Jesus increases. Acceptance comes before understanding.

What does believing mean? Luke 1:37 – It is written, For with God nothing shall be impossible. A man brought his son to Jesus to be delivered from a dumb spirit (see **Mark 9:17**).

Jesus said unto him ... *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.* **Mark 9:23.**

Is there more to what Jesus meant when He said this? – Are there different levels to believing.

This man answered – *Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief.*

Can we read more into this: – John 14:29, “And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.”

Believing is an alledged fact standing on the ground of evidence. Evidence gives birth to knowing scripture is true.

By believing we received our salvation. Our believing increases, grows stronger, trusting Jesus when we go through trying times.

QUESTIONS

1. Can I overcome the hurts or cares of life which build up in my heart?

James 4:10: I Peter 5:6-7: Psalms 62:8.

2. Other Scriptures which relate to going through trials: Psalm 51:7; Psalm 79:9; Luke 3:17, Hebrews 12:5-8.

CHAPTER 11

COMMUNICATION WITH JESUS

By starting out in our spiritual walk Paul refers to us as Babes in Christ, going from the milk stage to the strong meat stage. As babies, we depended on our mother for food, the milk stage. From here we grow and become of full age as Paul said we go unto the strong meat stage. In the life of our Christian walk we go from the milk stage to the strong meat stage.

JOHN 6:2

A great multitude followed Jesus when they saw the miracles Jesus did. But what did Jesus do? He went up unto the mountain with His disciples. When the people saw He left they followed Him unto the mountain where Jesus fed them. Then those men when they saw the miracle they were convinced Jesus was the one they were expecting to come. Jesus knew they would take Him by force to make Him a king so He departed again from them. The disciples went to Capernaum by boat and later Jesus meet with them. When the crowd saw Jesus and the disciples had gone they too set out seeking Jesus. When they meet up with Him this is where Jesus starts His ministry, taking them from being babes in Christ unto full age.

V26. Jesus said, *“You don’t seek me because you saw the miracles but because you ate of the loaves and were fed”* (In other words: why are you not seeking me?)

V27 *“Don’t labor for the meat which perisheth but*

labor for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life”

Hebrews 5:13-14

Paul addresses this –

“Everyone that uses milk is a babe but strong meat belongs to them that are of full age”

John 6

V28 Then the people replied *“What shall we do that we might do the works of God?”* Note: the word, **works** (if we could do the works of God, we would do great miracles, we would heal people, we would pray for food to come from heaven). *but* this was not what Jesus had intended for us. Jesus pointed out the difference between the works of God and the work of God.

V29 *“This is the work of God that you believe on Him whom God sent.”*

The words in this verse are very direct. Our labour is to believe on Jesus, Jesus holds the keys that unlock the doors of heaven.

Matthew 28:18

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

LABOUR TO BELIEVE ON JESUS

If I would take these words as a seed and plant them in my heart to take root, in time I trust Jesus would fulfill as He wills. Seeds take time to grow, and patience

waiting to hear to do His will.

John 15:5

“I am the vine you are the branches: he that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without me you can do nothing.”

Without Jesus nothing can be accomplished. I cannot heal people, I cannot raise the dead. All my good works cannot die for my sins.

HAVING COMMUNION WITH JESUS

John 6:51

“I am the living bread, if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever. The bread which I will give is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world.”

V56 *“He that **eateth** my flesh and **drinketh** my blood **dwelleth** in me and I in him.”* How do we relate to this?

Three words Jesus mentioned: Eateth, drinketh, dwelleth.

V60 *Many of His disciples when they heard these words, they said “this is a hard saying, who can hear it?”* (Jesus is still addressing the crowd) from that time many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him.

V67 Jesus said to the twelve, *“will you go away also?”* Then Peter answered, *“to whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life.”*

DISCIPLES HAVING COMMUNION WITH JESUS

1 Corinthians 10:16

“The cup of blessing which we bless is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread we break is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”
Communion is having joint fellowship with Jesus, to partake to be a partner, being a disciple.

Mathew 26:26

“and as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to His disciples, and said take eat this is my body.”

Eat-in the Greek means to collate-to be partakers, followers of Jesus.

Mathew 26:27

“He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them, saying “drink you all of it.”

V28 *“This is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many for remission of sins”* (sins being plural). *We are born again but along our journey we still fall short. - 1 John 2:1.*

By confessing our sins as written in **I John 1:8-10**, confession is therapy for our soul.

Drink – relates to the word imbibe, meaning to absorb into the mind, believing by having a concrete mind.

Dwelleth – to remain, to stay, to endure, to keep dwelling in Jesus.

Dwelling in Trials – Testings

James 1:2 *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations.”*

1 Peter 4:13: *“Rejoice in as much as you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings.”*

1 Peter 4:1: *“for as much then as Jesus suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind.”*

Hebrews 2:14: *“For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus likewise took part of the same.”*

In the three verses we read the word as much was used.

1 Corinthians tells us we will be only tempted as much as we are able to bear.

1 Corinthians 10:13: *“There had no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

WE HAVE AN ENEMY

1Peter 4:12: *“Think it not strange concerning the fiery trail which is to try (test) you as though some strange thing happened to you.”*

V13 *“But rejoice in as much as you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings.”*

Colossians 1:13: We were delivered from Satan’s

power and translated into the kingdom of Christ, a transformation took place here and we soon find out we have an adversary who is not pleased.

1 Peter 5:8-9: *“Be sober, be vigilant (watchful) because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking who he may devour.”*

V9 “Whom resist steadfast (constantly) in the faith”

Satan will provoke us to get attention, the more attention we give him the more we encourage him. Our victory to overcome is in Jesus and confronting evil by the written word.

I John 4:4: *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is HE that is in you than he that is in the world”.*

JESUS WAS TEMPTED

Luke 4:5-12: *“The devil taking Jesus up into a high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world.... All this power I will give you, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.” “If you therefore will worship me all shall be yours”:*“Satan brought Jesus to Jerusalem to the highest point of the temple and said “If you are the son of God, cast yourself down from here.” “For it is written, God will give His angels charge over you to keep you, and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest at any time you dash your foot against a stone.” Jesus replied “it is said, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.”

SOME INSIGHT ON THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

Psalm 71:10-11: *“For mine enemies speak against me, and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, Saying God had forsaken him; persecute and take him for there is none to deliver him.”*

ISAIAH 14:12 *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, Son of the morning! How art thou cast down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations”.*

We live in an unseen spiritual world, which most of the people are not aware of. There are well-organized beings with a formed government body that the children of God are aware of. They communicate with each other, taking counsel together in agreement. They watch us; they speak against us, lay wait with patience, accusing us to God:

Revelations 12:10 *“For the accuser of our brethen is cast down, which accuses them before God day and night.”*

THE VALUE OF OUR SOUL AND BODY

1 Corinthians 3:16: *“know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you”.*

Matthew 16:26: *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

Every Human being is created with a Soul, a Spirit, and God gave all free will. We were created to live forever.

After dying, the body sleeps in the dust of the earth for an appointed time: Read Daniel 12:1-2

Jesus explains this in **John 11:11**, When Lazarus died Jesus said “Lazarus **sleepeth**; but I go that I may awake

Him **out of sleep.**” Also in **John 5: 28:29**, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth.** They that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of judgement.”

It is written in: **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethern, concerning them which have died, that you sorrow not even as others which have no hope. For we believe that **Jesus died and rose again,** even them also **which sleep in Jesus** will God bring with Him. **V16:** For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise** first. Then we which are alive and remain, shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord. **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”**

RETURNING OF JESUS

Matthew 24: 4 to 30 “and Jesus answered and said to them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many, and you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see all these things must come to pass but the end is not yet. Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. If any man shall say unto you, Lo here is Christ or there; believe it not . For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; in so much that if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect. Immediately after the tribulations of those days shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the power from heaven shall be shaken. **Heaven and earth shall pass**

away but my words shall not pass away.”

Chapter 12

My Understanding of Psalm 91

To me Psalm 91 relates to how we have a closer walk with Jesus. Circumstances in life are such as create a need to keep coming back to Jesus. To keep dwelling in His presence, as the psalmist writes. He tells us to keep putting our trust in Jesus, keep seeking His refuge as our fortress. There are some key words to the promises in this Psalm such as shall, because and there, which we will come to.

V1 *“He (you) that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the almighty,”*

V4 *“He (the almighty) shall cover you with His feathers and under His wings shall you trust: His truth shall be your shield and buckler.”*

We can see a parallel between **Psalm 91 and Psalm 42.**

Psalm 42:1: *“As the hart panted after the water brooks so panted my soul after thee O God.”*

The hart is a young male deer being chased by an enemy, likely a wolf picked up his scent and is following it. The word Panted tells us he has been chased for some time, fearing for his life and is short of breath. Reaching the waterbrook is his hope for survival. The water will take away the scent. We noticed it was written as water brooks, telling us this is not the only time he sought a brook, he had to depend on the brook for his life, as we depend on Jesus.

The Secret Place

PS 91:VI “He that dwelleth in the secret place of
The Most High ...”

If a survey was taken, we very likely would find many people dwelling with secrets which cannot freely be shared with someone else. Relating this to burdens we carry which oppress our mind, the weight of heavy feelings that we **cannot forget and be rid of**. For healing to come there is only **one person** we can trust and feel comfortable with to share freely. **He** came to heal the broken hearted and to set us free. **The Most High, The Almighty** who knows and understands all things about us - whatsoever we have said or done. There is nothing hid from **Jesus** being **The Divine God** who came down from heaven to live as a man and died for us. **He** knows the attacks we are faced with, **Jesus** who lived in this world was constantly under attack. **He is our personal God** and desires for us to get to know **Him personally**. We come to **Him**, to the secret place, where secrets are shared. The secret place where **the most high** and we come together for fellowship, a secret place abiding with **Jesus**, confessing our heart to **Him, and no one knows what we share with Jesus**.

Hebrews 4:14-15

“ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with

the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Back to Psalm 91:2 *"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God whom I trust."* The words I and my are relating to the psalmist. Now V3 is relating to us.

V3 *"Surely He, {The Almighty}, shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence"*

V4 *"He shall cover you with His feathers and under His wings shall you trust, His truth, shall be your shield and buckler."*

We receive these words as being prophetic with expectation to come to pass in our lives. He shall deliver us, He shall cover us, His truth shall also be our shield and buckler.

V5 *"You shall not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day."*

V6 *Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasted at noon day.*

V7 *A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.*

V8 *Only with your eyes shall you behold and see the reward of the wicked.*

V9 **Because* you have made the lord which is my refuge even the most high your habitation.*

V10 **There* shall no evil befall you neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.*

Note: The words **because** and **there**.

**Because*, or when you make the Lord which is my refuge, your habitation; *there* is where no evil shall befall you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. There the Lord will be my refuge because I have made Him my habitation.*

***V11** For He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways.*

***V12** They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

In **Luke 4:10-11** Satan used this scripture tempting Jesus. Jesus replied, *"It is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God."*

***V13** You shall tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and dragon shall you trample under foot.*

***V14** Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore I will deliver him: I will set him on high because he hath known my name. (The promises are fulfilled because of the word because.)*

**Because* you made Jesus your refuge your habitation.*

**Because* you set your love upon Jesus.*

**Because* he had known my name: because of the word Because, then*

***V15** Applies "he shall call upon me and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."*

***V16** "with long life will I satisfy him and show him*

my salvation.”

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the almighty.”

Some time ago I dreamt I died and where I was the peace I experienced was nothing like I knew about here on earth. It was a place where there was no effort to take a breath. I saw a great sea – water as far as I could see; the sea was so smooth with not a ripple on the water. It was like glass. I had no idea what it meant till much later when I read in **Revelations 4:6** about there being in heaven, “A sea of glass like unto crystal”.

CHAPTER 13

Signs and Warning before the Lord's Coming

We live in a world where mankind is challenged by an unseen power. In spite of the struggles we go through in our lifetime, we are not defeated unless we quit.

There is a verse of scripture in Romans that encourages us to be able to overcome trials.

Romans 3:24

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Our Father does not give up on His people, we are justified without a cost by our Father's grace. We are set free by Jesus Christ our Lord who redeemes us.

In **1 John 2** - John adds to the scripture in Romans: John is saying there are times we come up short of the glory of God, with a need to repent, John is writing to the body of Christ.

1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things I write unto you that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.”

II Peter 3:9 (paraphrased),

The Lord is faithful concerning His promise, He is long suffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance.

The Lord doesn't leave us without understanding, and through His word He reveals of events which will take place before His coming – signs for us to be aware of. The Father makes provisions right to the very last – that we may be with Him in eternity. The Scriptures speak of a time to come when some will be left behind; even at this time a way has been provided to escape judgment – but with a great cost. This is revealed in **Revelations 13 and 14** which is mentioned later in this chapter.

The Spirit tells us that in the latter times some will abandon their faith and fall away from following Christ; giving up what they professed and follow deceiving spirits.

Galations 1:9 *“As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you then that you have received, let him be accursed.”*

I Timothy 4:1,

Now the Spirit speaks expressly (clearly), that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (things taught by demons).

Also, **II Timothy 4:3-4,**

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. (meaning to listen and obey only what they want to hear...)

Verse 4: *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (unto fiction).*

Are there any signs today indicating this? John 5:23,

That all men should honour the Son, even as they Honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son Honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him.

This is a key verse of Scriptures saying Jesus should be honoured in all things, many things which are said and taught in the name of religion, is not Christianity. If Jesus is not honoured in any of these things, or if the Gospel of the Cross is not proclaimed, these things are not sanctioned by God. It is written false prophets shall show great signs and wonders of miracles trying to deceive us. There could be a great revival, if Jesus is not acknowledged it will not be from God. Read **Galations 1:6-8**.

II Thessalonians 2: 9-11 *“don’t be deceived by the one whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders.”*

Verse 10, *“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they accepted not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”*

Verse 11, ...*“for this cause God shall send them strong Delusions, that they should believe a lie.”*

Matthew 24:23-24, *If any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ, or There: believe it not.*

Verse 24, *“For there shall arise false Christ’s and false Prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders: in so much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*

Matthew 7:21 explains,

Not everyone 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.

Verse 22: *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?*

Verse 23: *And then will I profess (say) unto them, I never knew you; depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.*

Matthew 25:1-5, (paraphrased)

The Kingdom of Heaven shall be likened unto ten virgins which took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. The wise took extra oil in their lamps; the other five were foolish and took no extra oil; their oil ran out and they fell into darkness.

We understand the lamps represent Jesus as He is the light of the world; our Hope. The oil in the lamp would represent prayer as in **Luke 21:36**,

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

And Pray Always

Praying on all occasions, in times of need. This is parallel to **11 Chronicles 7:14**

"If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and

*turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from **Heaven** and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”*

The word of GOD speaks of things which will take place not intended to terrify us but to know and understand what is to come.

There will be people who did believe but at the Lord's coming were left behind because of an unrepented life style. The Scriptures speak of the cost that will have to be paid for eternal life. The wrath of God will come upon the earth and events that will take place on earth are written in the following scriptures

Revelations 13:15-17, (paraphrased)

And he (the beast) caused all to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads. As many as will not worship the image of the beast should be killed. No man will be able to buy or sell except those that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelations 14:9,

If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark on his forehead or on his hand, Verse 10, (paraphrased) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

Those who refused to take the mark on their hand or their forehead will fulfill their patience and their faith in Jesus Christ.

John writes in **Revelations 20:4**

... I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

In spite of trials or testing we might have to go through here on earth, the cost cannot compare to the hope of eternal life – life with no end. If we lose our hope in Jesus, there is no other hope.

Jesus said if we ask the Father anything in His name, the Father will help us. **Jeremiah 32:40** tells us God will protect us when we ask Him to,

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from Me.

DISCUSSIONS

1. Are there more signs in the world of Jesus returning?

John 16:2, Matthew 24:4-24.

CHAPTER 14

Taking Heed

There are scriptures that disprove believing, 'once we are saved we are always saved, that we can't lose our salvation'. In searching the Word we see this belief is not scriptural.

I Timothy 4:16 (Timothy was a servant of God and received this advice from Apostle Paul),

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the teaching; continue in them: for in doing this you shall save yourself, and them that hear you. (paraphrased)

Colossians 1:5

*For the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;... .. (v.23) if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the **hope** of the gospel*

Matthew 19:18 *Jesus said, "Thou shalt do no **murder**, Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy Father and thy Mother:..."*

I Peter 4:15-18,

Verse 15: But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Verse 16: *Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

Verse 17: *For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

Verse 18: *And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*

Scriptures give us wise counsel and we may feel at times it is too difficult to abide in them. The Lord did not intend for us to do things on our own without His help. Jesus wills for us to come to Him with a sincere heart, knowing we cannot make it on our own. When we come to a place of being **desperate** and cry out to Jesus, He is faithful to forgive and help us.

DISCUSSIONS

Is it scriptural that we could lose out on eternal life?
Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew Chapter 25; Luke 13:24-28;
Ephesians 5:3-6; I Corinthians 7:8-9, I Corinthians 10:12).

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER – ALL – EVERYONE HAS A FREE WILL: (every soul God created)

By our free will we enter into God's Kingdom. A time will come when we shall all stand before Jesus and give an account as written in **Romans 14:12,**

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Also **II Corinthians 5:10** (paraphrased)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

GOD GAVE TO ALL FREE WILL

Jesus chose to exercise His will – **John 5:30**,

I seek not mine own will, but the will of My Father which had sent me,

In the spiritual, we can overcome our faults. Faults are not sins but our weakness (**Psalms 19:12-14**).

GOD'S PERFECT WILL

Humbleness and repentance: Being justified by the **Cross** where Jesus took our sins – dying for them – **Romans 5:1**,

Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(or, **be** justified by repenting for my downfalls.)
Jesus is the only way for us to be forgiven, our gift of hope – **John 14:6**,

I am the way, I am the truth, and the life.

By submitting to Jesus, I have the promise of eternal life: **John 17:3**, (not only believing, but **knowing**, which is more powerful than believing).

PREPARING TO MEET JESUS

There are many signs in the world indicating the Lord's coming again is near. Before the first coming of Jesus, John the Baptist was sent to preach **repentance** before Jesus' coming. John's message still applies today the same as it did then, saying, "*repent, prepare ye the way of the Lord.*" Today the altars are almost empty.

Humbleness and repentance, is what the altar is for preparing our hearts to meet with Jesus **Matthew 3:2-3**.

MY CONFESSION FOR SOUL THERAPY

One night I woke up with a disturbed feeling in my spirit and was not able to get back to sleep. My soul felt very oppressed. Then the words **soul therapy** were implanted on my mind along with a trauma in my life which took place in pre-school age. I spoke peace to this. Then other past events kept coming up. For each one I asked forgiveness, to those I hurt, to others who hurt me and to self. I repented of the wrong judgments I had made in my life with a lot of 'I am sorry's. I **John 1:9**, by pouring my heart out, slowly the heavy feeling in my spirit lifted. Read Hebrews 4:14-15 Jesus is our great **High Priest** in heaven to Whom we confess our sins and faults. (**Psalms 19:12-13**) He hears our confessions, forgives our sins, helps us to overcome our faults.

GOD IS REAL

God is emotional – He feels the hurts of His people, He has compassion towards us – (**Isaiah 54:7-8**). He displays a great depth of love for the children He created (**Isaiah 49:13-16**). He wills for His children to make room in their hearts and show gratitude to Him, to commune with Him. In viewing this, God desires His children to know Him, having a personal relationship with Jesus. **I John 1:3, I Cor. 1:8, 1:9, John 17:3**

There are rumors saying 'we don't know if God is real or not'. No one came back from heaven after they died. These are rumors and we prove to know God is real. The Holy Ghost helps us overcome the distractions (or

rumors) and helps us see the truth clearly. By asking Jesus to reveal Himself to us, being desperate and desiring not only to believe but **to know Him** (based on **Jeremiah 29:13**),

You shall seek Me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart.

The Word of God speaks about us having dreams. I have had dreams but not always understanding about them. Not all dreams are from God. I faithfully sought the Lord confessing, "I'm confused, I know You are the Truth and Your Word is true. Please guide me according to Your will that You may speak through Your Word." There are times I received Bible verses at night – some being answers to prayer and at times specific guidance and encouragement. God is real and so is our opposition real. Many times I have traveled down the road of discouragement and trials. By seeking the Lord in these past 40 years, I have learned, and am still learning, that His silence is powerful. By His wisdom He withdraws Himself only to have us seek Him more. God is a God of great wisdom and keeps moving ahead, waiting for us to follow Him – at times taking us on different paths.

Very recently I heard these words spoken, "I am closing the Book, those who don't repent will be destroyed." This does not say the Book is closed, but it does say the time is getting close for the coming of Jesus. These words bring light to the lost; they speak of choosing life not death. Those who will not come to Jesus and repent for their sins will be judged, **Revelations 20:15**. To repent tomorrow may be too late, **now is the day of salvation**.

The Power of Jesus Name Ephesians 6:12

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wicked in high places.”

Our wrestling arena is in our mind. Mostly during the night are the times when our opposition seems to appear.

During these times I have experienced I cannot always get instant victory, and being left tired from lack of sleep. Mentally you cannot think of two things at the same time, my thought was the name of one positive word, “Jesus”. Silently I started to meditate on His name, Jesus, not verbally but mentally. At bedtime I would say Psalm 4:8- *“I will both lay me down in peace and sleep: For you Lord only makest me dwell in safety.”*

Also proverbs 3:24 - *“When you liest down you shall not be afraid: yea you shall lie down and your sleep shall be sweet.”*

There is power in just the mention of Jesus name, in just the mention of the shed blood.

Revelation 12:11

“And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony.”

RECALLING THE WORD

Getting to know Jesus begins with a single step as **Romans 10:6:13** explains. We receive this by the free will our Father gave to all man-kind. We prove this to be true with evidence. This is for everyone. We are robbed by thinking this is not for us.

Romans 10:6 (*Paraphrased*)

Tells us we don't have to go to heaven to bring Jesus down to us.

V8 *Instructs us: the password is in our mouth and in our heart.*

V9 *“that if you shall confess with your mouth, the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead”, **You shall be saved**”.*

V10 *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”.*

V13 *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”.*

By taking this step of faith, in a period of time we experience a change begins to take place in our life. Our relationship to have fellowship with the Father and Jesus Christ begins to grow.

1 John 1: explains as to what has transpired.

V3 (*Paraphrased*) *“That we also may have fellowship with the Father and with His son Jesus Christ.”*

V4 *“and these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”*

V5 *“This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you., that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all”.*

V6 *“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth”.*

V8 *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”.*

V9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness”.*

V10 *“If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us”.*

1 John 2:1 *“My little children, these things I write unto you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous”.*

V2 *“He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”.*

We know John is writing this to the body of Christ. Jesus did forgive our sins, but we still have many faults which need to be discarded as John mentioned, the Holy Spirit helps us with this, Read **Titus 3:5**. John is directing us to activate the Lords Prayer. Luke 11:4 **“Jesus forgive me my sins”.**

CHAPTER 15

WHERE WILL WE SPEND ETERNITY

"The body without the spirit is dead" – James 2:26

We prove with evidence that there is a higher form of life then here on earth. We prove this to be true by the choice of our free will.

Something to consider:

In the beginning mankind was created to live forever, to never die. My mother, my dad, my sister who once were alive, died. When deceased, you can talk to the body but there is no response. The body is cold and lifeless. The spirit that makes us talk, walk, act, think has left the body.

CHOOSE TO LIVE FOREVER

God gave every human being on earth He created, a free will to choose. Jesus is the only divine being who came and gave His life for our sins that we may be with God forever.

By my free will I choose, asking Jesus to forgive me my sins. We are justified by our sayings and fulfill what Jesus came to do. Our spirit reunites with our creator.

John 10:9 – "I am the door: by me if **ANY MAN enter in, **he shall be saved**."**

Rejoice because your name is written in Heaven

I heard a message shared on **Acts 13:46**, *“You judge yourself being unworthy of everlasting life, behold we turn to the gentiles.”*

In Jesus’ time, many people saw the power of the miracles Jesus did. Jesus came from heaven to earth as a human being to represent the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. Jesus ministered to the Jewish nation and after Jesus was crucified, his disciples believed and ministered the Gospel. **Acts 13:46** – tells us the people judged themselves of being unworthy, so the disciples went to the gentiles.

This verse of scripture caused me to repent, reminding me of how many times I confessed to be unworthy in areas of my life. My mindset put a barrier between God, drawing me away from his presence. I didn’t understand His grace. This attitude limited God to work His will out. A verse of Scripture in **Ezekiel 36:22** made me understand this in a different perspective, it took away focusing on self and to focus on Jesus..

“Therefore say unto the House of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sake, O House of Israel, but for mine holy names sake ...”

Jesus is worthy!

Revelations 5:1 to 5

V1 *“and I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within.”*

V2 *“and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, who is worthy to open the book.”*

V3 *“and no man in heaven nor on earth, neither under the earth was able to open the book, neither look in it.”*

V4 *“and I wept much because no man was found worthy to open to read the book, neither to look there on”*

V5 *“and one of the elders said to me, weep not: behold the lion of the tribe of Juda, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book.”* (Jesus' mother came from the root of David)

Revelations 20:12 and 15

V12 *“and I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those books, according to their works.”*

V15 *“and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

It is not a benefit to God if we say I am unworthy.

In a wise way, Jesus gives understanding as how to put this into right perspective.

Luke 10:17 and 20

V17 Jesus sent His disciples with authority to go and minister the kingdom of God in the city. The disciples returned with joy saying, *“Lord even the devils are subject unto us through your name.”*

V20 Jesus replied, *“notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; rather rejoice because your names are written in Heaven.”*

The Holy Spirit dwells in you and me, in us forever He will be. He is real and much alive. In our living not to strive. We may wonder how this could be, in troubled times He sets us free.

The promise Jesus made will never be defeated by the opposition, it stands forever.

Revealed in a Dream



A Picture of Jesus

A man walked out of the back door of his house and saw two young boys about age 12 and 14 enter into his work shed. The man walked in and turned the light switch on. The younger boy being frightened picked up a broom handle to defend himself. The man picked up a chair to protect himself. As the boy struck the chair, the broom handle slipped out of his hand. The man setting the chair down got on his knees and said to the boy 'Come give me a hug'. Tears filled the boy's eyes as he ran to the man and gave him a hug.

John 5:28.

"Marvel not at this: For the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves, shall hear His Voice,"

V29. "And shall come forth....."

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History of the North American Bible Study Book

*One day I prayed, "Lord if you wake me one hour early before I go to work, I will read the bible." This prayer was answered. One night we had company till 1 a.m., the Lord was faithful. I said I am too tired to get up and tried to get back to sleep. Then in my spirit I heard the phone ring. I saw myself walk to answer the phone, and as I picked the receiver up, a spirit spoke, "**This is a spiritual matter related to scripture reading.**"*

*After reading the bible for about 5 years; I heard a voice say, "**Write a book and call it the North American Bible Study.**"*