

**FINALLY  
FREE!**

***“When Everything You Have Tried To  
Live The Christian Life Has Failed..Try  
The Truth!”***

**Finally Free**

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## ***Introduction: My Path***

My story is probably not much different than yours. When I began my relationship with Christ I had an assurance in my heart that I was forgiven of my past sins and that I was going to heaven when I died. I asked Christ to come into my life when I was twelve years old. The church I went to did a good job of proclaiming the gospel that Jesus Christ died for our sins so that we would one day go to heaven. They did such a good job, it was what they specialized in and preached on every Sunday. Every sermon focused on what Christ did for sinners which concluded with an invitation to give their lives to Christ. Now, I do believe that an invitation to receive Christ needs to be presented at each church service, but those that have already believed also need to hear the second part of the gospel message on how to live the Christian life after they have believed. I know some of you are saying, "I did not know there **was** a second part of the gospel." Well, the second part of the gospel involves how to live the Christian life after you have received Christ. There is a gospel to unbelievers. The gospel means good news. It is good news to sinners. This message is that Jesus died for your sins, and if you believe and receive what He did for you personally, He will place you in right standing with Himself, which ultimately will allow you to enter His presence when you die. Again, this is the gospel, however; it is only **part** of the gospel. It is good news for the unbeliever. However, there is another part of the gospel. It is good news for those who have believed! Many Christians

have heard the good news which led them to trust in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins but have not heard any good news since! Praise God there is a gospel to the believer. This is what this book is all about. I want to proclaim by the grace of God this great gospel to you- the believer.

After I began my relationship with Christ I strayed from Him when I discovered cars and girls at the age of sixteen. I remember very vividly as a teenager imagining what awaited me out “there” in the forbidden things of life, much like the prodigal son did which led him to leave his father for the far country (Luke 15). Because I was not taught how to walk with Christ I strayed from Him for five years. Praise God that He did not let me stray longer! He got my attention one night in a bar. All of a sudden I had the feeling that I did not want to be there anymore. The next night I went back but the same thing happened to me again! I decided to go home and I turned on the T.V. and heard a preacher talking about giving your whole heart over to God. I knew within myself that God was saying to me that He wanted all of my heart. I did not know if I could give up some of my sins but I was willing for God to help me overcome them so my heart would be totally His. I decided to go back to church and see where it would lead me. At the nearest Baptist church I found a good college group and plugged in. They encouraged me to participate in a discipleship program that met at 6:00a.m. in the morning. I guess starting that early was to develop discipline or to see how sincere we were! I was taught what most Christians were taught. To live a victorious Christian life you needed to do certain things. First you needed a quiet time with the Lord every day. This really needed to be the first thing in

the morning and it did seem the earlier the better. Second, you needed to get into the Bible and read it every day. And third, attending church and staying in an accountability group or meeting with an accountability partner was a must. I could not argue with any of these disciplines because they are all found in the Bible. It was a surprise to me then that after doing all these things I still struggled with certain sins in my life. I found myself in a cycle of the more I tried to live up to the standards I was taught to be victorious the more I seemed to fall short and sinned greater than ever before. I remember feeling disgusted at myself and crying to God to help me get victory over my sin. I would be depressed for days until I decided that I did not try hard enough or did not commit myself enough and I would try again. Of course, after a while I would again fall and the whole process would start over. I came to realize that this failure was not due to me not trying hard enough to get victory in my life but from me trying to get victory in the first place. That might sound strange, but hang on as we look at the truth of the gospel that brings freedom and liberation from life-long misconceptions and sin patterns that hold us in prison.

This book is divided into thirty-one chapters. Read a chapter each day and meditate upon them throughout the day. It is also divided into three parts. The first part deals with foundational themes in the Bible that must be understood to walk in victory. It may be surprising to find out what these terms actually meant back in the days of the Bible. Unfortunately many of these terms have been westernized which causes the power contained in them to be watered down or drained out completely. A solid understanding of these themes must be established before we can

walk the victorious Christian life because such a life is based upon them. It is absolutely essential that you not skip these chapters, not because you have to, but because they will be instrumental in helping you apply the other parts of the book. The second part of the book will deal with God's **method** of transformation versus man's **methods** of change. Some of these man-made methods are very popular in the church world today and are preached every week as the gospel to struggling Christians, but are empty wells that promise water but do not deliver. (**Jer. 2:13**) The third part of the book will deal with how to get the truths of the Word of God you have learned to impact you at a heart level and see them transform your life in a powerful and permanent way. You will learn very practically how to draw life and revelation from every scripture. You will learn how to persuade your heart in truth, change your core heart beliefs, and how to apply new truth to your life. I am excited that you have decided to read this book and am looking forward to hearing the wonderful things God does in your life! Please read these chapters slowly and thoughtfully with an open bible. I suggest you underline areas that jump out to you or speak to your heart. You can come back to these and meditate on them later. With that said, come with me now as we look at the glorious truths found in the Word of God!

**SECTION 1**

**FOUNDATIONS FOR FREEDOM**

## Chapter 1

### Power Is In The House!

I could have started this book with discussing any number of things but I want to talk about grace first. A clear understanding of the grace of God is the cornerstone of understanding the gospel in a way that draws from it the power to live the Christian life. If you ask most Christians today what grace means, they will tell you “it is the unmerited favor of God.” This definition is true but incomplete. There is much more to the word grace than just unmerited favor as we will see. Grace has also been defined by an acronym G.R.A.C.E., which stands for “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense”. This is a good way to remember the basis upon which God’s grace comes to us. God gives us grace because of the finished work of redemption. Salvation is freely offered to those who believe in the finished work of Christ- His death, burial, and resurrection. Although salvation is offered freely this does not mean that it didn’t cost God anything to give it to us. It cost God giving up His only beloved Son that He could redeem fallen humanity to Himself.

Grace is the unmerited, unearned, favor of God and it is based upon the finished work of Christ. So, what is missing in our understanding of grace that gives us power to live the Christian life? Grace in the times of Christ not only meant unmerited favor but it also meant **“ability or supply”**. The verse below shows us that grace is not only unmerited favor but also the ability or strength of God released to us and in us for our daily needs and weaknesses.

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

Unmerited favor means that God looks at us in a favorable way, but if that does not translate into Him **giving us anything** then it really does not impact our life. Grace always issues forth in the release of God's **ability** to us and also in us. It is the release of His Divine **supply and resources** to meet our every need. This is done because God wants to and because He is love, not because we have earned it or deserved it. So, to walk in God's grace means to walk in His ability or His supply. If it is God's ability working in us, then it is no longer a question of our ability or strength to perform for God. We know that we truly understand and are receiving the grace of God when we are experiencing His ability in our life to walk in freedom and spiritual power. If we are bound and defeated in any area of our life this means that we are not experiencing the release of God's grace. Too often we try to be the source of strength and power in our life. We rest in our own works or effort to try to live up to God's standards. You may have heard this before, "You need to live for God". This can be misleading.

***God is not just interested in us living FOR Him. The gospel truth is that God is more interested in us living FROM Him.***

At first glance this might sound like semantics; however, the difference between the two is the difference between victory and defeat. Jesus said it this way:

**(Joh 15:5) I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

God desires to manifest His life in and through our life. He is the Vine and we are His branches. The degree to which we learn how to draw upon the grace of God in our life is the degree of freedom we will experience. The victorious Christian life is not a product that we produce through our effort of trying to be a “good” Christian. The victorious Christian life is no more than allowing Christ to manifest His life in and through our life. This seems like a very simple concept, and it is, but oh how difficult it is for us to learn this lesson! We often, and in so many ways, try to live independently of God and His grace. We struggle to beat sin and then ask God to help us get victory over it. We did not get saved that way in the beginning! We did not struggle to get saved by fasting, prayer, going to church, giving money, or trying to be good enough and then asking God to help make up the difference! (If you are, you can stop now and simply receive the free gift of eternal life!) We simply **received** by faith the gift of eternal life. He did all the work. This is grace. **Grace is what God does for us!** Walking in Christ is just as simple as getting saved.

**(Col 2:6) As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:**

As we received in the beginning, so we are to walk **now**. We received as a gift of grace, now we are to walk by a gift of grace. Victory in the Christian life is by the grace of God. It is not achieved, it is received:

**(1Co 15:57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

We not only need to understand what grace is but also we need to understand the proper **time frame** of grace. Many believers today have what I call Old Testament faith instead of New Testament faith. Those who were righteous in the Old Testament were so by faith, however, their faith was in a future redeemer that would come. All the laws, rituals, and sacrifices pointed to a coming redeemer. In other words they had faith in future grace. Future grace, meaning that grace was to be given sometime in the future.

**(Heb 11:13) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

All the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 looked forward to the grace of God and the coming Messiah. They looked forward, but we who have believed in the

New Covenant **look backward**. We have faith in past grace that was given when Christ completed his redemptive work in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and seating at the right hand of God. The Bible clearly states that everything was completed by Christ.

**(Joh 19:30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

**(Heb 1:3) Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**

Jesus sat down because everything was finished. An Old Testament priest was never allowed to sit down because his work was never finished. Jesus sat down because his work was a finished work.

**(2Pe 1:3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

It is absolutely essential that we renew our thinking about the time frame of God's grace. Everything that could be done or given for our spiritual and natural life was given to us in the resurrection of

Christ 2000 years ago. Christ has obtained for us everything in our inheritance and He is holding nothing back. God has given us all things in Christ. Christ is the sum of all things spiritual. We do not need peace. He is our peace. (**Eph. 2:14**) We do not need righteousness. He has been made unto us righteousness. (**1 Cor. 1:30**) We could go on and on. He has already blessed us with everything that He could bless us with!

**(Eph 1:3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:**

If God has already given us all things then why do we try to talk God into providing for us? We use prayer or faith (as we know it) as motivators to get God to move for us. God has already moved and provided everything already. We must renew our minds to the fact that He has already done everything for us He could possibly do and has given us our inheritance and made us qualified to partake of it right now! (**Col 1:12**) We need to understand that everything we need for life and godliness has already been given by God. (**2 Pet. 1:3**) This includes freedom from sin, complete righteousness, love, and many more things. If we keep trying to get God to give us things that He has already given we will constantly be frustrated and mad at Him for seemingly withholding from us. This is not the case. He is waiting for us to believe and receive what He has provided for us already. Let's look at how we are to receive His provision.

## Chapter 2

### No Root-No Fruit!

As we have seen, God has ***already given us all things*** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Christ. (**2 Peter 1:3**) Let's look at some things that God has already given us according to His Word. I call them the roots of grace. I could have listed many more but these will hopefully give you an idea.

#### Roots of Grace

**Righteousness-** 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 4:24

**Forgiveness of sins-** Eph 1:7, Heb. 1:3

**Faith-** Romans 12:3

**Love-** Romans 5:5

**Peace-** Romans 5:1

**Hope-** 1 Peter 1:4

**Healing-** 1 Peter 2:24

**Prosperity-** 2 Cor. 8:9

**Sanctification-** 1 Cor. 1:30, 1 Cor. 1:2

**Wisdom-** 1 Cor. 1:30

**Perfection-** Hebrews 10:14

**Freedom from sin-** Romans 6:6-7, 22,24

**For everything else- All things!-** 1 Cor. 3.21-22

If you take time to look up each one of these verses you will see that the things listed above have already been given to us or is already true of us. I

challenge you to find something that you are lacking in your life and look it up in the Bible and you will find out that God has already given it to us. Remember, grace was given to us in Christ based upon His finished work. Christ did all the work He is ever going to do to provide for us in our life. It is up to us to search the Bible to find what belongs to us and receive it into our life by faith. It is vitally important to know that God has provided all these things but also that they have been **provided in the spiritual realm**. They are not automatically manifested in the natural realm. God has established a principle that what has been given in the spiritual realm must be believed for in the heart and received by faith. Then that which is in the spiritual is manifested into the natural seen realm. It is much like the difference between roots and fruit. Roots are in the unseen realm below the ground but fruit is manifested above ground where it can be seen. Fruit only comes from a root. No root, no fruit! God is a spirit and He has given us all things in Christ already but they are located in heavenly places. Christ is seated next to God in heavenly places in the spirit realm.

**(Eph 1:3) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:**

**(Eph 2:6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,)**

God has given us a root to draw from and produce

fruit in our lives. The unseen root is in the spiritual realm in Christ. Christ is our spiritual root! He is seated in the unseen heavenly places next to the Father. All that we need has been given and deposited within Christ.

**(Col 2:2) That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;**

**(Col 2:3) In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

The Bible teaches that we ourselves are in Christ and Christ is in us, so all things have been deposited within our recreated spirit when we were born again and Christ came to dwell in us. All you need is within you because Christ is in you! This is the root we are to live from as Christians. By faith we are to receive those things that were given to us in our spirit when we were saved and then we will see them manifested in the natural. We will see the fruit of them. Why are so many not seeing any fruit? Because they do not know about the root! They are always asking God to give them what He has already given them! They are asking that God plant something new for them. God has already provided the root, now draw from it! Receive what He has given. Many do not bear fruit because of unbelief. They simply cannot or choose not to believe that God has given them everything they need. Their motto is: "I will believe it when I see it!" This was the motto of the disciple Thomas who received a rebuke from the Lord

for his unbelief. (**John 20:29**) We do not want to be like Thomas. Just because we do not see or feel something does not make it any less true. What we experience with our physical senses may be facts, but God is the truth. Believing the truth will change the facts! We must believe or agree with God and act on it to manifest the fruit from the root of grace.

It is interesting to see this root and fruit theme throughout the New Testament epistles. The epistles are the letters written to the churches. They include the books of Romans through Jude. These letters reveal truths concerning the New Covenant. They reveal what belong to believers and how to walk in our salvation. One of the interesting things about the epistles, and especially the letters written by Paul, is that each letter is divided into two parts. The first part of each book deals with spiritual truths and teaches us what belongs to us in Christ in the spiritual realm, or heavenly places. This is teaching to the church about what has already been given to us in Christ. The second part of each letter deals with the practical issues of living these truths out in our everyday lives- in our marriages, jobs, and church life. The first half of each epistle tells us what belongs to us in Christ. The second half of each letter gives direction on how to live based upon our new life in Christ. The first half of each letter deals with the roots of grace. The second half of each letter deals with the fruits of grace. It is important to know that the only way we will ever be able to live out the commands and directives found in the New Testament is to believe and access the roots of grace which have been planted within us. We fulfill these commands by drawing upon the resources that God has already deposited within us by faith.

***In the New Covenant God will not demand from you something that He has not already deposited within you.***

For instance, God commands us to walk in love. This then means that He has already placed the root of love in our heart to fulfill this command and bear the fruit of love. (see **Romans 5:5**) The fruit of love comes from the root of love He has placed within us. If we do not understand this root/fruit relationship then the Bible will confuse us. For each scripture that tells us that we have been given something in Christ, there is also an admonition that we produce it in the form of fruit and see it manifested in our life. If you did not understand the difference between the root and the fruit then many verses will totally confuse you. The root verses tell you that you have already been given something in Christ but the fruit verses tell you that you need to manifest it in your life!

Faith, as we will see in the next chapter, is always based upon what God has given in grace. Once we know what God has provided for us in heavenly places in Christ, then we can exercise faith to see it manifested. This is how we bear fruit from the root! So, let's look at faith.

## Chapter 3

### **Believe it or not!**

Today faith is one of the most widely used terms that we find in the Bible. The word is used for belief, creed, or even used to describe one's view of religion. Faith has been emphasized in the church in the last twenty years. There has even been a "Faith Movement"! Faith is a term which is used so often by so many people- Christian and non-Christian alike. What then is faith? I believe the safest way to address this question is to look at the Word of God, the source of faith itself.

**(Heb 11:1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

The word "faith" is translated from the Greek word **pistis**. Pistis means "firm persuasion or conviction of something to the degree that you put your entire reliance upon it." Faith is the substance of things hoped for.

The word "substance" is not the best translation of the Greek. A better translation is "**assurance**". Faith is assurance. How do you know you have faith? It is when you have assurance in your heart that you have what you asked God for in prayer. Where does this assurance come from?

**(Rom 10:17) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Faith is based or grounded upon the Word of God. The Word of God is the revealed will of God. You cannot have faith without the revealed will of God first. The Word based faith you have in your heart is all the evidence you need to see the fruit manifested from the unseen spiritual realm where all things have been given to you in Christ. Faith is the foundation and evidence of what is unseen. Remember, fruit must come from a root. The way we get something from the spiritual realm to the natural realm is by exercising faith. This will manifest the fruit. Faith is the connector to God's grace. Faith is God's means for receiving from Him. Faith itself is a gift from God and is not something inherently good about ourselves which earns something from God.

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

Faith is the link between the spiritual and the natural. It is the link between the root and fruit. Faith is the receptor for grace.

**(Rom 4:16) Therefore *it is of faith, that it might be by grace*; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,**

Notice that faith and grace go together. These two are always connected. We cannot have faith without grace. Many try to use faith as a tool for getting God to move for them or give them things. Many have been taught that faith moves the hand of God.

***Faith does not move the hand of God because His hand has already moved!!***

God's hand has already moved at the cross and resurrection. God has already moved before we were ever born! He has already provided in grace. True faith can only come by seeing what God has provided in grace. Faith reaches its hand out and says thank you and receives that which God has provided. The entire struggle is taken away in respect to faith when we see that God has already given to us all the things we need and when we see how much God loves us! All we need is in Christ and Christ is in us. All we need to do is to ask, believe, and receive it. Then it will manifest in our life as fruit. Another aspect we must see is that **faith is now**.

**(Heb 11:1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

This verse says that faith 'is'. This is present tense. Many say they believe something will happen tomorrow. That is not really faith. That is hope. Hope is a confident expectation of a future event. Faith is not in

the past. That is called history! Faith is now or it is not faith!

**(Mark 11:23) (WEB)** For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and doesn't doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says.

**(Mar 11:24) (WEB)** Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.

Mark 11:23 in the King James version says that if we believe what we say "shall come to pass", we shall have whatever we say. However the verb tense in the Greek of the phrase, "shall come to pass" is in the present tense which means a present condition is taking place! The WEB correctly translates it, "**is happening**". Why is it important to see this? It is because we must believe what we have spoken is taking place right now and then we will see it later in the form of a natural manifestation.

True faith has the evidence of God's Word. **1 Peter 2:24** states, "that by His (Jesus') stripes we **WERE** healed". This is a spiritual truth. It is an unseen root of grace that God has provided spiritually in Christ. To see this manifested we must draw upon that root by faith. Our faith reaches out and says it is mine right now before our senses can detect it. Believing means we have the assurance in our heart that we are healed and we believe that the healing power of God is working in us right now! If we go up a few verses in

Mark chapter 11, we see that Jesus gives us an example in His own life of this principle.

**(Mar 11:12) And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:**

**(Mar 11:13) And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.**

**(Mar 11:14) And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever. And his disciples heard *it*.**

**(Mar 11:20) And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.**

**(Mar 11:21) And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.**

**(Mar 11:22) And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.**

Jesus was hungry and saw a fig tree and came to eat of its fruit but there was none. Jesus spoke to the tree and told it to never bear fruit again. In other words He said, "DIE!" He then turned around and left. The disciples heard Jesus do this and must have wondered what was up with Jesus because he was talking to trees! The next morning they came back and saw the tree was withered from the roots. The second Jesus spoke, death started to work at the unseen roots of the tree. Jesus did not stand around waiting to see a

physical manifestation of what He said. No, He believed what He said was happening in the unseen and turned around and walked off. Jesus would have walked right by the withered tree the next morning without noticing it if the disciples had not directed His attention to it. We must have similar faith in God. Jesus told us to have this kind of faith. What kind of faith? The kind of faith that believes something is happening before you see it.

We must believe that we are delivered from sin and that the power of righteousness is working in us even before we see it or feel it in the natural. We must believe that we are healed, blessed, prospered, holy, and righteous right now! This believing will manifest these unseen realities into the seen realm. We must believe now!

Another aspect of faith that is important to see is that faith must be released. In order for faith to receive the unseen things in the spiritual realm and manifest it in the natural realm it must be released.

**(Jam 2:17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**

**(Jam 2:18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.**

James tells us that if faith is not acted upon it is dead! Death in the Bible does not mean something ceases to exist. Death means a separation. When we die we do not cease to exist. Our spirit and soul

separate from the body and leave the body. James is saying that if faith in our heart is not spoken or acted upon in the natural then it remains separated from our outward life and cannot affect it. It is important to know that faith is released from the spiritual into the natural by **actions** and **words**. God released His faith in form of words in the book of Genesis and it manifested by creation! We must make sure our words are in alignment with God's Word. If we speak contrary to what God has said then we will fail to tap into the grace of God. Speaking faith means we are to speak in first person, present tense. **I have it now!** Grace cannot be manifested in our lives unless we receive right now. Dare to believe and declare that you are free from sin and bondage right now!

## Chapter 4

### Gardening 101

Many are experiencing problems with sins and habits. Many think that their problems with sin started when they were three, but really they began much earlier at a tree! We need to go back to the Garden of Eden and see the root of the sin problem.

Satan entered into the serpent and tempted Eve with the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The lie that caused Eve to give into deception was this one- “You shall be **like** God knowing both good and evil”. What I want you to see is that Satan had to first get Eve to feel lack in her life before he could get her to succumb to the temptation to eat from the tree. The Bible says that she saw the tree was good for food, it was pleasant to the eyes, and was desirable to make one wise. What was so deceptive about what Satan told Eve? It was that she could **become like** God. In the first chapter of Genesis we see that God created both Adam and Eve in his image and after his likeness.

**(Gen 1:26) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

**(Gen 1:27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

Eve did not have to know good and evil to be like God. She was already created in His image and likeness! Satan got Eve to believe that she was less than what she was. It did not matter that it was a lie, because in her heart it was perceived as true, and thus the emotions of lack were germinated and desire rose up in her to find completion for the lack she felt. Up to this point she had felt utter completeness and satisfaction in God. Satan got her attention off all the trees she could eat from, and got her focus on the one she was not supposed to eat from. Now that she perceived that she was missing something she found she was dissatisfied with God and her life. She felt there was more out there she had not experienced. Lack, or more accurately the “sense of lack” is at the root of every temptation and sin. Satan must first get us to be persuaded of lack before he can get us to sin. He cannot even tempt us until he stirs up a sense of lack in us of what we presently have.

**(Jam 1:14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.**

The word “lust” here means a strong desire. It does not just mean sexual desire but any strong desire. The more we sense lack in our lives the more we will struggle with sin. We will struggle with temptations of money, position, power, sex, and many more things. This is because inside of man is a God-shaped void that only God can fulfill.

**(Ecc 3:11) (WEB) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their hearts, yet so that man can't find out the work that God has done from the beginning even to the end.**

God has put His limitless expanse in the heart of man and only God Himself can fill it up. Before the fall God filled this place in man's heart but when they believed the lie that what God had provided was not enough and they were lacking, they sinned and actually became incomplete. They cut themselves off from the true spring of life and fulfillment. Man has been doing that ever since.

**(Jer 2:13) For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.**

I want you to see that by the finished work of Jesus, God has reconciled you back to Himself and now you are once again complete in Christ. This is what righteousness really means. Because of Jesus' work of redemption you are born again and God now lives in you. He has made you complete because He now fills that eternity in your heart. **(Ecc 3:11)**

**(Col 2:10) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:**

Now that you are complete in Christ you lack nothing! You lack no good thing because God has already given you all things that pertain to life and godliness through Christ. (2 Peter 1:3) Even though this is the case, our enemy Satan is still roaming the earth and he is still using the same old lie today with much the same results. He is busy lying to believers that they are lacking in themselves and that they are not what they need to be. He gets people to look at their behavior and see their faults and failings and gets them to believe they are unacceptable to God. He then offers them substitutes to try to find completion. He offers religion to people. Religion is nothing more than a system that focuses on lack. Religion says that you are lacking so you need to do certain things to become right or become as you ought to be. Good is never good enough though. Religion always holds a carrot out at the end of a stick, but you can never quite reach it. Religion will tell you there is always something else you need to do to be as you ought to be. Religion demands that you be perfect in your performance to be as you ought to be and gives you commands and rules to achieve that standard. Every day religion tells mankind what they need to do. It says you need to do good works to get yourself right. Man fell from glory and it took Jesus Christ coming to earth to restore us back by His work at Calvary. He reattached us to God by His resurrection from the dead! He has made us right and as we ought to be by His perfect life and death. God **does** require perfection from us to be acceptable to Him but he offers perfection as a gift through Jesus Christ. This perfection is none other than the righteousness of his own Son. At the cross there was a great exchange. He became our sin and

we now become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21)

Satan's goal is to get you to try to find completion outside of God by your own ways and works. He lies to you and tells you that you do not measure up or that you are lacking. This sense of lacking in turn creates the strong sense of need. He then offers sin to meet those needs. He also attempts to get you to look at your past and your imperfect performance. He wants to make you feel so lacking. No human being can stand the feeling of being incomplete or lacking. God created us to be totally complete and filled with Himself. If there is a vacuum in our heart or even a perceived one, then the enemy achieved what he wanted and you are ripe for falling into his snare of temptation. You must believe what God says about you in His Word and draw from that root of righteousness within you through Christ and you will see your life manifest the fruit from it. It is time you manifest your salvation! It is time for you to experience what it means to be free!

## Chapter 5

### The Old School

To properly understand the New Covenant which Christ has brought us into, we must understand the nature of the Old Covenant because many believers are still living under its principles. The Old Covenant was a covenant God made with the nation of Israel after they were delivered from Egypt. It was only given to Israel and no other nation. God gave this covenant to Israel through the mediation of Moses and angels.

**(Gal 3:19) Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made [to Abraham]; *and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.***

The Old Covenant is also called the Law. It contained over 600 specific commandments. These commands included laws concerning diet, sacrifices, the priesthood, and civil matters. If Israel would keep all these laws then God would bless them. If they failed to keep all these laws then curses would come upon them. (See Deut. 28) We see in the above verse that the Law was added after God promised to Abraham that He would bless the nations through his seed. Actually the Law came some 400 years after God gave this promise to Abraham. The promise made to Abraham was a covenant of grace.

**Gen 12:2** I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

**Gen 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

God said five times, “**I will**”. Five stands for grace in the Bible. God promised to Abraham to bless him and the nations of the earth. No mention is made of any works Abraham had to do to bring this to pass. All he had to do was to believe. God gave a covenant of grace to Abraham and His seed. This covenant is both natural and spiritual in nature. The natural blessings of Abraham are prosperity and health. The spiritual nature of this blessing is not brought out in the Old Testament but is in the New Testament. A spiritual blessing to the nations would be brought through the gospel. We see in Galatians the spiritual blessing of Abraham.

**(Gal 3:13)** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

**(Gal 3:14)** That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Here we see that the spiritual blessing of Abraham

was the receiving of the Spirit of God into human hearts through faith! This would come through Abraham's Seed, Jesus Christ.

**(Gal 3:16) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

Since God gave a covenant of grace to Abraham then why did God give the Law afterwards? What was the purpose of the Law? The Law was added to show man that he was a sinner. By giving the Law, God was able to show man how desperately they had fallen short of His glory and how they needed to be saved. Based upon the promise to Abraham, God would send His Son to redeem all of mankind, but if mankind did not know they needed redemption then God's purposes would be frustrated. Before the Law, mankind did not know their spiritual state and how dire it was. We can see this by Israel's reaction to God after He gave them His Law. When God gave the Law to the children of Israel, they actually rejoiced and whole heartedly agreed to keep it. But God declared that they did not have the right heart to keep it.

**(Deu 5:27) Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear *it*, and do *it*.**

**(Deu 5:28) And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spoke unto me; and the LORD**

said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.

**(Deu 5:29) O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!**

It was not long after the giving of the Law that Israel broke it. Moses was not even off the mountain yet from receiving the Law when the people of Israel made molten calves and worshipped them as gods! It was not until the commandment came against having any other gods did the sin of idolatry hit home to them. The Law was given to make people aware of their sin.

**(Rom 3:20) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

The purpose of the Law was for people to cry out to God and say, "O, God, I am unable to keep your holy standards. Please have mercy on me and give me your grace. Save me from my sin!" Instead they tried harder and harder to keep the Law so they could become righteous. What is interesting is that by the time Jesus came to earth the Jews had made up thousands of more commands to follow that were not part of the original Law God gave to Moses. The more the better I guess! The harder they tried to keep the Law, the more they failed and the more the Law

condemned them. Israel did not realize that the Law could not make them righteous, but could only show them that they were sinners. They thought that by their outward deeds they would be made right on the inside.

***Nothing on the outside can make you whole on the inside. Only God can complete you on the inside of you!***

The more you try to live up to God's standard in your own energy the more you will fall short and sin.

After the Law was given people began to realize that instead of being able to keep it, they actually broke it. The more they tried to keep it, the more they actually found themselves breaking it! The more they tried to keep the Law the more they discovered that something in them did not want to keep it and resented God for giving it the first place. The only thing people had after all their effort to keep the Law was a deep sense of guilt and condemnation. So, God gave the Law to show mankind that they can never make themselves right by their own works. No flesh shall be justified (made right or complete) by the deeds of the Law. (See **Romans 3.20**)

**(Rom 5:20) Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

Notice that the Law made offense abound when it entered. The word "entered" is an interesting word in

the Greek. It was a theatrical term used of a minor actor entering a scene for a short time in order to point out the villain and point to the hero. God added the law to point out our problem which was our sin nature and then to point to the answer for our sin which was the promised seed of Abraham- the Lord Jesus Christ. The commandments showed men their sin and the sacrifices showed them their answer- Jesus!

The Law gave many commands but did not give you the power to fulfill them. It only had the power to condemn you if you failed to keep it. What I want you to see about the Old Covenant is this- You could not find completion or make yourself as you ought to be by trying to be good. You could never get free from bondage and addictions by struggling to obey commandments and by using will power. None of those things could set them free because it takes a new heart and the power of God given on the basis of the finished work of Christ to be freed from sin. The good news I want to share is that He has given us both of these things in the New Covenant! We cannot mix the Old Covenant of works and effort with its main idea being to **achieve** with the New Covenant of grace and faith with its main idea being to **receive**. As oil and water do not mix, so the Old Covenant and New Covenant will not mix. Either you are trying to get results from your own efforts or you are trusting in God's grace in Christ and are producing fruit.

God first gave the Abrahamic covenant and then the covenant of Law. Jesus came to fulfill both covenants. Jesus fulfilled the Law by living under and obeying God's Law perfectly. He lived 33 years fulfilling the righteousness of the Law to the last detail. That is why Jesus was not sacrificed when he was a

baby or a teenager, because He had yet to fulfill all the Law. Jesus had to obtain a perfect righteousness under the Law by **completely fulfilling** it. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it! (**Matt. 5:17**) Jesus came to do this not for himself, but for you dear Christian! He did it so that righteousness could be given to you! Jesus fulfilled the commands of the Law by His perfect life, but Jesus also fulfilled every one of the required sacrifices of the Law in His death. His death was a perfect and complete payment for all our sins. Jesus had to remove our sins before His righteousness could be given to us.

Jesus also fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant because He was Abraham's seed. The spiritual blessing of Abraham is the giving of the Holy Spirit into the heart of man. Jesus went to the cross as our representative to die to the old man so He could make way for the birth of the new man. God had to remove the old sinner you were in order to make available the new birth and a new heart in which the Holy Spirit could reside. The Holy Spirit could not have taken up residence in our old heart. He needed a new heart. This is what the New Covenant provided. The New Covenant is an extension and fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant. Because this covenant is based upon grace, you can receive salvation as a free gift!

## Chapter 6

### I am with Him!

Before we delve into the subject of the New Covenant, I want to look at what a covenant meant in the days of the Bible. Covenant was a very serious matter in those days. A covenant had certain ingredients to it that made it a covenant. A covenant had blessings and curses connected to it. There was also the sharing of assets and liabilities. Furthermore, covenants included the shedding of blood, a meal that was shared, and often a tree was planted or memorial set up to commemorate the event. Covenants were made by individuals or by groups of people. If a covenant was broken then the curses of the covenant would come upon those who broke it, which often was death. It is important to see that we enter into salvation based upon a covenant. God does not directly make a covenant with each person who gets saved, but He made a covenant with His Son Jesus Christ. We enter that covenant by faith.

**(Gal 3:16) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

God entered a blood covenant with Abraham and His seed. We see in the above verse that the seed was Christ. God promised that through Abraham's seed all the nations (you and me) would be blessed. God made this covenant with His Son.

To get a better understanding on what took place at the cross we must first look at the **group** dynamic of covenant. This group covenant principle is vital to understand in order to see what God did for mankind at the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup> Often in the ancient world groups of people made a covenant with each other. Instead of each individual having to make a covenant with all the individuals of the other group, just one representative of each group met and cut the covenant. Remember that all covenants of the ancient biblical peoples consisted of the shedding of blood. One covenant representative of each group would cut their hand, arm, or a sacrificial animal was sacrificed, and its blood was used to make the covenant. The covenant representatives would stand in the blood of the sacrificial animal and they would trade their weapons. This signified that they shared friends and enemies. Then they would pronounce the promises and curses of the covenant. They then took an oath promising to share all assets and liabilities they had with the other. After the covenant was cut they would then share a meal and set up some type of memorial or plant a tree. Now what I want you to see is that only one representative was needed for the entire group. To be a qualified representative of a group or tribe that person had to be a natural member of that group or tribe.

***You could say that the entire group or tribe was in their representative.***

Whatever the representative said and did was as if the whole group said and did it. Whatever the

representative promised it was as if the group was promising it. Whatever curses the representative accepted was as if the whole group was accepting them. The group was in their representative. This understanding is vital in order to see what Jesus did for us at Calvary. God cut a covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary. Jesus did not come to this covenant representing Himself. He came as a representative of all mankind. He was a qualified representative because he was born of a woman. Jesus was entering the covenant for us and **as us**. Jesus Christ not only represented mankind in this covenant but He also represented God. Jesus Christ was God in human flesh. He was a qualified representative of God because He was God. So in one person, Jesus Christ, we see that God made a covenant in His own Son. It is glorious to see that not only is Jesus Christ the representative for man and God in this covenant, but He is also the blood sacrifice! It is important to note that for Jesus to represent mankind to the fullest He had to first take upon Himself all the liabilities of mankind so He could bring them to the covenant table, so to speak. On the cross Jesus took the sins of all mankind and became sin for us. He became our curse. Remember that in a covenant that assets and liabilities are traded between the covenant representatives. Through the shedding of the blood of Christ our liabilities were paid by God. It is important to see that in **Lev. 17:11**, it says that the life is in the blood. The blood that flowed in Jesus' veins was the heavenly blood. It was the royal blood of heaven! This shedding of blood, which was the giving of His life, was God paying for the liabilities that mankind had incurred! In the New Covenant God takes and pays all the debts

and liabilities of man and gives us all His assets in their place! Aren't you glad that God had no debts or liabilities to pass on to us! We only received all his glorious resources and blessings in heavenly places in Christ! (**Ephesians 1.3**) Because Jesus came to establish a covenant with God there is a shared meal called communion (the bread and wine). There also was a tree planted to confirm the covenant. It was the cross of Calvary! Jesus died on a tree to free us from the sin Adam and Eve committed at a tree!

***It is important to see that Christ was not just a sacrifice that died for us. Jesus did more than bear sins FOR you. He died not only as a substitute sacrifice but also as a representative for man. This is identification.***

We were identified in Him. As our covenant representative, whatever He did was legally as though you did it also. Jesus did not just die for you but as you and in Him you were made to die with Him. When Jesus died He did it for fallen mankind. When He died God legally saw sinful mankind die with Him!

**(2Co 5:14) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:**

We see here that Christ died for all mankind as their representative in the covenant. When He died it was counted for the death of all that He represented. Why is it so important to see this? Because if Jesus

just died for us, bore our sins, and took our punishment then we would be clean of all our past sins, but sins come from our old sin nature. We still would be unacceptable to God because our sin nature would still rule over us. To illustrate this, say you tried to clean the world of cigarettes because you do not like the smoke they make. You go about trying to find all the packs you can and you start destroying them. You could do this, but if you did not go to their source which was the manufacturers and put them out of business, then you would have a constant fight against cigarettes! You must remove the source to end the problem. I want you to see that sins were not our only problem! It was the sin nature producing the sins. This was our bigger problem. The work of Jesus on the cross dealt with both issues of our sins and our sin nature. Our sins and the personal guilt incurred by them were purged by the **blood of Jesus**, but the old sinful person we were that produced the sins was dealt with by the death of Jesus on **the cross**. Praise God, that He not only dealt with our sins, but also with the old person we were! The Bible declares that our old man died with Christ. (**Rom. 6:6**) The important thing I want you to see is that when Jesus died He did it as your representative. His death was your death. You died in your covenant representative, Jesus!

So many teach and preach that you need to carry your cross and die to yourself. My question to them is this? Where are you to carry your cross? Where did Jesus carry His? Well, obviously it is to the place of crucifixion. You might say "This is a call to crucify yourself!" I have one question. Can you crucify yourself? You may be able to get a nail into one hand but I would like to see you nail in the other two! Let's

make this plain.

***No one has ever, or will ever, commit suicide by crucifixion.***

You cannot crucify yourself. Crucifixion is what is done to you!! Jesus did not crucify Himself. He was crucified by someone else. You cannot die to **yourself** by way of the cross. You do not have to put yourself to death by the cross! Why? Because Jesus already did it for you! His death to sin was your death to sin! (**Romans 6:6,11**) You have already died in Him as your covenant representative.

Jesus told people to pick up their cross and follow Him to get them to realize they needed to die. Their real problem was not the bad things they did. The Law came to show man he was rotten to the core and deserved to die. Our sinful state was not something that could be rehabilitated. It deserved death! We deserved and needed to be crucified! Jesus wanted those who heard Him to think about this and realize that this was something they could not do themselves! It had to be done for them! Jesus wanted people to trust in Him and to let God do it for them! God crucified you in and by Christ! If you notice, it is not even mentioned one time in the epistles that we are to bear our cross and die to ourselves. The epistles teach that you **already died to who you used to be!** (**Rom. 6:6-7, 2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 2:20, Col. 3:3**) Too many people are trying to do what has already been done by Jesus and are left frustrated. You will always be frustrated when you try to achieve what has already been done by Jesus' finished work. You will always be frustrated

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when you try to achieve what you should simply receive! Too many Christians are trying to achieve by their own efforts and struggle to obtain what God has already freely given. The fruit of a life dead from sin comes from the root of believing that in Christ you have already died to sin in Him and you reckon it to be so by faith. **(Romans 6:2-11)**

Let's look at the verse that shows that Christ's death was your death to sin.

**(Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

This verse says that we have been crucified with Christ. This is hard to understand without understanding the covenant representative principle. How in the world was I crucified with Christ 2000 years ago before I was even born? It was because you were in the representative for all mankind which was Jesus Christ when He went to the cross. What happened to Him there happened to you!

On the cross Jesus represented all that Adam was. Christ gathered up into Himself all of Adam including you and me and was crucified.

**(1Co 15:45) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.**

**(1Co 15:46) Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.**

**(1Co 15:47) The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.**

Notice in these passages that Adam is called the “**first** Adam” and Christ is called the “**last** Adam”. Why is Christ called the last Adam? It is because Christ became a representative for all of mankind and took the Adamic nature, curse, and sin within him on the cross and died. When He died, Adam and all that came from Him died in Him. Jesus had to crucify the old man that came from Adam so that he could bring in the new man- the new creation. Notice that Adam was called the “first man” because he was the head of the human race. Jesus in resurrection is called the “**second man**”. Jesus in His resurrection became the head of a new race called the new creation, or new man, just as Adam was the head of the human race and was called the old man! All those who place their faith in Christ are made new. Adam is the old man and Christ is the new man. We have died to the old man and if you have received salvation, then you are now in the second man, the new man, which is Christ.

Accept today the fact that you died in Christ and are now new in Him! God does not tell us to feel that what He says is true. He wants us to believe what He says is true and then you will experience it and feel it. Many are never able to experience freedom because they will not believe what God says He has done in Christ. They are trying to put to death the old man themselves when God has already done it in Christ. What a

glorious salvation! Jesus did our dying. He is a glorious and powerful Savior. Come to Him as you did when you got saved. Come to Him in faith believing that He put an end to your old man when He died as your representative. It will make a dramatic impact in your Christian walk!

## Chapter 7

### An Old Fashioned Burial

Sin was an old task master. However, once you died, you were freed from the task master. (**Romans 6:7**) The old task master might still try to convince you that you must do what he wants, but you don't. You have been freed by death and have been joined to a different master who will empower you to live a God honoring life! The old you died with Christ in the eyes of God. You are a brand new creature in Christ Jesus.

**(2Co 5:17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

This verse tells us plainly that we are a new creation in Christ. The old person we used to be that was incomplete, flawed, unrighteous, and was by nature a sinner, has **passed away**. When someone passes away [dies], you bury them! That is what happened to you in Christ. You died with Christ and were buried with him. (**Romans 6:4**) You are a new person in Him! Notice the verse above tells us **all** things are become new. How are we to see this when our natural eyes see nothing has changed? Our natural eyes do not see anything made new. You do not get a new body or even a new brain when you get saved. Believers often struggle with the same old sins they did before they were saved. How are we to see that all things are new? It is by beholding these things through the Word of God and by renewing our mind. We are to behold in

the Word and see ourselves as God sees us in Christ. We must look at the roots of grace in the Word and then exercise our faith and see them manifest as fruit. The root produces fruit.

**(Rom 6:3) (WEB) Or don't you know that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?**

**(Rom 6:4) (WEB) We were buried therefore with him through baptism to death, that just like Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.**

**(Rom 6:5) (WEB) For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection;**

**(Rom 6:6) (WEB) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin.**

**(Rom 6:7) (WEB) For he who has died has been freed from sin.**

The old man we used to be in Adam has died with Christ and we have a new identity in Him. If we think that we are the same old person that is sinful and incomplete, then we will have no other option than to try to fix ourselves by our own efforts or beg God to do it. We cannot deal with the flesh in the strength of the flesh! The flesh is like a pressure cooker. Many people try to suppress the flesh by using their willpower and try to discipline themselves not to sin. Things are under

control for awhile until they end up giving in to the pressure of sin and blow it really big in the area they were trying to suppress. Then comes a period of time where they seem to have it under control again until the pressure builds and it blows again. It is a re-occurring problem and cycle. Often people will be disciplined in many areas of their life but have one or more areas that are out of control, which they try to hide. These hidden areas are the release valves for the flesh. The flesh does not care that we have many areas that are disciplined as long as it has at least one release valve, even if it is pride! Real victory comes by sustained freedom given by the Spirit of God manifesting the death and resurrection of Christ in our life through faith in His finished work. I am not saying that we will never sin again, but it is God's will that we not live in addiction and bondage to anything. Many think that if they could only overcome certain habits or bondages, they would be mature Christians. No, being free from addictions and bondages is just the starting point of a life that God wants us to live. He has much more for us than trying to overcome habits! He has a life for us filled with the depth of his love and grace and wonderful ministry to others. Overcoming the cycle of the flesh comes by believing the old person we were before we were saved was crucified in Christ and through the resurrection we are a new creation possessing His righteous nature.

Many see salvation like the ultimate car wash. We get all the dirt washed off but we are still the same old clunker under the hood. No, when we got saved we got a brand new engine! We got a new spirit when we got saved! Our spirit was reborn and was made new when we received Christ, but our body and soul still

manifest the old man (the flesh) because it is still in the natural realm. Usually Christians get into one extreme or another. Some believe they are the same old sinner they were before they got saved. They just see themselves as a forgiven sinner. Others go to the other extreme and say they no longer have any of the old man left in them. Neither is the truth. The old man we inherited from Adam was crucified with Christ, our covenant representative. However, it is evident that our soul and body remained unchanged when we got saved. How is it then that the old man was crucified in Christ two thousand years ago, but we do not see it in the natural? Once again our helpful illustration of root and fruit comes into play here. The death, burial, and resurrection happened to Christ and are true in Him. He is no longer in this natural realm on the earth, but in heaven. So our identification with Christ is in the unseen spirit realm. Our identification with Christ is a spiritual reality outside of our five natural senses. That does not mean it is not real or make-believe. Really, the spirit realm is more real and permanent than the natural realm is! In Christ, in your spirit, you are a new creation. It is important to know that God has not changed this natural world yet. One day God will change this world and glorify it so to speak. It will be changed and the curse will be lifted off of it when He returns to the earth to reign in Jerusalem. There will be no more death and sin. God has done everything in Christ already to legally make this happen but He has chosen for His own purposes to wait until the appointed time to fully manifest His total redemption in the natural realm. Right now God's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. One day, when He physically returns, it will also become a natural kingdom. For

now, we still have the principle of sin and the tendency to sin in our body. This is what is called the “flesh”. Many see the term “flesh” and “old man” as the same thing. While it is true that the flesh is the old man, it is important to know that it is only **one** part of the old man. **Man** is a tri-partite being. Man is a spirit [identity], which has a soul [personality], and lives in a body. The spirit [your identity] of your old man has already been done away with and replaced with a new righteous spirit [new identity] because it is in the spirit realm where the work of Christ rules as a fact right now. In the spirit realm your spirit [identity] is brand new! The soul [personality] part of us which is connected to our body is to be renewed by the Word of God. (**Rom. 12:2**) Our mind, will, and emotions do not need to be born again. They are not evil. What are evil are the evil thoughts, beliefs, and patterns they contain. The soul merely needs to be renewed by the Word of God! The flesh is the nature of sin in your body that wages war against your soul and tries to deceive you by its lusts. (**1 Peter 2:11**) We still have the flesh here on the earth. Our flesh is the remains of our old man and it is still active. Why? This is because our body is still in the natural realm which has not been changed yet. God said in His Word that the old man has been crucified legally in Christ when he died on the cross. This is a spiritual reality. This means that your flesh has already been crucified in Christ also! You might be saying, “Well, I do not feel like my flesh has been crucified. As a matter of fact, it feels very much alive and active!” That is because it is a spiritual reality not a natural one. You will see it manifest in the natural by believing what God has said.

**(Gal 5:24) And they that are Christ's have [past tense] crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

Notice that the word “have” in this verse is not future or present tense. What tense is it? It is in the **PAST** tense. That means it has been done. If you belong to Christ your flesh **HAS** been crucified with its lusts and passions. How? It is because God made it so in the spirit realm. This happened when our old man died in our covenant representative, Jesus Christ, when He died. Jesus died in His full humanity as our representative. It was legally secured! We still feel the flesh operating because it is in the natural realm. However, by faith and through the power of the Spirit, we can see the flesh and its deeds put to death in our experience, by counting upon our co-crucifixion with Christ. (**Romans 6:11, 8:13**) When we trust in what was done at the cross then the Spirit will execute it in the natural! What we are talking about here is impossible to understand without the help and revelation of the Spirit of God. If you will ask God to reveal these things to you, then He will in His time! Keep meditating upon these things and more will be revealed.

What does all this mean? We do not need to try to conquer sin in our life! Why? Because Jesus Christ already did it! The only fight we have in the Christian life is the fight of faith! (**1 Tim. 6:12**) We are not called to fight sin! We fight to remain in faith in the finished work of Christ! It takes faith in the heart to see what God says is true in our life. We must believe, speak, and act in line with it, and it will be manifested by the

power of the Spirit of God.

Many Christians are actually committing identity theft. They are taking on the identity of a dead person. They think they are still the same old person, subject to the same old sins. Since they own this old identity they are busy trying to fix the old person up. They are still trying to overcome the sins of the old man. They are even using spiritual disciplines to try to do it. They pray, fast, read their bible, etc., in order to fix the old man and get him free from sin. I believe strongly in these vital disciplines, but not for the purpose of overcoming sins and trying to fix what is wrong in us. If you are using spiritual disciplines to try to get freedom from sin then you are trying to do what God already did in Christ. This will only bring frustration and defeat in your life. You are operating under the principle of the law and are trying to use your efforts to try to improve yourself. Do you know what you need to do?

***You need to have a good old fashioned funeral and say goodbye to the old person you used to be.***

You need to accept by faith the gift of righteousness. God, by His grace, has “fixed” you by crucifying the old you at the cross and causing you to be reborn a new, blameless person in His sight. You need new heart beliefs about who you are. It is actually the belief that you are the same old you that is keeping you in the bondage and sin that bound the old you. **Belief taps into the power of what is believed.** If you believe you are under sin and bondage needing to get free, then the power of sin goes into operation in your life. When you realize you are not that same old

person that you used to be before you were saved, and believe in the new righteous you, who has Christ living within you, then and only then will the precious Holy Spirit be able to manifest this new man in your life! When someone dies you bury them, but there have been some people that keep the dead around with them with the hopes that the dead person will come back to life and be restored. We do that when we refuse to bury the old man in our thinking and forsake our old identity. What happens when we refuse to bury our old past? It begins to stink and decay. We then try to fix up the old corpse and make it look better and smell better, but it is still dead and putrid. You cannot walk in the new you in Christ if you are taking on the identity of the old life. This is the crux of the gospel to the believer.

***If you do not start with your identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ then the Christian life is no more than a fruitless self help program to try to accomplish for yourself what God has already done by His grace.***

Freedom comes from the revelation of the truth but often this truth comes slowly; here a little and there a little. This is what takes time in the Christian life-growing in revelation and renewing the mind. Oh, how we need to see in our heart what God has done for us and simply receive in faith. We would see so much more manifested in our lives and walk in so much more victory! I believe that you are seeing the truth of the gospel and you are ready to exclaim- I am finally free!!

## Chapter 8

### A Bad Marriage

Next, I want to look at a connection sin has with the Law. It seems strange to think that sin and the Law have a relationship connection, but they do. This connection is vital to see so that the power of sin can be dealt with in your life.

Sin is the principle that indwells us because of Adam. Every human possesses this principle of sin. The Bible shows us this principle has its residence within our bodily members.

**(Rom 6:6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

**(Rom 6:12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.**

**(Rom 7:5) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.**

**(Rom 7:23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**

**(Rom 8:10) And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.**

**(Rom 8:13) For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

This sin principle that we inherited from Adam works in our flesh to get us to act independently of God in order to satisfy its lusts. As we have seen, God sent the Law to reveal sin, not for man to become righteous. The first reason God gave the Law was to show man he was a sinner by nature and secondly to teach of the coming Savior, Jesus Christ. God gave the Law which demands that we do all of its commands to live before God. The Law could only keep a person alive if they kept it. However, the Law could not impart life to people that were dead! (**Gal. 3:21**) The Law was given to show man he was already spiritually dead. Instead of learning from the Law and asking God for grace and for a Savior, they worshipped the Law and tried to accomplish righteousness by it. The more they tried, the more sin was strengthened. They learned there was a connection between sin and the law. We need to learn that same connection today. Let's look at some verses that show this connection.

**(Rom 7:5) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.**

**(Rom 7:8) But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.**

**(Rom 7:11) For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew *me*.**

**(Rom 7:13) Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**

**(Rom 6:14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

**(1Co 15:56) The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.**

The Law actually stirs up sin! It is surprising that the Law has this effect on sin. You would think that the Law would control sin, but the opposite is true. Sin is strengthened in the presence of the Law. You could say that sin has an allergic reaction in the presence of the Law! To test this, find a group of kids playing and tell them they cannot spit on a certain flower. Then go and hide and watch what happens! You will see some go immediately over to the flower and spit on it. Others

will stand there looking at the flower salivating wishing they could spit on it! Before the command to not spit on the flower, the kids were oblivious to the existence of the flower! Why is this? It is because the root of sin is rebellion. With each command given, the nature of rebellion in our flesh rises up to declare independence. The Law was to show man their rebellious and sinful nature.

To understand the connection between sin and the Law we must understand the principle behind the Law. The guiding principle of the Law is man's works. The Law gave commands but offered no assistance whatsoever to man to keep it. It all depended upon the efforts and work of man to try to keep it. You had to try to do all the right things by your own efforts and to keep from sinning by your own will power. You can say that the Law was based upon man's independence from God in order to be made right. God knew that man could never do this because he was dead spiritually and totally morally corrupt. However man did not know this. They thought they could keep the Law and be made right by it.

**(Deu 6:24) And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as *it is* at this day.**

**(Deu 6:25) And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.**

Here we see the intent of Israel. They thought they could become righteous by keeping the Law. God new better! He knew they did not have the heart to keep it. He gave them the Law and commanded them to keep it to the letter. He gave the Law to prove to man he was corrupt and thus needed a savior. What I want you to see is that the principle behind the Law is man's independence in trying to get right in his own efforts. Sin, by its own nature, is independence from God. Can you see now how sin was strengthened under the commands of the Law? The principle of the Law was to try to independently perform for God and become right. The more the flesh tried to independently be good for God the more it showed how bad it really was and how much it wanted to rebel against God and His moral standard. Sin is independence from God so it is only strengthened under a system that demands independence in performing for God. We see Paul struggling to please God under the Law in Romans 7. Every time he tried to do the right thing he found himself not being able to do it. He tried to stop doing the bad things he knew was wrong but could not find the power to stop! The flesh cannot get rid of the flesh. It needs a higher power and that higher power is the life of Jesus Christ!

Today we must see the connection between law and sin in our lives. You might say, "I am not under the Mosaic Law! I have never even been to Israel, definitely never sacrificed animals, and I love to eat bacon!" This might be true, but you still operate under the principle of law every day when you try in your own energy and will power to live for God and keep from sinning by your own resources and will power. You operate under the principle of law when you try to

become as you ought to be by prayer, bible study, church attendance, and so forth. You operate under the principle of law when you try by your own will power to defeat sin and gain victory over sin. You are trying to achieve these. You might say, "No, I pray and ask God to help me have victory over sin! I try not to sin, and I try to do the right things, but I also ask God for His help." You try to help God get victory over sin by your willpower. You then want God to give you the needed boost to make up the difference. You cannot help God in delivering you and saving you from sin! You could not do it when you got saved, and you cannot do it now! Jesus already did it when He died as your representative on the cross and was raised from the dead. Jesus actually has already delivered you from sin and the Law by dying. Death frees you not only from sin, but His death also severs you from the Law or having to produce your own holiness.

**(Rom 7:4) Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.**

The theme of Romans 6 is dying to sin through Christ's death. The theme of Romans 7 is dying to the Law through that same death. He freed you from both by His death. Jesus was the embodiment of the Law and fulfilled the Law by his life and death. He also took the penalty for broken Law, which was death, and paid that penalty in dying. He freed you from sin and from the Law and having to produce your own holiness.

What I want you to see is Christ set you free from the principle of law. **The principle of law says you must produce for God.** Christ's death set you free from having to produce for God in your own efforts.

***Living under grace means you are set free from having to produce anything FOR God and now you are free to start producing FROM God who now lives within you!***

We now are in union with God and are to bear fruit unto God. (**Romans 7:4**) Fruit bearing is not done by effort, but abiding! We now can produce from the root of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. We now can produce the fruit of righteousness from the root of righteousness that dwells in our new reborn spirit. When temptation comes it is our natural response to try to overcome it and tell ourselves we can't allow ourselves to sin. This is operating under the principle of law. Sin will only be strengthened if we try to conquer sin by our will power. We must rest upon the fact that we died to sin and the Law by the death of Christ and that Christ now lives within us and will manifest His victory over sin in us when we believe. When sin comes knocking I no longer say, "I can't sin. I must try to resist!" I say, "I am **FREE** not to sin because of the death and resurrection of Christ and my identification with Him.

Jesus already defeated sin. To illustrate this point let's look at two wars. One war is **going on now** in Afghanistan. This fight rages on even now and there are casualties almost daily. The other war was with Germany during WWII. This war **is over**. Hitler and

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Germany are already defeated. The battle is over. It is a historical event now! Many believers feel like they are in a battle with sin that is ongoing! Jesus is not in an ongoing battle with sin! He is resting in victory over sin. It was conquered at the cross! We as Christians can either try to fight an ongoing battle with sin by our willpower, or we can rest in Christ's victory over sin at the cross and enter into that victory by faith!

(Rom 6:7) For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Christ died and was freed from sin. When He died, so did I! The war is over! I do not have to fight a war that is over! I can rest in Christ's victory over sin and then the Spirit of God will execute that victory in my flesh, and I will experience the victory. (Romans 8:13) I can trust in the sin-defeating life of Jesus within me to manifest righteousness! I only need to believe that the power and life of Christ is working in me right now, delivering me from sin's control and power, and thank Him for it!" Sin's power stops at the cross of Christ! Sin is robbed of power when you refuse to try to conquer it in your own will power and trust in Christ's victory over it. To experience the victory of the Lord just thank Him for His love and holiness being released to you at this very moment and you will experience it. Don't wait to feel something. Faith believes it is happening right now whether you feel it or not. Rest in what has already been accomplished for you and stop trying to do it yourself. You only help sin out! Trust in Christ, and He will help you out!

## Chapter 9

### The New School

As we have seen, the Old Covenant was based upon Law. It was about **achieving** for God. The New Covenant is all about **receiving** from God.

***In the New Covenant God has performed for you!***

Many are offended at this. This is the stumbling stone that is referred to in the Bible. (**Rom. 9:33**) The stumbling stone is that Christ is our righteousness. He offers the gift of righteousness by faith. He has made us right before God.

In the Old Testament, God said that man could not keep his Law because they did not have a heart to do it. By the finished work of Christ, God deals with the heart of man. It was actually prophesied at different times in the Old Testament that a time would come when God would change believer's hearts and empower them to live godly. This is the promise of the New Covenant we live in today.

**(Eze 11:19) And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh:**

**(Eze 36:25) Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness,**

and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

(Eze 36:26) A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

(Eze 36:27) And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

Ezekiel saw a day when God would change the very nature and heart of believers. He saw by the Word of the Lord this exchange of the old man for the new man. God would take out the old heart and put in a new heart. Talk about the ultimate heart transplant!! In these verses God promised four things. He would cleanse, He would give a new heart, He would give a new spirit, and He would place His Spirit within them. Again, many have the view that salvation is merely a cleansing. But it goes deeper than that. It is also receiving a new heart and spirit within us. This new heart is filled with righteousness and a desire to please God. It is a pure heart that God could place His Holy Spirit in so that He could cause us to walk in his statutes. Notice it says “**cause to walk**” not “make walk”. God will not make us keep His statutes. He placed in us a new nature, a new heart, and His Holy Spirit to cause us to walk in His statutes, if we trust Him. Now we can be caused to walk in His ways if we are led by the Spirit and believe in Christ’s finished work. We received four new things according to these verses the moment we were saved. We received a **new purity** (I will cleanse), a **new person** (a new heart and spirit), a **new passion** (I will take away the stony

heart), and a **new power** to live the Christian life (I will put my Spirit in you).

In the Old Covenant of Law it all depended on people trying to keep God's standards. In the New Covenant the stress is placed on what God has done. Notice in the verses above how many times you see the word "I" when speaking of God! The New Covenant is about God doing in man what man could not do in himself. The purpose of the Law was to prove to man he could not achieve righteousness.

Jesus died to fulfill the Old Covenant. He fulfilled its commands by His perfect life and fulfilled the sacrifices by His perfect death. Jesus died so that He could place His own life in us. This was God's desire from the very beginning. The receiving of the life of Christ is receiving the tree of life into our heart! Once the life of Christ is implanted, fruit-bearing should take place.

**(Rom 6:5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:**

The words "planted together" in Greek means to be grafted together. When you graft a tree you take a bad tree and graft it into a good tree and then the bad tree will start bearing the fruit of the good tree! This is what happened in the New Covenant when you got saved! You were grafted into Christ when we got born again. From this new graft in Christ we now can bear His fruit of holiness, righteousness, purity, and freedom! However, the New Covenant only has power in our life if you know about the root in us and draw upon it by faith. We must see that the old person that

was unrighteous and unholy has been crucified in Christ Jesus and that we are a new righteous person in Him. This is the gospel, and believing this in our heart is the power of God unto salvation, deliverance, health, and prosperity in our life! The New Covenant is a glorious covenant between God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. This covenant is an eternal covenant and cannot be broken. You entered into this covenant by faith in God's free offer of grace. You now are a new person. Allow yourself to believe it. Dare to say to yourself because of this New Covenant I am a new person and I am finally free!

## Chapter 10

### **Everyone Loves A Well-Dressed Man!**

The New Covenant is where we are released from the old man and are reborn in Christ as the new man. Paul refers to this transition in Ephesians chapter 4:22-24

**(Eph 4:22) That ye put off concerning the former conduct the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;**

**(Eph 4:23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;**

**(Eph 4:24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

Paul here tells us to put off the “**former conduct**” of the old man, not the old man himself. In **Romans 6:6**, we have seen that the old man was crucified with Christ. In God’s eyes the old person we were was crucified with Christ although we still manifest the old man in our body and in our souls to some degree because we are still living in the natural realm. We are told to put off the **old behavior** we learned when we were unsaved. That is why Paul says in verse 23 that we are to renew our mind to who we are now in Christ. We are to put on new behavior that comes from who we are now in Christ. “Put off” and “put on” are terms that speak of putting on and off clothing. We wear clothing on the outside of our body.

**The Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament** has this to say about the put on and put off metaphor that Paul uses:

**“The change of clothes imagery signifies an exchange of identities.”**

Paul is referring to our conduct that comes from our identity. It is symbolized by clothing. Clothing is one of the major ways we show our identity or more accurately our sense of identity. Policemen wear particular clothing to identify them. So do doctors, nurses, business men, and many other professions. Some wear western clothes while others wear suits. Clothing reveals who we are or who we think we are. Paul is speaking here of putting off the actions that are connected with our old identity. Our conduct is like clothing we wear on the outside of us and it comes from who we think we are! A Christian is not the old person they used to be, but they are a new person in Christ. **Ephesians 4:24** says we were created as a new person in righteousness and true holiness. Is that your view of yourself at the core of your heart? If it isn't then you need to slip off that old mindset and slip on a new mindset. You cannot live righteously and have a mindset of a sinner. You need to change that mindset first. It is like changing clothes. You can put off the behavior of the old you by accepting that you are a new person who is righteous, complete, and acceptable to God in Christ.

We must be renewed in the spirit of our mind. The word “spirit” here means “at the core or deepest level” of your mind. At the heart level, where beliefs are

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held, is where we need to be renewed to who we are in Christ. We will talk about how to change core heart beliefs in the last section of this book.

***Our heart has not been impacted with truth until we see ourself differently because the heart is the seat of self.***

We need to change our spiritual clothing in the dressing room of the deepest part of our mind. This is not just lightly accepting intellectual knowledge of who we are in Christ but by being deeply impacted in our mind and heart by meditating on the Word of God.

**(Rev 2:17) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.**

The old you has died and has been buried. You are a brand new person in Christ. To show you this fact God has changed your name in heaven and when we get there it will be revealed. God will do this because you are not the same old person. He will wait until you reach heaven to reveal to you your new name because it would be confusing here on earth if it got changed now. The government would not understand! He also wants us to walk by faith that we are new. Take God's Word at face value and believe what He says about you and it will make all the difference in your life!

## Chapter 11

### The Three Week Challenge!

We saw our need to put off the old rotten clothing [behavior] of the old man and the divine call to slip on the new clean clothing [behavior] of the new man in the last chapter. But, how can we do that practically? We need to align our behavior with our new identity in Christ. How can this be realized?

***We do this the same way we got saved. We got saved by believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths. [Romans 10:9-10] This is how we put off the old sins of the old man and put on the new righteous behavior of the new man.***

We need to believe in our heart what God's Word tells us about our new identity, but it is **equally vital that we use our mouths to see the necessary outward changes take place.** In each and every situation in which we face sin or obstacles in our life we need to speak out loud with our mouths that we are no longer identified with that particular thing any longer. We died and were separated from it in Christ. Living under the control of sin and habits is no longer our nature because of the cross and resurrection of Christ. We have been joined to Christ and share His life and nature. We tap into this life by believing and speaking.

In Romans chapter six, Paul lays out the steps to freedom. He first reveals we need to know something. We need to know that our old man was crucified in our

representative Jesus Christ. [Vs 6] The next thing he reveals is that we must count on something. We are to believe and count on the fact we have died [been separated] from the power of sin because of our identification with Jesus on the cross and have been joined to the nature and life of Christ. [Vs. 11] Paul then reveals another vital step to victory. He tells us we need to **act upon** what we know and believe.

**(Rom 6:13) And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

We are to present our members to God as alive from the dead. We are going to tap into the nature and life of Jesus Christ within us by acting on our knowledge and belief. The key to presenting our members is that it must begin with the smallest member we have. It starts with the tongue!

**(Jas 3:5) Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!**

James calls our tongue a member! We are to present our members to God. James reveals that our tongue is the member that controls all the rest of our members! We can control our whole body by our tongue! [James 3:2] James says our tongue is like a little bit in a horse's mouth and a little rudder of a big ship. [James 3:3-4] Both will cause a change in

direction no matter how strong the opposition to that change! A large horse and a large ship will be caused to turn around! If we want to see a change of behavior and direction in our lives then it starts by believing in our hearts and then speaking with our mouths. Certain habits in our life seem so large and too huge to change. They will start to change by our little tongue! If we will believe and speak in line with that belief then things will change. However, to get to a place of believing we need to speak the Word over ourselves. Medical science has caught up with the Bible! A recent scientific finding is that the speech center of the brain controls the entire central nervous system from which our actions are directed! We can control our actions with our words!

***I can't stress how important it is to speak this out loud. Many Christians are struggling with sin and negative situations with their will power and by fighting a mental battle against sin and temptations. If you do this, I promise you that your defeat is certain.***

You must open your mouth and release your faith by proclaiming that you are no longer the same old person you used to be and that you no longer have the old identity you used to have in Adam because of the cross of Christ. We must proclaim that we have a new identity that is free, righteous, and pure.

The sword of the Spirit is the spoken Word of God. **[Ephesians 6:17]** The Spirit wields this sword against all that stands against us, but we must provide the spoken word! When Jesus comes back He will wield a

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sharp two-edged sword, but He is not going to be swinging it in His hand. It will be coming out of His mouth! **[Rev. 19:15]** This is how the sword will work for us also. It must come out of our mouths. If we just mentally stand against sin, we will not experience victory.

***The Spirit will not be released to produce victory just by thinking it! We must speak the Word of God concerning our new identity out of our mouths! It is not sufficient to hear our pastor speak to us about our identity. We must hear the Word spoken from our own mouths. We believe ourselves more than anyone else!***

There are two types of confession. There is the confession **unto faith** and the confession **of faith**. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. **[Rom. 10:17]** We need to keep speaking the Word of God to get to a place where we start believing it, only then, when we do believe it in our heart and speak it, it will release the power of God.

We all have developed certain flesh patterns of thinking, believing, and acting. To break these, we need to renew our mind by meditating on the truths of the New Covenant scriptures that reveal who we are and what we have in Christ. However, this is not sufficient to break these old patterns. We need to speak out loud the truths of the New Covenant with our mouths.

***God has ordained that our hearts be impacted, molded, and directed by words! To break old ways of thinking and acting, we need to first change the pattern of our words.***

If there is a habit or stronghold of the flesh in your life, you need to put on Christ in that area. You do that by first opening your mouth and proclaiming that you are separated from that old, sinful behavior through Christ's death. You have a new nature because you are joined to Christ and that nature is not subject to sin. Jesus does not practice that sin because it is not His nature to do so. You need to realize that you are sharing the same nature and life of Jesus and you must believe it is operating in you right now. [**2 Peter 1:4**] You tap into it by releasing your faith by your mouth! It is important to believe what you say in your heart, but even if you don't, you need to still speak it because it is God's Word. If you will continue to speak in line with God's Word then faith will come at some time. Your heart will become convinced of it and when you speak out of a convinced heart the power of the Spirit will manifest it! It is vital to keep speaking the Word of God even if you don't feel it is true and even if it looks like it is not true. Speak it because you know it is true because it is God's Word.

Humility says what God says no matter how you feel or see it. The foundation of humility is agreement with God. It does not get more basic than that! God will always give grace to the humble! [**James 4:6**] If we agree with God, then we can experience the grace of God to meet our every need! We must keep speaking

the truth over ourselves until we see our hearts and lives change.

***We need to do this before, during, and after temptation. It is vital you do this every time! Don't just fight a mental battle. Use your tongue every single time and you will start seeing changes before long!***

You know you have put on Christ when you don't have to constantly fight off temptations and thoughts anymore in a certain area. You will experience victory because you have renewed your mind and created new, holy thinking patterns out of which you live effortlessly, just as you did when you sinned without effort.

A pastor of a large church today has a testimony to the power of words. God had called him into the ministry and to pastor, but one thing held him back. He could not quit smoking! No matter how hard he tried he just could not quit smoking. He knew that pastoring and smoking did not go well together! One day God spoke to him and asked him why he was not obeying His call to go into the ministry. The man told God that he could not quit smoking. God gave him a scripture that changed his life. God gave him:

(Rom 4:17) (as it is written, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did;**

God wanted this pastor to start operating just like He did! God calls those things that do not exist as though they did. Many get this backward. We are not to call those things that exist as though they did not! That will produce nothing and is foolishness. If you have a cold, saying you do not have a cold will not change a thing. Saying I am the healed of the Lord by the stripes of Jesus from a believing heart will release the grace of healing in your life! The truth of God will change the facts of our life. If you don't believe, choose to say it anyway just because God says it. This is humility! If you keep this up, you will come to a place of faith because faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God!

God challenged this pastor to start changing what he was saying and to start calling those things that did not exist as though they did. So, each day he would confess, "I am a non-smoker!" At first the desire to smoke did not leave, so he would smoke. He would light up a cigarette and say, "I am a non-smoker". This went on for some days. He did not quit calling those things that did not exist as though they did because God had told him to do it. One day when he pulled out a cigarette to smoke he said, "I am a non-smoker" and something just rose up in him and he threw the cigarettes into the trash. The next day when it was time for a smoking break a co-worker asked him if he was going out to smoke. He said he was not going out because he was a non-smoker. The co-worker said, "You are not! I saw you smoking just yesterday". The pastor said, "Yesterday I smoked, but today I am a non-smoker!" This pastor never picked up another

cigarette and today pastors a large successful church to the glory of God. The principle that worked for this pastor will SURELY work for you because it is God's Word and His principle for change!

**I have a three week challenge for you.** Scientific studies have shown that it takes about three weeks to change a habit. Are you up to a three week challenge that will change your life? For the next three weeks I want you to go on a negative speaking fast! Pick one problem area of your life that you have not been able to change. For three weeks I want you to call those things that do not exist as though they did. If you smoke call yourself a non-smoker. If you drink alcohol call yourself sober and a non-drinker. If you are bound to lust and pornography call yourself pure and free from lust. If you overeat confess that you are a very slow eater and are free from gluttony and overeating. If you struggle with anger call yourself a very patient and loving person. Say, "I have died and been separated from this sin because of Jesus' death on the cross." Say, "I have been joined to Jesus and now I am righteous and share Jesus' holy nature and life!"

Do this with any problem you have. Make sure **YOU DO THIS OUT LOUD SO YOU CAN HEAR IT!** Make sure your confession is in the positive and not in the negative. Do not say, "I am **not** a \_\_\_\_\_". Say, "**I am** \_\_\_\_\_". When you first start doing this, everything within you will fight against it! You will feel like a total phony and that you are just lying to yourself. Do you know why you will feel this way? It is because you have believed the lie so long you have taken it as the truth. When you speak the truth you reject it as a

lie. God says we are free from all sin, habits, and bondages through Christ.

Humility says what God says. Humility will receive the grace and power of God in our lives. Humility starts with our tongues and agreeing with God and calling those things that do not exist as though they did! For three weeks I want you to do this. It doesn't matter what you feel like. Your feelings are fickle and are very unreliable. Even if you feel weak and even start doing the thing you don't want to do, still make your positive confession before, during, and after it!

Don't be surprised if you have even more trouble in that specific area than ever before. That's just your flesh, mind, and the enemy fighting what you are doing. Don't quit. Go the three weeks. You cannot stop a few days or week into the challenge and say, "It does not work!" This is a three week challenge my friend! The only way you fail the challenge is to go back to saying what you used to say. If you slip up, go back to calling those things as that do not exist as though they did. Don't give up! If you will do this consistently I believe that, before the three week are out, your feelings will change. I believe your actions will change. I believe you will experience the freedom Jesus died to give you. Take the challenge! Dare to be finally free!

## Chapter 12

### The Father of Spirits

The question, "Who am I?" is very important. Some will name an occupation or a role they fill. Some will answer something that is true of their personality. These are all wrong. Who am I? I am a spirit that has a soul, which lives in a body that works at an occupation and performs different roles. The fact that we are a spirit is of utmost importance to living the victorious Christian life. The scripture plainly reveals that humans are a tri-partite person.

***1Th 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Notice that the spirit is mentioned first because this is the identity of man and should have supreme authority in our being. Before Adam and Eve fell their spirit ruled their soul and body. Some people think they are a soul. They think they are what they think, feel, and desire. The soul is the personality of your spirit. However, your soul is not your identity. **We get our identity by birth.** God is the **Father of our spirit.** Nowhere does the scripture say that God is the Father of our souls or bodies! No, He is the Father of our spirit. This is our identity. When we get saved we get born again in our spirit- not our soul, or body. We get our new spiritual identity by being born again in our spirit.

I believe most Christians see themselves according to what they experience in their souls and not as a spirit. Instead of being conscious that they are a spirit, they merely think they have a spirit in which good things reside. Such Christians are soulish and carnal. We will not become spiritual until we renew our mind that we are a spirit that has a soul and lives in a body. We need to speak of ourselves as a spirit. Because we are born again with the life and nature of God in our spirit then we can rightly say we are holy, righteous, and partakers of the divine nature. This is who I am. In redemption God desires once again for our spirit to rule over our soul and our body. As a resurrected speaking spirit we should dictate to our soul that will be accepted and rejected there. As a resurrected speaking spirit we should dictate to our body what it will do and not do. We do this with our words of faith. God is a spirit and He operates by speaking. We were created and then re-created in His image and are to operate this way.

***We need to regularly say, "I am a resurrected spirit. I am holy, righteous, pure, washed, clean, filled with power, wisdom, and love."***

If we do not like something going on in our soul we need to speak to our soul and fix it! Although David was not born again, he knew he was a spirit and could dictate to his soul.

**Psa 42:5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.**

**Psa 42:11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.**

**Psa 43:5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.**

David commanded his soul to hope in God. We can and should command our soul to line up with our spirit. Paul knew he was a spirit that had authority over his body.

**1Co 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.**

Paul said he disciplined his body and brought it into subjection. He did not say he brought himself into subjection, but his body. He knew he was not his body. He was a spirit that had a soul, which lived in a body. He had authority over his body. He dictated to his body instead of allowing his body to dictate to him. The nature of the flesh resides in our body. Sin manifests itself through our flesh in order to bring us into bondage. Through the finished work of Christ sin in the flesh was condemned.

**Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,**

Jesus condemned sin in our flesh. It has been legally condemned, but we must enforce that legal decree. When our flesh rises up we need to say, "Hold a minute flesh! I am a resurrected spirit and I have authority over my soul and body. You are not going to control me. Flesh, Jesus condemned you by the cross. I enforce that legal fact by calling you dead right now. Lust, passion, inordinate desire, lasciviousness, I am dead to you and you are dead to me! Jesus and His life rules in me because it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me! He is empowering me to do the right thing right now!" You don't have to use these exact words but you need to enforce what God has decreed because authority has been given to your spirit to rule your soul, body, and over the flesh! It might seem weird at first thinking and speaking of yourself as being a spirit. But over time you will start renewing your mind, and the realities of your spirit will start dominating your soul, body, and flesh. I advise you not do this in front of others because they will not understand. Do this when you are by yourself, or under your breath if you are with others. You need to become spirit conscious. When you do this you will begin to hear the voice of God more clearly because the Spirit of God dwells in our spirit. You are a speaking spirit. What God says about your spirit, you need to speak over yourself it is true of you. He is the Father of spirits. You are made in His image. Operate like Him

## Chapter 13

### Just as you ought to be!

Righteousness is another term that is used widely but very few people really know what it means. Many think it means right living. That is not what righteousness is. That is describing what righteousness looks like when it is displayed in our daily lives.

***Righteousness goes beyond what we do to who we are.***

Some see righteousness merely as “right standing with God”. This is a better understanding but it is still incomplete.

There are two sides to righteousness. There is a **legal side** which has to deal with a right legal standing with God and then there is an **executive side** to it where we actually become righteous in our new nature. To illustrate this let’s look at our legal system. You can have a legal decision made but it has to be carried out in a practical way. It has to be executed.

***The first part of righteousness is the legal side. This is called imputation, but the second part is the executive side of actually receiving righteousness. This is called impertation.***

It is vital to understand that you not only have

righteousness imputed to you but that you also have righteousness imparted to you through the new birth. Having a right standing with God has to do with a legal standing of being declared innocent. By the finished work of Christ we have had the debt of our sins paid by His blood. Having righteousness imputed to us is having a right legal standing with God because of the shed blood of Christ. The word “imputed” is an accounting term which means righteousness is put to our account.

**(Rom 4:20) He (*Abraham*) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;**

**(Rom 4:21) And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

**(Rom 4:22) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**

**(Rom 4:23) Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;**

**(Rom 4:24) But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;**

The righteousness of Christ has been put on our account. Remember that in group covenant that two representatives meet so that the two groups can make a covenant. Each representative brings to the table all the liabilities and all the assets of the group and shares them with the other. As we have seen, God paid for all the liabilities of man by shedding the innocent blood of Christ at the cross. Righteousness has to do with

receiving the assets of God into our account. God is right, pure, and true. By the resurrection of Christ, God gives us His assets through His righteousness. They are put on our account because they belong to Christ. When Christ was raised up as the covenant representative for those who believe, we were seen as in Him. By being in Him we are given the assets of God. We are given His righteousness.

Many people just see righteousness as imputed to us, or having a right standing with God. It is vital to also see that righteousness was **imparted** to us as well. Many people see righteousness merely as a covering that hides our ugliness underneath. They think that God looks down on us and because of the blood of His Son He cannot see the dirty sinner underneath. Again this is carwash theology. It says that we were merely washed and waxed on the outside but we are still the same clunker under the hood. This is where we get the phrase, "I am just a sinner saved by grace." This is why so many still struggle with the same old sins they did before they were saved. They still see themselves the same old person they were before they got saved. The only thing that happened in their mind is that Jesus shed his blood for them and that God decided to look the other way and not count their sins against them. In their mind salvation is something that will take effect once they die. Until then they try to be a good Christian and try to keep the rules they learn at church. They try to do the do's and try to stop the don'ts. They struggle against sin by their will power and beg God to forgive them when they give in once again to the same old habit they have had for years. They repeat again and again the cycle of try, sin, repent, try, sin, repent...etc. We can see the cycle

of sin and addiction broken in our life by understanding righteousness. Actually the English word “addiction” comes from the Greek word **adikia** which is the word translated “unrighteous” in the Bible!

***We break addiction or unrighteousness in our life by understanding, believing, and acting on our righteousness in Christ.***

This will happen when you understand that you were actually **MADE** righteous when you were born again. You not only have a right legal standing with God but in your new identity, in your new reborn spirit, you were actually made righteous!

**(Eph 4:24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

**(2Co 5:21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

**(Rom 5:19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.**

We have been created righteous in Christ. We have been made righteous in Him! The word “righteous” is one of the words I mentioned in the opening of the

book that have been robbed of power because we have lost it meaning. If we really saw what this word actually means and decided to believe it then our lives would be transformed more on accident than you ever achieved on purpose! Let's look at what this word righteous actually means!

This is what the word righteous means according to James Thayer in *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*:

**“*dike*, whose first meaning seems to have been “custom”; the general use suggested conformity to a standard: righteousness, “the state of him who is such as he ought to be””**

This definition comes from one of the most respected Greek scholars in church history. He says that righteous means **the state of him (or her) who is such as he ought to be**. Is that your view of yourself in your heart? Do you feel inadequate? Do you feel sinful? Do you feel incomplete on the inside? If your answers are yes, then you need a revelation of righteousness. God sees you in the state of being such as you ought to be. You are not as you ought to be in your performance or in your natural self but in your new spiritual make up in Christ.

**(Eph 1:4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

Many are trying to be holy and without blame before

God by their own behavior. Let me make this plain. You will never be holy and without blame before God by your works.

**(Gal 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.**

Being in a state of who you ought to be comes by a gift from God based upon the finished work of Christ. You cannot get yourself to a place where you ought to be with God by your own efforts. You must receive it by faith and as a gift. Most people cannot accept they are in a state of being as they ought to be because they have their eyes on their behavior. Remember, behavior is merely a fruit of who you think you are. God has created all animals to behave from who they are. It is determined by their instinct and DNA. Humans are very different from animals. Only a small part of human behavior comes from literally **who we are**. Our heart beats by itself, we breathe without thinking, and many of our bodily organs function without our will to make them work. We have some mannerisms that are a product of our DNA. All these functions are part of who we are in our genetic makeup. However, this is only a **small part** of human behavior. For the most part God has ordained human behavior to come not from who we are in our genetic makeup but by **beliefs**. The biggest determining set of beliefs that human behavior is governed by is our beliefs in who God is and who we

think we are.

***We are not so much guided by who we are but who we think and believe we are!***

If you believe as a Christian that you are a dirty sinner who is not as you should be before God then your behavior will start matching that belief.

Let's look at some other definitions of the word righteous from other Greek dictionaries.

**“Conformity to with the claims and standards of a higher authority. It is both imputed and imparted to the believer.” Complete Word Study**

**“Being just as you ought to be.” E.W. Bullinger- A Critical Greek Lexicon**

Again, do you believe that you are just as you ought to be? Most would say no way! Again, that is because you are looking at your performance in the natural. You are looking in the wrong place. If you would open the eyes of your heart and accept what God says about you in Christ then you would start seeing yourself as He sees you. He sees you completely righteous and holy in Christ. Why? It is because Christ is your righteousness and holiness! Being just as you ought to be is speaking of your new identity in Christ. It is true of you in your new spirit that has been reborn. You are a spirit, that has a soul, and you live in a body. Your identity is based upon your spiritual nature. You were

**born again** in your spirit.

***You get your identity by birth.***

You have a new identity in Christ. You are a new person all together in Him. You have been born again! How do you get your soul and actions to line up with this new identity you have in your spirit? It is by believing that you have been made righteous.

**(Rom 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life [*which is*] in Christ Jesus [*the law of our new being*] has freed me from the law of sin and of death. (Amplified)**

This wonderful verse shows us that the Spirit of life has freed me from the law of sin and death. The Amplified brings out that this new law of the Spirit is the law of our new being. This new law is righteousness. God has placed His very own life and nature into my spirit. I now have the same sin defeating life in me that is in Jesus. As I trust that He has made me righteous or just as I ought to be then the power of that truth is released in me to overcome temptation and sin. What I could not conquer in my willpower is now conquered by the life of Christ within me.

**(1Co 15:34) Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.**

How are we going to stop sinning? Awake to righteousness! We need to awake to the fact that our new identity is righteous and that we are just as we ought to be before God. When we start believing this in our hearts then we will start feeling righteous.

***We will not sin when we believe and feel that we are righteous.***

Many are trying to become righteous by trying to quit sinning. They got it backwards. We will stop sinning when we awake to or become aware of being righteous because of Christ.

**(Rom 5:17) For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)**

Do you want to reign and rule in your life over sin? It will only be by receiving the abundant grace God and of the gift of righteousness. He has given you the gift of being just as you ought to be before Him.

***You are everything God wants in a person right now in Christ!***

I know you don't see that in your daily performance

and most probably do not feel that way. We will never in this life reach the total manifestation in our daily lives of what we are in Christ in the spiritual realm. To be transformed each day into that inner reality is the call of every Christian. Many Christians bear very little fruit because they do not understand righteousness. They are going about to establish their own righteousness instead of receiving it as a gift and letting their behavior be transformed by its power.

**(Rom 10:3) For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**

**(Rom 10:4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

**Christ is the end of the line for righteousness in your life!** (Romans 10:4) Christ is your righteousness. He has made you just as you ought to be. Pray for the revelation of this in your heart. God longs to give it to you so that you can be finally free!

## Chapter 14

### **Turn on the Lights!**

How can you get rid of darkness? If you did not want a dark room it would not help yelling at the darkness to leave. You could not shovel it out the window so light would come. You could struggle against the darkness but it would not leave. What must you do to make it leave? Of course, you must turn on the lights! Darkness is no more than the absence of light. This same principle is true in our spiritual life. We all have areas of darkness in our lives. We often try to struggle against the darkness hoping that if we could overcome it, or at least make it leave, then light would be free to come. Many struggle against the flesh and try to overcome sins, habits, and bondages with the hopes that they will become better, more righteous people.

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

Many people have this verse turned backwards in their minds. They have spiritual dyslexia. They think that if they could somehow not fulfill the lust of the flesh then the Spirit would be more powerful and active in their lives. This is not what the verse actually says. What does it say? It says that when we walk in the Spirit (Light), then you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (darkness). When you turn on the lights then the darkness leaves!

I have found something in my life that has been proven consistent. I can receive grace in order **to do** the things I should much more than I can get grace to **keep from doing** things I should not. This underlines a principle of faith. Faith is in the positive not negative.

**(Gen 1:3) And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.**

Notice that God said, “Light be”; not “darkness cease being!” If you focus on the darkness you are neglecting the light! You can spend your life trying to examine your past. You can examine where you were hurt and who was to blame and what happened to you or you can turn on the light and start believing the truth of your new identity in Christ. You actually stop doing the bad things you hate by replacing them with good! There are many examples but let me show you one:

**(2Ti 2:22) Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

It says to flee youthful lusts. Ok, you flee, but where are you to go? This verse goes on to say, “but follow righteousness, faith, love, and peace”. How can you flee immorality? It is by pursuing something else! You can live free from sin because you acknowledge and access the life of Christ within you. Have you trusted His life within you? Have you acknowledged that His life is in you and that it is an overcoming, all powerful, and conquering force? You need to!!

**Phm 1:6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

Many think that the way they can grow in their faith is to acknowledge the sin in their lives, find out where it came from, and overcome it with much effort and with God's help, if needed. This verse says the opposite is true.

***We must first acknowledge the good in us through Christ Jesus for our faith to work.***

This is turning on the lights! Each time we meditate on the truth of our identity in Christ, believe it, and speak it in first person, present tense, we are turning on the lights! What happens when we turn the lights on? Yep! The darkness **MUST** go. It is called the law of displacement. So, are you trying to fight the darkness in your life? If you are, stop it! Just turn on the lights!

## Chapter 15

### Fruit-Bearing

God designed the Christian life to be a manifestation of fruit-bearing and not to be lived by self effort and the labor of the flesh. I have never gone by an apple tree and heard the branches groaning and grunting trying to produce apples! The branches bear fruit naturally by abiding in and drawing from the sap-life of the tree. This is how the Christian life is to be lived out as well. Our lives are to be fruit filled!

**Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, Gal 5:23 gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (WEB)**

The fruit of the Spirit is just the manifestation of the life of Jesus which was planted within us at salvation. From the nature of love within us we can live lives that are filled with joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self control. The fruit of the Spirit within us is sufficient to meet every need we have in our life. If we need to love someone who is unlovable then the life of Jesus will impart that to us. If we need to rejoice in the tough times of life then joy will be imparted to us. If we need patience, then we can draw upon Christ's nature of patience within us. This is true with every other manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit of Christ.

***There is no situation that we can face that the fruit of the Spirit cannot address it and cause us to walk in victory!***

The Lord Jesus loves us and wants to impart His life into each and every area and situation we face in our life. Let's look at this from the book of Galatians.

**Gal 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me. (WEB)

We have studied how we were crucified with Christ. When He died, we died in Him as our representative. We are no longer the same sinful old person we were. We are born again, but Christ is also now living in us. We are in union with Him. We are to live our life by having faith in Jesus to empower us with His life! This translation of Galatians 2:20 above does not bring out the correct verb tenses in the last sentence. The actual Greek says, “**I live by faith in the Son of God, who is loving me, and giving Himself to me” Both verb tenses are present tense in the Greek. It is saying that Jesus is right now loving me and giving Himself to me. This means that Jesus is always sharing His nature and life to us. We can believe this and draw upon it to live the Christian life! When we need to love someone, we are not to trust in our own ability to love. We need simply to look to Jesus and accept by faith that He is giving Himself to us to be love in that moment. When we believe this,**

confess this, and act upon it, we will experience a supernatural empowerment of His love that we could not muster up in our own ability. His love becomes our love in the moment of our need! This is true with the rest of the fruits of the Spirit. Whatever the need, Jesus is there to give Himself to us in that moment so we can experience victory and bear His fruit! What a salvation! It is the life of Jesus that provides victory in the Christian life.

**Rom 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death.

**Rom 8:3** For what the law couldn't do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh;

**Rom 8:4** that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus frees me from the law of sin and death. A law is something that is present at all times. There is a law of sin and death working in this world and in our body of flesh because neither has experienced redemption yet. However, there is a greater and more powerful law working in our born again spirit! It is the law of life in Christ Jesus. When we trust that Jesus is loving us and is giving Himself to us in the present moment then we can experience freedom from sin. What the Law (or my own efforts to free myself) could not do, God has done, by the finished work of Christ. If we will but trust in the

life of Jesus Christ within us it will cause the righteous requirement of the Law to be fulfilled in us. It will be fulfilled **in us**, not **by us**! It will be fulfilled in us by the life of Christ.

***The only person who can live the Christian life is Jesus Christ. We live the Christian life by relying upon His life within us.***

If we will count on the fact that our old man (including our flesh) has been dealt with by the cross, we will then be able to release our faith in the resurrection life now available in us! We can then act upon our faith believing that Christ is empowering our actions and He will!

***We can either try to live the Christian life by our will power, or we can live it by faith in the power of another- Jesus Christ!***

Which we choose will determine if we experience defeat or victory. Our choice will determine if we will remain bound to sin or experience freedom. Christ is in us loving us and giving Himself to us so we can be finally free!

Some think that if Jesus lives His life in us then we will be like robots or puppets. This is not the case. Let me provide an illustration that might help. In my kitchen I have different appliances that do different things. My toaster toasts and my dish washer washes. You get the point! However, all my appliances have

one thing in common. Without the life of electricity flowing through them they are all paper weights and useless! What enables each appliance to perform its unique function? It is receiving the flow of electricity through them that does it. It is the same with us. The life of Christ is much like the electricity in our illustration.

***When we allow the life of Christ to flow in and through our unique personalities and individual make up then we will be empowered to function in the very unique and special way for which we were made.***

God does not by-pass our personalities and soul, but flows through them to fulfill His Divine purposes. The life of Christ empowers us to be all that we were intended to be! The appliances are mere objects, but we are living beings. Appliances do not have a will to decide to turn on and off the flow of electricity. We do have a free will and it is our decision whether we will draw upon the life of Christ within us or be paper weights in life and do nothing of eternal value. What is your choice?

## Chapter 16

### **Thoughts, Thoughts, and More Thoughts!**

Have you ever stopped to think about what you are thinking? Our thinking is the doorway to our heart and from the heart comes the forces of life or death. This is so vital to understand in order to walk in victory. If you do not understand the power of your thoughts and the utmost importance your mind plays in walking in victory you will experience defeat and not know why. It is important to know that all sin or negative behavior is driven by **EMOTIONS**. Matter of fact the word emotions has the word “motion” in it. Emotions were given by God to motivate us to action. It is important to know that sin is emotional!

**Jas 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust (strong emotion), and enticed.**

**Jas 1:15 Then when lust (strong emotion) hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**

These verses hold a powerful truth. Sin is brought forth from strong negative emotions. We are tempted when we are drawn away of our own lust. The word lust today is mainly used in a sexual context, but this was not the case in Paul’s day. This word meant a strong desire or passion. The verse above says that when desire is conceived it will bring sin- (negative behavior). When that negative behavior is repeated over and over it will bring death to whatever area it

pertains. For example repeated sexual sin will kill a marriage. Once strong emotions are conceived it is difficult to stop giving birth. Many struggle with negative emotions like anger, lust, envy, jealousy, worry, doubt, depression, bitterness..etc. Therefore people end up struggling with the sins that spring from these emotions. People daily struggle with these emotions and act upon them regularly even when they do not want to. It is clear from the passage above that the way to stop sinning is to not conceive negative emotions. To many this seems impossible. You might be thinking, "I can't help the way I feel!" Is that statement true? No, it is a lie. You can and must control your emotions. It is not as hard as you might think at first. Try this test. Think about the person you hold most dear in your life and the times you have spent with this person. Now, I want you to replace those thoughts and think about the person who irritates you the most. This person may be from your past. Think about that person and the encounters you have had with them. Did you notice a change? I believe you did! What changed were your emotions. Do you know that **all** emotions come from your thoughts? Thoughts are like emails and emotions are like attachment files that come with the emails. Many thoughts you think come with emotions attached to them. Instead of struggling with bad emotions, you can deal with them by changing what you are thinking on!

***If you do not want to experience negative emotions you will have to stop thinking negatively.***

**Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

**Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

**Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

**Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

If you are experiencing sin and death in your life it is because your mind is set on the flesh. If you set your mind on the Spirit you will experience only life and peace. These verses teach that our thoughts are channels for spiritual forces whether life, peace, or death. What we set our mind on will channel the power of the flesh or Spirit. There is no in between.

How can we control our thoughts? Have you ever tried to not think something? Try to not think of a pink elephant. You are thinking about the pink elephant aren't you! It is very hard to resist not thinking something! However, if you use the principle of replacement it is not hard at all to stop thinking bad thoughts.

***The simple truth: To not think on negative thoughts, think on positive thoughts, and do it immediately!***

If we meditate on wrong thoughts for any length

of time our emotions will kick in and it becomes more difficult not to act upon them.

***Negative behaviors are the birthing of negative emotions that were birthed by thinking on wrong thoughts.***

People have thought a certain way for so long it has become a habit in their mind. Addictions in action come from addictive thought patterns. We have the freedom over our minds because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Because we died and were raised with Christ we now are free from Satan's control. We are free from sin's control. We are free from the control of the flesh. We do not have to think about Satan, sin, or the flesh. We now have the mind of Christ. **(1 Cor. 3:16)**

**(Rom 8:12) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**

God has given each of us authority over our own minds to think what we want to think. The devil would love to convince you that you cannot control your thoughts and you must think His thoughts. That is a lie. He is a liar! Do not believe Him. He cannot control your mind if you do not let him. We are free by the power of Christ in us to think holy thoughts and experience his life and peace. They will be released from our hearts into our bodies and actions when we focus our thoughts on Him and His Word.

**Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

**Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

**Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.**

In these verses Paul is teaching the principle of replacement. Instead of worrying, which is dwelling on negative thoughts, you should pray and trust God. Then you are to replace your negative thinking with thoughts that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of a good report, virtuous, and praise-worthy. If you do this you will experience peace in your mind and heart. You will not struggle with temptation to sin. Those who struggle with constant temptation are constantly thinking on wrong things. If you have trouble with sin, then you have trouble thinking about wrong things.

***You cannot go anywhere in your actions that you have not first gone to in your thoughts. Thoughts are advance scouts for the path you are about to walk.***

Like anything new, it will take effort and constant attention to stop thinking on wrong thoughts that you used to entertain on a regular basis. Ask God to show you the wrong thoughts you have been entertaining and to signal to you when those thoughts arise in your mind. Then ask God to give you His thoughts to replace them. The Bible is God's thoughts. Open the Bible and ask Him to give you thoughts to replace the bad thoughts that are plaguing you. If the bad thoughts come back, say out loud, "I do not have to think those thoughts. I bind these thoughts and refuse to think them." Then turn your mind and start thinking about Jesus, or read the Bible and think on it. If you will do this immediately, then you will not struggle with strong emotions and temptations to sin. You will experience peace and life instead. We all have to deal with the problems of our life, but when our thoughts lead to negative emotions we need to stop and pray. Then we need to think on the things that meet the qualifications of **Philippians 4:8**.

## Chapter 17

### Suffering

We have been looking at foundations that we must understand to walk in victory in the Lord. Paul laid out these foundations in His letter to the Romans. They are as follows:

1. We must understand justification- **Romans 5:1, 6-10**
2. We must understand faith- **Romans 5:1**
3. We must understand the grace of God- **Romans 5:2**
4. We must understand the love of God- **Romans 5:5**
5. We must understand positional identification with Christ- **Romans 5:11-21**
6. We must understand our vital union with the death and resurrection- **Romans 6**
7. We must understand the Law and our relation to it- **Romans 7**
8. We must understand the Spirit and Life of Christ within us- **Romans 8:1-4, 9-16**
9. We must understand how to control our minds and thought life- **Romans 8:5-8**
10. We must understand suffering- **Romans 8:17-39**

Suffering is the last foundation we will look at. The reason most Christians don't walk in freedom is because they are ignorant concerning what Jesus did for them and to them at the cross. Once a Christian does gain this understanding the next biggest obstacle

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to walking in victory is the issue of suffering. Many think that trusting in the death and life of the Lord will free them from suffering. We all tend to avoid suffering. We all have a threshold of suffering and pain we can handle before we give in to temptation. When temptation comes to our soul it causes emotional suffering because saying no to your self is painful! Even Jesus endured suffering when He was tempted.

**(Heb 2:18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.**

Jesus experienced emotional stress standing in faith against sin and temptation. We see this in the garden of Gethsemane.

**(Luk 22:44) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

If Jesus experience suffering in temptation we will also suffer being tempted. This is the point of our problem. If our ability to stand in faith is as strong as the point where we can stand suffering, we will eventually fail over and over again. This ultimately leaves our Christian walk up to the point of how much we are willing to suffer to do the will of God. Peter talked about this subject in his letter.

**1Pe 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;**

**1Pe 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.**

It takes suffering to do the will of God instead of fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. We now have a big problem if we are not able to endure suffering to stand in faith in our identification with the Lord. Is there an answer to this problem? Praise the Lord for His grace and mercy! He has provision for our weakness and inability to suffer in our own strength! We have seen how we have the life of Christ available to us to live the Christian life. One of the characteristics of the life of Christ is the ability to suffer to do the will of God. Jesus had unlimited ability to endure! We can tap into that power to stand in our suffering. We will not be freed from experiencing suffering, but we can be strengthened to stand victoriously.

**(2Ti 1:8) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,**

We are not left to suffer in the strength of our flesh. The Lord does not want us to live from our own strength. He has provided His own life for us to draw from. We can accept victory over sin and also rely on the Lord's endurance to stand as long as we need to in order to experience victory.

Often when you trust in your identification with Christ you will experience immediate freedom from temptation and will experience little suffering. However,

sometimes the temptation will linger and so we will experience emotional suffering. On these occasions we must stand in faith and endure the suffering of temptation. However, we can stand and endure in the ability of the Lord Jesus!

***Each time we come through suffering our soul is refined and we come up higher in the Lord!***

Each temptation is an opportunity to be refined and promoted! If we give in to a temptation then we fail to be refined and we will fail to be promoted in the Lord. We will have to take a test over again if we fail to pass it. When temptation and suffering comes to us, we should not only trust in the Lord's victory over that temptation but also trust in the endurance of the Lord Jesus over the suffering that comes with it. He will never let us down!

**Rom 8:17** and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

**Rom 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

If we suffer with Christ, then we experience the glory of the Lord upon us! The sufferings are not worthy to be compared to the glory that we will experience if we will endure temptation. God wants us to experience His glory now!

**(2Ti 2:12) If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us.**

If we endure, we will reign with Christ! Trust in Christ when you are suffering and He will strengthen you. Many fail to reign in life, because they are constantly giving in when temptation comes. You can reign in life through the life of Jesus!

## **SECTION II**

### **GOD'S PATH OF FREEDOM**

## Chapter 18

### Change or Transformation?

In this second section of the book I want to talk about the subject of change. Mankind was made in the image of God in the beginning, but sin marred that image. However, through the finished redemptive work of Christ we are reborn and remade into the image of God.

**(Eph 4:24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

This verse tells us that we were created in Christ after God's own image of righteousness and holiness. As we have seen this was done in the spiritual realm in Christ. Our spirit exists in the spiritual dimension but also dwells in our body to give it life. In this recreated spirit we have been perfected. (**Heb. 10:14**) We have seen that God has made us a new person in Christ. We have also seen that God has not changed the natural realm yet although he has legally done everything necessary to bring about the renewal of everything Adam messed up. God has left certain parts of us unchanged so that we would exercise faith in Him. He wants to prove our faith which when tried is more precious than gold. (**1 Peter 1:7**)

It is evident then from all outward appearance, that we are in need of much change. We know that we have received Christ and have been saved from eternal wrath through Jesus, but we are still plagued

by temptations, wrong desires, and wrong beliefs. Our lives just do not look like the life Jesus lived. We therefore realize we must change so that our lives will be conformed to His image.

***This is where the problem arises for most Christians.***

The problem comes when we use the wrong methods in hopes of seeing this change happen. In the next few chapters we will look at different methods people have devised to try to change to be more like God. These methods are found in the world and sadly are taught by many churches on how we can advance in godliness. Instead of helping, they end up robbing people of the only truth that can really produce freedom. Only the truth will make us free. (**John 8:32**) If we are not experiencing freedom it is because we do not know the truth, no matter how much what we have been taught has been called the truth.

***The proof of the truth is in the freedom it produces.***

Men have come up with models for change which are based upon works. There are many kinds of approaches people have devised to see outward change take place in their life. We will look at the most popular ones. Although men have many methods for change God has only one method for true change which He has ordained for the Christian. It is based upon the finished work of Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection. All of the models of man for

change deal with behavior modification or mental re-imagining. They bypass the work of the cross and resurrection. What is God's way?

***God's way for change is not just change but it is transformation. Transformation is an outward change that is based upon an inward work that God has already done in us.***

Man's ways of changing usually deal with behavior change in order to arrive at the point of inner freedom. God's method for transformation starts from His work of grace on the inside of us which works its way to the outside. Man's models for change depend upon man's efforts while asking God for his assistance. God's method for transformation depends on what He has accomplished for us in Christ and He asks for our cooperation by accepting what He has done by faith. Faith without works is dead, but it is equally true that work without faith is dead also!

I refer to man's models for change as "schemes". The dictionary definition for scheme is an elaborate systematic plan of action. Man's methods for change are based upon man's own reasoning. It is man's own elaborate and systematic plan for change. There are two words in Greek for the word "form". The first Greek word for form is **schema** which is where we get the English word "scheme" from. The other word for form in the Greek is **morphe** which is the root word for "metamorphosis". We see both of these words in the book of Philippians.

(Phi 2:6) who, though he was in the form (morphe) of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

(Phi 2:7) but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

(Phi 2:8) And being found in human form (schema), he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The English word *schema* is a transliteration of the Greek word **schema**. *Schema* in the Greek means to merely take on an outward form. This word **schema** strictly refers to the mere outward appearance of a thing. It does not necessarily deal with the inner reality of the thing but just describes its outward appearance or what it looks like on the outside. The second word for form in Greek is **morphe**, which means something entirely different. Here is what some respected Greek scholars have said about **morphe**.

***Morphe*** means the essential attributes as shown in the form. (Robertson's Word Pictures of the Greek N.T.)

***Form (Morphe)*** The word is used in its philosophic sense, to denote that expression of being which carries in itself the distinctive nature and character of the being to whom it pertains, and is thus permanently identified with that nature and character. *Μορφή form* is identified with *the essence* of a person or thing: (Vincent Word Studies of the New Testament.)

**Morphe signifies the form as it expresses the inner life. (Trench's Synonyms of the New Testament)**

**The Greek word morphe refers to that outward expression which a person gives of his inmost nature. (Wuest Word Studies in The Greek N.T.)**

These definitions are only a small selection of noted Greek scholars commenting on the word **morphe**. This Greek word clearly means to take on an outward form that is truly indicative of the inner nature that is locked up within it. It means the outward form something takes is produced from the inner nature that is actually inside of it.

***Morphe means to become outwardly what you already are on the inside!***

This is what happens to a butterfly. When a butterfly is born it looks just like a worm. It has an outward appearance of being just a worm but locked up within the butterfly worm is the genetic DNA of a full butterfly. One day the butterfly worm will weave a cocoon and go through the process of transformation, or metamorphosis (morphe is the root of this word). It takes on the outward manifestation of what was locked up within its nature all along. It sprouts beautiful wings and flies away! This is also how Christians are to see lasting transformation in their life. The schemes of man focus on mere outward behavior change. Some of these methods might reach to the level of our thoughts, emotion, and will, but none of them go to the core level of who we are in our identity. The reason people have

problems with sins is due to the sin nature within the flesh. All humans have this sin nature or what is called the old man. We inherited the old man through Adam. There is only one way for us to deal with the old man. People try many things in an effort to deal with the old man. All of these ways concern trying to fix him up and his problems. They try to make the old man better or acceptable on the outside and hope that inner change will take place. Those who advocate these schemes will say you are a success if you stop doing certain sins on the outside. Often people will stop doing certain things but still lust after them in their heart. This is not true freedom or victory. Some will be able to stop certain sins but replace them with other lesser and more socially acceptable sins. This is not freedom. For instance someone might quit cigarettes, but turn to food and gain 30 pounds. As long as the flesh has a release valve, even if it is pride over being able to stop certain habits, then the flesh is content and does its hidden damage. Let me tell you God's method of dealing with this old man. **It is DEATH!** God's only plan for the old man was death. He was not interested in trying to fix the old man. He was not interested in healing the old man. He was not interested in making the old man look better. God has given his judgment concerning the old man and that judgment was death.

***Man's methods for change bypass the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our identification with Him.***

Most books on spiritual growth do not even mention the cross. If they do they treat it like it is

something that gets us into “the program” and gives us access to use all of God’s tools in His work bench to fix up the old person we were and the problems we have.

***The vital teaching we need that these schemes bypass is our co-death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. This teaching is one of the most under emphasized doctrines in all of Christendom and it is the cornerstone and foundation for Christian living!***

This teaching is the starting point of authentic Christianity. That is why Romans is the first epistle in God’s teaching to the church on how to live as a Christian. All the other epistles in the New Testament build on the foundation of what Paul laid in the book of Romans. Paul clearly lays down the foundation in Romans that Christ died **for us** as a sacrifice for our sins. He also shows that we also **died with him** as our representative so that we could be freed from who we were and be freed from sin’s grip. This revelation is sadly lacking in the modern church.

***By and large the church has turned to an external gospel and has forsaken the truth of the inward gospel that produces the outward! The problem with people is not their behavior. It is all about identity, or more so, their perception of their identity.***

To see transformation you must first have an identity change from sinner to a righteous child of God.

We get that identity change at salvation. After we are saved we then need a revelation of that identity! We must renew our mind and heart beliefs to who we are in Christ. When we got saved the resurrection life of Christ made our spirit new and gave it life. Within our new spirit we have the new spiritual genetic DNA of God.

**(1Jo 3:9) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

The word “seed” comes from the Greek word **sperma**. We get the word sperm from it. Our genetic makeup comes from the DNA found in sperm. We share God’s life and nature in our re-born spirits. What gives our spirit new life is the Holy Spirit who has joined Himself to our spirit. (1 Cor. 6:17) God did a miracle and changed our nature when we got saved. We received a new identity! From that new nature we are to live a new life by faith. What all the methods of man for change do is to try to bring about freedom by behavioral change, will power, rules, recovery, healing, and positive thinking. None of these things can deliver from the power of sin. Only the death of the cross and the power of life given in the resurrection of Christ can deliver us from sin. This is the difference between change and metamorphosis.

***Transformation takes place by the manifestation of our new nature, which God has given to us based upon the finished work of Christ.***

Another big difference between change and transformation is that change only comes by effort. It takes effort to change. Sometimes depending on how big the change, it might require great amounts of effort. One thing about change is that the changes only last as long you as you keep up the effort. If you stop putting in the effort you will revert back to the way you were! Multitudes have put in effort to lose weight but after losing the desired weight they stop putting in the effort. They start eating the same way they used to and gain all the weight back. Change is focused merely on will power and behavioral change. The changes will take place only if we keep up the effort to keep doing the things that bring change.

***Change deals with what we do, transformation deals with who we are.***

We all act effortlessly out of our nature. God has made us to operate effortlessly from our nature and more importantly, who we believe we are. The interesting thing about Christians is that we have a new nature in our spirits but still have the old man in our flesh. We can operate from them both. Since most Christians are ignorant of who they are in Christ, and since the flesh is still active, they act out of who they used to be in Adam because they believe they are the same old person they were before they got saved. If we would embrace our new righteous nature in Christ and believe in that precious fact, then the life of Christ and grace to make that an outward reality would flow forth to produce effortless transformation. Paul speaks

of such a transformation in Romans chapter 12.

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

The word “transformed” in this verse is the Greek word **metamorphoo**. It is where we get our English word metamorphosis from. The root word for metamorphosis is **morphe**. We are not to try to strive in our efforts to be like Christ, but renew our minds that the Father has made us like Christ already in the new birth. When we renew our minds and believe this then the Spirit will work transformation in us.

***We should not try to achieve Christ-likeness by our own efforts but our goal should be to manifest Christ-likeness by the renewing of our mind according to who we are already in Christ.***

The former is just scheming and trying to put on right behavior in the hopes it will make us inwardly different. The latter believes that by the finished work of Christ that we were made complete and that by believing, accepting, and acting upon it we will see the Spirit manifest Christ in us.

***Believing causes effortless change. There is effort expended in the Christian life, but there should be no effort expended in trying to become what we***

**already are! The effort we expend is entering into and staying in faith!**

Any effort expended should be to enter into faith and to act on that faith.

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

Here we see it is God's eternal plan that we be conformed to the image of His Son. Many think that it is their job to make their outward lives look like Jesus. However the word "conformed" here shows how we can see this. The word for conformed here is the Greek word **summorphos**. The root word of the Greek compound is the word **morphe**. This verse is saying that it is God's plan to reveal his Son in us so that who we are in Christ will be manifested outwardly. This is not achieved *by us* but *in us* by faith.

**Gal 1:15 But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me through his grace,  
Gal 1:16 to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I didn't immediately confer with flesh and blood,**

Paul said that God called him to the ministry to reveal His Son IN him not *by him*. Paul also desired that Christ be formed IN believers.

**(Gal 4:19) My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**

Again Paul uses the word **morphe** for the word formed. Most Christians are struggling to make themselves look like Jesus and be like Jesus. It is all done by their own efforts and works. It is absolutely fruitless. The only one that looks like Jesus is Jesus!

***It is Jesus manifesting His nature in and through us that makes our lives take on His image. The power of transformation is released when we appropriate the spiritual realities obtained by Christ in His finished work.***

**(Heb 4:11) Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**

Here we see that there is labor in the Christian life but it should be to labor to enter into the rest of faith. It takes labor to get into the Word of God and renew our minds and heart beliefs of who we are now in Christ. However, once we enter into the rest of faith then our actions will respond automatically to who we are, or more importantly to who we believe we are in Christ. Then we will see transformation. It is like pumping a

water pump. It takes a lot of hard work pumping a water pump. After a while though water will start flowing and you can stop pumping. The water flows out without effort. The Christian life is much like this. It takes a lot of time pumping in the Word into our mind and beliefs about who we are in Christ, but when we do the water of life will start to flow and we will not have to pump so hard anymore. The water of life will just flow because God is a fountain within us. It will flow out of who we are. It will flow out of our new nature in Christ. It is time for you to fly, butterfly!

## Chapter 19

### Will Power Scheme

This way of thinking says, “My sins and weaknesses would be overcome if I just had more will power”.

***If you do not see that salvation is a gift to be received by faith then it leaves you no other choice than to try to achieve it yourself.***

All who get saved realize that it takes Jesus forgiving them so that they can go to heaven and that this was a gift. However, few ever realize that it takes Jesus to walk in victory and freedom in their daily lives, and this also is a gift. They think it is up to them to accomplish victory in the Christian life and, if necessary, ask God for assistance. Again, we did not get saved that way. We did not do some works and then ask God for further assistance for salvation. No, Jesus did all the work to save us and we simply believed and received it. It is the same with walking in sanctification.

***If you do not realize this you are left only with trying to live the Christian life by your will power. Your success then in your walk with the Lord will be only as good as your will power. This thinking then leads people to think that those with little will power are total failures as Christians. People who live this way are actually basing their walk with the***

***Lord on what they can accomplish instead of what Jesus already accomplished for them.***

It is clear that from the beginning that God gave man a free will. He gave Adam and Eve the choice to believe him or not believe him. Adam and Eve chose unbelief over faith. They chose to sin. After they sinned they were brought under control of sin. By their choice they caused their wills to be brought into bondage to sin. The question therefore has been raised, that after the fall do people still have a free will or is it in bondage to sin? The answer is yes and no. We still have a free will and are responsible for our decisions. We can at any point decide to do anything we choose to do. However, we are not able to consistently defeat sin by our will. Sin is a force that is constantly pulling on our will to commit acts of sin. I like to illustrate it this way. Gravity is a force that constantly pulls on objects toward the Earth. The same force that causes spilled coffee to fall to the floor is the same force that keeps us from flying off the planet! Although gravity is a strong force we can overcome gravity by our own strength for a period of time. I can hold a book in my hand while extending my arm out in front of me. By my effort I am keeping the book from falling into gravity's influence. I can do this without much effort...for a time. Say I held this book out for a whole hour. What was so easy an hour ago is not so easy now! Why? It is because gravity is still pulling on the book and my arm. No matter how strong I am, eventually gravity will win out and the pull of gravity on the book and my arm will be too strong for me to be able to hold it up any longer. The same thing happens to our will in the area of sin. Sin is a constant force that pulls on our soul to act

independently of God. It constantly pulls on our will to act in line with it. At any point in time we can by our will power choose not to sin and to refrain from it. However, over a protracted time the pull will be too strong for our will power to hold out. This is especially true of our own area of weakness.

***Every human has at least one weakness and sin that regularly gives them problems which they will not be able to overcome without the power of God.***

Our wills apart from Christ's power and influence will be overcome by sin much like gravity on the book we were holding out. Paul saw this truth in his own life.

**(Rom 7:15) I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.**

**(Rom 7:16) Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.**

**(Rom 7:17) So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.**

**(Rom 7:18) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.**

**(Rom 7:19) For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.**

**(Rom 7:20) Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.**

**(Rom 7:21) So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.**

**(Rom 7:22) For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,**

**(Rom 7:23) but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. (ESV)**

Paul is describing in Romans 7 the fruitless struggle of trying to live the Christian life by will power. No matter how much he wanted to do right and serve God he would in the end give in to sin. He might be able to hold out for awhile and do good for a time but eventually he would fail and his will power could not last. This is trying to live by the scheme of will power. Have you ever heard this phrase? “Where there is a will there is a way”. This is the slogan for all those who think that victory in their Christian life depends on their efforts. As long as we believe this we are setting ourselves up for failure.

***What is so deceptive about this scheme of will power is that when you fail, you think that the problem is that you just did not try hard enough. The real problem was that you tried in the first place.***

We tried to achieve something that God already did for us. God already defeated sin for us. He did it the only way He could. It was putting to death your old man with Christ. Death is your only ticket out of sin's

grasp into a new life of freedom from sin.

***The will power scheme is no more than the old man trying to accomplish what God already did at the cross.***

Often people try to die to sin by their own works. They fast and pray and try to crucify their sinful desires. They always talk about dying to self but never seem to ever be able to do it. Why? It is because the flesh cannot get rid of the flesh! If you are trying in the flesh to put to death the flesh then the flesh is still quite active!

***The only power strong enough to put to death the flesh is the power of Christ's death at the cross. We need to realize that it has already been accomplished!***

Jesus was our representative and He put to death the old man. This is a fact in the eternal realm of God. We can only experience it by faith. We can only experience it by reckoning it to be true even though we cannot feel it or see it. By receiving what Christ has done we can see it manifested in our experience. If we are doing something for the reason of achieving freedom from sin or trying to become more like God then we having fallen prey to this deceptive scheme. The deceptive part of this scheme is that we think that by doing what we are doing it will cause something to be accomplished. We think we will be free. We think we will be more like God. The fact of the matter is that

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God has already accomplished what we are trying to do by our works. He has set us free from sin. He has made us like Christ in the new birth. He has given us perfect righteousness. Our job is to renew our mind and believe in our heart what God says He has done and we will see it manifested by the Holy Spirit. We will experience the miraculous work of the cross and resurrection in our daily life.

You might be thinking, “If we are not to use our will power to try to overcome sin then what good is having a will? How am I to use my will in the Christian life?” Good question!

***We are to use our will to believe instead of trying to use it to achieve.***

We all have a choice each day to believe God or to disbelieve Him. This was the same decision Adam and Eve had. God wants us to give up our own opinions and believe Him no matter if it looks or feels right or not.

## Chapter 20

### The Recovery Scheme

This scheme teaches that the root of man's problems is merely emotional. It teaches that our problem with bad behaviors is rooted in unmet needs. Instead of calling these behaviors sins, they call them problems. If unmet needs are the cause of our problems then it makes sense that if you get the needs met then the problems will disappear. This thinking puts unmet needs at the root of our behavior problems. The Bible places the root with our sinful nature. The human scheme that is based upon unfulfilled needs is called the **recovery or psychology scheme**. This method for change has gained popularity in recent years and has its origin from the rise of psychology in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Sigmund Freud popularized the concepts of modern psychology. His premise was that all dysfunction in behavior found its root in early childhood development and in the psyche. In the last thirty years secular psychology has found its way into the church and has gained a firm foothold.

***Although the cross of Christ is preached for getting to heaven when you die, another gospel is being preached on how you overcome sins and habits.***

The "recovery gospel" which really is not a gospel at all has been preached in many churches instead of the true gospel of God. The recovery message is that your problems with sin started at an

early age in childhood when you were wounded emotionally. Because of this wounding you turned to sin to try to feel better or cope with the emotional pain. Those who preach this recovery message teach that your problem started in early childhood so your answer also starts there. They teach you must go back to your childhood and recognize where you were wounded emotionally and then forgive those who hurt you. They teach you also that you must try to figure out what lies you believed at that time that are now impacting your life and it is important that you realize that you are loved and that you must esteem yourself.

Out of this teaching have come multitudes of recovery groups that work through their past and try to find emotional healing in hopes they will someday get free from their addictions and sins. They are continually in the process of recovering. Many have found some relief and help in their lives by this scheme for change because it does focus on belief systems. To the level you change your beliefs at the heart level which is based upon truth is the degree you will experience freedom. Many of these recovery groups teach that God is a God of love that loves you unconditionally. They help you see how you were loved conditionally by parents and peers and help you receive God's love for you. Many of these groups teach that you are significant outside of your performance. These concepts are true and because people believe them they will see some changes in their spiritual walk with the Lord. Although the recovery message can bring about some help they are really just a band-aid instead of a cure for sin. The recovery message focus is on healing the soul and dealing with your past. They teach that if your soul is healed from

past hurts in your childhood then you will be free from sin. This sounds good and seems logical but it is not scriptural. I challenge you to find even one scripture in the New Testament epistles (the writings to the church on living the Christian life) that teach that you get free from sin from going back to your childhood and getting healed emotionally. You will not find one because there are not any.

***It is true that sin in your life is rooted in the past but the problem with the recovery gospel is that they do not go back far enough. Instead of your problem with sin starting when you were three, it started at a tree in the Garden of Eden!***

The Bible teaches that by Adam's transgression all of us were made sinners by nature. From this nature of sin come acts of sin. We all inherited the old man from Adam. This old man tainted by sin, is the driving force behind the habits and addictions we experience.

***It is true that our upbringing and what we were exposed to develop how this old man is manifested, but the source of our sin is not emotional wounds but the sin nature.***

If we grew up in a home of an alcoholic then we were taught to find pleasure in alcohol. Those brought up in a religious home were taught to be nice and do good works. They try to find completion by doing good things.

***Our unique version of the flesh is determined by our upbringing and developed early on but we were born with the sin nature that manifests sins. Our sin nature manifests through how we learned to express it early on.***

This old man we inherited from Adam is the reason Christ died on the cross. As our representative for humanity, He crucified this old man when he died. God from eternity sees it complete. Again our flesh is not in the spiritual realm and has not experienced this change. We must by faith believe that God has crucified the old man and flesh by the cross to experience freedom from sin. Recovery programs bypass the cross to find an answer to the sin problem and instead try to find freedom through healing and going through the past and through following “steps” to recovery.

***Recovery programs are little more than programs to heal up and restore the old man. They think that if the old man who was wounded and broken were somehow healed and made to feel loved and accepted then it would set them free from sin.***

This is not God’s evaluation of the situation. He said the old man did not need recovery because he was beyond repair. He could only by crucified and die to experience freedom from sin and who we used to be when we were sinners by nature.

***The old man does not need recovery, he must die!***

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One of the cornerstone teachings of the recovery message is that we need to have self-esteem. They teach that low self-esteem is at the root of all our sinful behavior. If only we loved ourselves and believed that God loved us then we would not sin.

***It is important to note that God loved us even in our sinful state but He had no esteem for the old man we used to be.***

God showed how he esteemed the old man by putting him to death with Christ! In recovery groups people are told to accept themselves and love themselves. If you are trying to do this without the understanding that the old man you used to be died with Christ and you were made a new man in Christ, then this is really just teaching people to accept the old man and learn to esteem him. Since you esteem him you work real hard to fix him and redeem him.

***We do not need self-esteem, we need Christ-esteem. We need to esteem what Christ has done for us and in us in the new creation and the new man. We are to esteem His righteousness and His finished work on the cross in which we died both to sin and law. This esteem will cause us to walk in freedom.***

Again one of the deceptive parts to man's schemes for change is that it relegates freedom from

sin to a **future time** when we have done everything necessary to bring it about. In this case it is getting emotional healing from our past.

***The problem with this belief is that freedom from sin awaits the process of healing.***

This is a vicious cycle in which we sin and therefore believe we need healing so we go to every negative past situation and seek healing. We emotionally feel better afterwards and may see some relief from negative behavior for a while but sin crops up again, so we think we need more healing!

***As long as we think that freedom from sin comes some time after healing, then Satan will always hold the carrot of freedom out there on the end of a stick and it will always be just out of reach. When we sin, it is because we need a little more healing. We are never able find deliverance, so we must tell everyone that we are a recovering (present tense) addict.***

Satan will always tell us that we need a little more emotional healing to be free and he will always have us delving into our past and dredging up the life of the old man and reliving past memories. We never can get free from the old man because we are still trying to solve his problems and heal him up instead of taking the gift of our death in Christ which releases us from his grip on our life.

***There is no need to heal a dead person. They just need burying.***

God said that he crucified our old man with all of his sins, hang-ups, addictions, and perversion. We just need to bury him in our heart and mind and accept that we are a brand new person in Christ- holy and righteous in Him!

The teaching that we must first be healed before we stop sinning seems to make sense but actually it goes opposite to what the Bible teaches. This is no wonder because the world always does things opposite to God.

**(Heb 12:12) Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;**

**(Heb 12:13) And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.**

This verse debunks the recovery theology of man. The order of psychology is, be healed and then you stop bad behavior. God's order is, stop sinning and then you will be healed.

***More emotional damage comes from our sinning than could ever from other people hurting us.***

In the above verses it tells us to make straight paths

for our feet. In other words, “stop sinning!” What will be the effect of this? That which is lame or wounded will not be further hurt, but it will be healed!

***True emotional healing can only take place when we experience freedom from the sinful bondages that hold us captive.***

Our emotions are directly linked to our thoughts and beliefs. What makes our emotions negative are negative thoughts and beliefs. Living in sin and bondage causes us to believe what Satan says of us more than what God says about us. We receive true emotional healing when we get our thinking straightened out and receive the finished work of the cross in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Another negative thing about the recovery message is that it labels you and identifies you in your old sinful life. You are labeled a co-dependent, manic depressive, alcoholic, manic compulsive, or just a plain nut!

***Every negative behavior is seen as a disease that needs healing rather than a sinful pattern of believing and acting from which you need freedom. Diseases need healing, sin demands death!***

In recovery theology you are seen as being a recovering “name your label.” You never come to a place where you are recovered or are finally free. You must always be on the road to recovery. It is true that

we are to always grow in the renewing of our mind and in holiness in our natural lives, but this only comes by receiving and believing in the gift of complete righteousness already given to you in Christ.

**(Heb 10:14) For by one offering he hath (past tense) perfected forever them that are (lit. being-present tense) sanctified.**

As long as we live under a label that is connected with the old man we will live under the controlling influence of sin and Satan. We need to acknowledge an identity change in Christ from sinner to righteous, from lacking to complete, from trying to get right to receiving that we have been made right in God's eyes by the gift of Christ.

The teaching of psychology and even Christian psychology go about things backwards. They teach to start with your actions and then find the root of them. If we will turn this around and understand that the root of our behavior is our sense of identity we will see much more freedom from our problems.

***Instead of meditating on who we used to be in our past we need to meditate on who we are now in Christ.***

When we finally see in our heart that we are loved, righteous, holy, and accepted in Christ this will change our beliefs, thoughts, emotions, and eventually our actions.

It makes sense to the natural mind to try to fix yourself by working on your issues. This is not God's gospel however. Fixing your behavior by trying to deal with your emotional wounds and going into your past to find healing is man's way. Do it God's way and you will find both healing and freedom. Do not allow yourself to be robbed of freedom that is yours in Christ by a man-made gospel. Stick to the true gospel found in the New Testament. Receive and believe the true gospel of the cross and resurrection of Christ and you will be finally free!

## Chapter 21

### **The Spiritual Disciplines Scheme**

This is the final scheme I will cover in this book although there are many more. This scheme which I call the spiritual disciplines scheme, is the most popular way that Christians try to see change in their lives. It probably is the most deceptive because the disciplines that are used by Christians for change are found in the Bible and are from God, but they are misused! Spiritual disciplines are such things like prayer and study of the Bible. There are more disciplines than just these but I want to focus on these two because these are the main ways many Christians are trying to see changes in their lives. **Up front I want to clearly say that I am not saying that prayer and study of the Bible are wrong or even unimportant. Matter of fact, I say the opposite. I believe prayer and study of the Bible are necessary and even vital in living a successful Christian life.** So, what makes the spiritual disciplines a scheme? It becomes a scheme when man uses them for a different purpose than that for which God gave them. In many churches people are being taught that if you need to get free from sin and addiction you need to just “get into the Word” and pray. They are taught that by praying and studying the Word of God you **will** get free from sin. People believe that God gave prayer and His Word for the purpose of defeating sin and gaining victory in their Christian lives so they go after it with a gusto! They pray for hours asking God to deliver them from sin and they study and memorize hundreds of scriptures in hopes of getting free from sin and habits. They might

see some progress but over all they still struggle with sin. So, they pray and study some more. What is wrong with that you might be asking? Well it is wrong because prayer and the Word of God are not being used the right way.

***Like the other schemes for change this one also relegates freedom from sin to a future time after you have prayed enough and studied enough scripture.***

Instead of basing freedom from sin on an accomplished fact based upon the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and our identification with it, prayer and study of the Word become works to try to get free from sin.

***We should not study the Word to get free from sin but we need to study the Word to get the revelation we are free from sin by the finished work of Christ.***

**(2Co 3:18) And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured (Gr. Metamorphoo) into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit. AMP.**

This verse shows us the proper use for the Word of God. It is to be used as a mirror to show us who we are now in Christ. It shows us our true image as a new man in Christ. Notice that when we start seeing ourself in this mirror we will start to be **transfigured**. The word for transfigured here is the same root word **morphe** we talked about earlier. Actually you could translate it as saying that as we continue to behold in the Word of God the glory of the Lord, we will go through metamorphosis into that very same image. Again the word **morphe** means to take on the outward image of what is true of the inner nature within it. God's glory is now inside of us! We are to behold the glory of the new man in the mirror of the Word of God and then by believing what we see, we are transformed by the Spirit of God outwardly into that image inside of us.

**(Jam 1:23) For if anyone only listens to the Word without obeying it and being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror;**

**(Jam 1:24) For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like.**

**(Jam 1:25) But he who looks carefully into the faultless law, the [law] of liberty, and is faithful to it and perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets but an active doer [*who obeys*], he shall be blessed in his doing (his life of obedience).**

Again we see the analogy of the Word of God as a mirror. Our actions can only take on godliness when we continually look into the perfect law of liberty which is the New Covenant. Instead of using the Word of God as a mirror to show them who they already are in Christ many are using the Word as a tool to try to get righteous, cleaned up, free from sin, healed, prosperous, and many more things. The Word shows us that we already have these things and by faith we can see them manifested in our life by the Spirit. If we are not using the Word as a mirror but as a tool to get things done then we are misusing the Word of God.

***Knowing the truth will make us free, but the truth we need to know that makes us free is that we are already free in Christ.***

When you see that truth, then we will be made free in our experience. When we see that we have been healed we will be healed in our experience. When we see that we were made righteous at the new birth then we can walk in righteousness in our natural life. It is true of every other area we can name in the Word of God. Jesus Christ has done a complete work in redemption. He has done and provided everything. We just need to see it! We just need to believe it! We just need to receive it! We can see our lives transformed.

Many also misuse prayer. They think prayer is given so that we can talk God into giving us the things we need and want. Prayer is seen as a method, whereby we can get God to move and provide for us. The fact of the matter is that God has already moved and provided for us at the cross and resurrection.

Prayer should be for fellowship and the release of faith in God by receiving freely from His grace. Prayer is for communication with God and for the receiving of His grace that He has already offered and provided in Christ.

***We do not need to talk God into anything. We do not need to try to get God to care about our life and the lives of other people more than we do. He already cares more than you do! He has already done something to provide for your every need and for others you care about. We need to find out what he has provided and receive them.***

God in His sovereignty has given over authority on the earth to us. He will not usurp without us asking Him to. He wants us to ask Him to manifest His kingdom on the earth and receive what He has provided for us.

What I want you to see is that the spiritual disciplines become a human scheme for change when we try to get free from sin by using them as tools. These disciplines are actually given by God to us to be connectors, facilitators, and receptors of His grace, not to be used as tools to try to fix up our old lives. Many view salvation as a big car wash that cleaned up our old car but God gave the Bible and prayer as tools for us to fix our old engine and make it run better! No the Word of God and prayer are to be used to show us who God has made us in the New Creation and to receive of that and walk in it. The Word is also to show us our wrong actions that are connected to who we used to be. Once we see them, we can take them off

like old clothing and draw upon our new life in Christ that will replace those ungodly actions with godly ones. Again I do not in any way want to be misconstrued as saying that the Word of God is not important for the Christian. I am saying it is important for a different reason than many are using it for. I believe so strongly about the vital role of the Word of God that the last section of this book will be devoted to the importance of meditating the Word of God, how to meditate the Word, and how to have your heart-beliefs changed by the Word. Prayer is also a vital part of the Christian life. Our whole life should be unceasing prayer and communion with the Father and constant receiving of His grace. If you try to use the Word and prayer as ways to try to accomplish what God already did for you then you will be frustrated at God and with yourself. If you use the Word of God and prayer for the reasons they were given, you will be able to say, I am finally free!

## Chapter 22

### **Show and Tell!**

God's method is not change but transformation. The agent for transformation is the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is vital that we see the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian. The fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant and the New Covenant was the giving of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who believe.

**(Gal 3:13) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:**

**(Gal 3:14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

The giving of the Holy Spirit made our new birth and new nature possible. The Holy Spirit also plays a vital role in bringing about transformation. He causes us to be born again and infuses our spirit with righteousness, holiness, and love. Christ Himself actually is joined to our spirit if we are born again. **(1 Cor. 6:17)**

Let's look at some verses that show the vital ministry of the Holy Spirit in walking in victory in the Christian life and then we will discuss some of them to

better understand how we can cooperate with the Spirit to experience what Jesus died to give us.

**(Rom 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**

**(Rom 8:3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:**

**(Rom 8:4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

**(Rom 8:11) But if the Spirit of him that raised up 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.**

**(Rom 8:12) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**

**(Rom 8:13) For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

**(2Co 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

**(Gal 5:16) [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

**(Gal 5:17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

**(Gal 5:18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**

**(Gal 5:22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

**(Gal 5:23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

In the above verses we see plainly that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is very important to the ability to walk free from the control of sin and the flesh. Most people have heard that if we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh, therefore it is important to be led by Him. However, very few really know what that means practically. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit or be led by Him? We might get the picture of someone whose eyes have rolled back in their head and have entered into “the Spirit” and hear voices and act spooky. This is not what it means to walk in the Spirit or be to be led by Him! Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit and told of His ministry before he went to the cross. Jesus tells us what it means to be led by the Spirit and how we are to see victory in our lives through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

(Joh 14:16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

(Joh 14:17) [*Even*] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

(Joh 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.

(Joh 15:26) But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [*even*] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

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

(Joh 16:14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.

(Joh 16:15) All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.

Three times the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth. In **John 14:26** Jesus said He would be a teacher. In **John 16:13** Jesus said that the Holy Spirit was sent to guide or lead believers into all the truth. He went on to elaborate on how the Holy Spirit would do this. He would take what belonged to Jesus and would show it to believers. Jesus tried to tell his disciples very plainly that the main ministry of the Holy Spirit was to teach and show Christians what belonged to them because of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth and He was sent to guide believers into all the truth. What is the truth? Jesus told us what the truth was right after these statements about the Holy Spirit. In the next chapter of John he tells us what truth is.

**(Joh 17:17) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

The Spirit has come to teach and guide us into the truth of the Word of God. John also tells us the same thing about the anointing which is the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**(1Jo 2:27) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**

The Holy Spirit has come to teach us specifically about who Jesus was and what he obtained for us by

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His death, burial and resurrection. Notice in **John 16:14-15** it states the Holy Spirit would receive what belonged to Jesus and would show it to us.

**(Joh 16:14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.**

**(Joh 16:15) All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.**

It is interesting to note that Jesus did not say the Spirit would take what belongs to Jesus and **give** them to us. He said the Spirit would **show** them to us. Why show and not give? It is because everything that belongs to Jesus also belongs to us. Everything Jesus obtained at the resurrection we now share as joint heirs. (**Romans 8:17**) We were raised up with Him and were given a share in everything the Father has. It was all given to Jesus and since we are in Him, we share it with Jesus.

***The Holy Spirit has come to show us who we are in Christ and everything we now possess by being in Him. This is being led by the Spirit.***

Paul speaks of the same thing in his letter to the Corinthians:

**(1Co 2:12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we**

**might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

As we meditate on the Word, the Spirit will illuminate who we are in Christ and what we have in Him. When He does this our faith is energized to believe it and receive it. It is then the Holy Spirit's ministry to manifest that reality in us. The Spirit always works in conjunction with God's Word. Genesis opens up with the Spirit giving light when God spoke. We see that after Jesus was raised up and gave the Great Commission the Spirit gave signs and miracles to confirm the Word. That is what the Spirit does today. He shows us what we have in Christ and then when we believe, He manifests it in confirmation to the Word of God. We cooperate in walking in the Spirit and being led by the Spirit. We will see the power of the Spirit manifest when we meditate the Word of God and look for everything the Word says we already are in Christ and what has already been given to us. When we believe it and act on it, the Spirit's power is released to manifest it in our lives. This is true of walking free from sin. When we see by revelation of the Spirit that our old man has been crucified with Christ and we have been raised up with Him a new man that is righteous and free from sin; then we can believe it, speak it, and act on it; then the Spirit will manifest it. The Word of God is vital to the Spirit's ministry. If we read the Word of God in a legalistic way and try to accomplish things in our efforts, then the Spirit is hindered from manifesting. His ministry is to show what has been accomplished and to manifest it when we believe. He does not respond to our efforts to try to accomplish what Jesus already did. He will not respond to begging

and pleading. He responds to faith in God's Word. The Holy Spirit yearns to show you who you are in Christ and show you what you have so that you can finally be free. The Spirit is waiting for you to meditate on the Word and He will surely manifest in you when you believe it, speak it, and act upon it.

## Chapter 23

### Two sides of the coin

Before we talk about appropriating the power of God for change, I want to look at two sides of the same coin. This coin is called sanctification. I have read many books on freedom in Christ and their messages usually fall into two categories. The first teaches that sanctification is to be received and will provide instant freedom to us. The second teaches that sanctification is a process that provides progressive freedom. There are actually scriptures that back up both sides.

The scriptures teach that we can experience immediate victory over sin in our lives. As we have looked at in Romans chapter 6, we have died, were buried, and have risen with Christ to a new life. He who has died has been set free from sin. (**Romans 6:7**) This is not something to be achieved over time. It is to be counted and acted upon now! When we do, we experience supernatural power over sin. On the other hand the Bible also teaches about growth in the Christian life. In **2 Peter 3:18**, Peter tells us that we are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. **Romans 12:2** admonishes us to renew our minds by the Word of God and we will see a transformation take place. Clearly this is a process. So, which side is true? Both are true. Let me use this illustration. When a child is born it maintains life by breathing. If the baby eats and drinks and uses its body then it will grow. No matter how much the baby grows it still must breathe at whatever stage of development it is at in order to live. The same is true for the Christian. The principles found in Romans chapters 6-8 are like breathing. This

is how a Christian lives victoriously at any point of time in their Christian development. The principles for Christian breathing are these: know your old man died with Christ when He died as your covenant representative, then count on the fact that you died to sin and are alive to God, and finally yield or act upon the fact that Christ is loving and giving Himself to you in the present moment to live the Christian life. We first must know, then we must believe, then we must act on our faith, which includes speaking our faith out of our mouths.

**Pro 4:18 But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.**

This verse in Proverbs teaches us that the Christian life is a walk along a path. When we first were born again we did not have much spiritual light on things. We just knew we were saved. There were many things in our natural lives that were not as they ought to be. Many thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, motives, and actions were not right. However, God does not show us all our error at once. He will shine His light on one area at a time and show us our sin. We must confess that sin to God. It does not stop there though; God wants to give us victory in that area. How will we experience such a victory? We need not wait for an extended period of time in order to get victory. We need not go through a long process to see victory in an area God shows us is a sin. We must simply realize that we have died with Christ. That sinful behavior and way of thinking was part of the old man. We then need

to count on the fact that we have died to that particular sin in Christ and that we are now a new person, with Christ being our life and power source. We are to declare that we died to that sin in Christ and it has no power over us. We need to declare our faith by saying that Christ's power is now working in us. We then act on our faith, believing that Christ is empowering that action.

There may be parts of our lives that do not resemble Christ at all and we do not experience victory in those areas because we have no light on them. When the light comes, we (breathe) walk in our identification with Christ in that area and experience victory and freedom. This is a life of constant dependence upon Christ.

***We are to grow in two ways. We grow in the knowledge of the extent of the old man manifesting in our lives (sin) and we grow in the knowledge of Christ and the new man (righteousness). Renewing the mind through knowledge is what makes the Christian life a process.***

There are also periods of time or seasons that we all go through in which we do not want to depend upon Christ. During these times we want to call the shots and try to live the Christian life by our own resource of will power. We are sure to experience defeat in times such as this. However, God uses these times to bring us to the end of ourselves and to trust again in what He did at the cross and resurrection. As we grow, we learn to abide in Christ and constantly

receive of that supernatural life within us to live our lives.

We are not yet perfected in our souls. This is our mind, will, and emotions. We all have problems in those areas. As we slowly renew our mind with the Word it will affect our emotions and then the will. We will experience times of defeat because of wrong beliefs, stubbornness, apathy, and weak faith. You will not live in perfect victory and freedom 24/7. Do not allow yourself to become disillusioned with the truths of Romans 6-8 because you experience defeat. Go to God and ask where you are missing it. Your co-death, burial, and resurrection with Christ are the foundation for a victorious life in Christ. However, these principles only work on areas of the old man (flesh) when you are aware of them. The manifestations of the old man are many and often subtle. There are obvious manifestations that appropriating the truths of Romans 6-8 will eradicate, but there are many other layers of the old man which in man's eyes are quite refined and even praised. Pride and self love are hard to detect, as are wrong motives. The Spirit of God must reveal these to us before we can apply Romans 6-8 upon them. So victory is both instantaneous when we trust the cross and resurrection of Christ, but it is also a progression as the Spirit reveals to us the extent of the old ways and thoughts that belonged to the old man.

Do not throw out the identification truths because your experience does not totally line up with it yet.

***Don't stop breathing just because you fall down!!***

***Don't shrivel up on the vine!! Keep meditating and seeking God on how to appropriate Christ within you and you will see progress if you stick with it.***

Another point I wish to bring out is that receiving immediate freedom from sin will be much more difficult when our mind is not renewed. Our wrong behavior is tied to wrong beliefs and thoughts. These in turn effect our emotions, which in turn puts pressure on our wills to act in ways that do not please the Lord. We can find that we can at any moment find victory from a sinful habit by appropriating the truths of Romans 6-8, but you will find that if you do not renew your mind it will be a constant fight of faith. You will constantly be fighting thoughts and emotions and wrong desires. After awhile you can get weary of fighting the fight of faith and give in to the pressure. What we need is to have our mind renewed and destroy the stronghold of lies the enemy has built in our minds and thinking. It is possible to see long lasting relief from the constant barrage of thoughts and bad emotions once we renew our minds to the truth of our identity in Christ and replace root lies with root truths. This is a process! This is the growing part of freedom.

Growth is a combination of spiritual revelation, learning and utilizing faith, and experience. Be patient with yourself. God already sees you completed in heaven! Relax; this is a relationship with your loving Heavenly Father, not a competition. He loves you and is committed to your growth, victory, and freedom.

## Chapter 24

### King of Hearts

Understanding your heart is crucial to walking in Christ and in freedom. Admittedly the heart is one of the most difficult terms to define because it has such a wide range of uses in the Word of God. It is clear from **1 Thessalonians 5:23** that man is made up of three parts: spirit (identity and nature), soul (personality or sense of self), and body (vessel the inner man lives in on earth). The heart is not mentioned in this verse but it is very clear that man has a heart. This is more than just his blood pump in his chest. From different passages you could gather that the heart is speaking about our spirit and others it has to be speaking of the soul. Here are some verses that speak of the heart, but they can only be true of our re-born spirit.

**(Rom 2:29) But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that of the heart, in the spirit,* and not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.**

Here we see that being a Jew or one of God's covenant people has to do with having your heart circumcised, not just in the outward body. Notice that it says circumcision is of the heart, *in the spirit*. **Colossians 2:11** tells us that we were spiritually circumcised when we were saved.

**(Gal 4:6) And because ye are sons, God hath sent**

**forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**

The Spirit has been sent into our hearts when we are born again and thus we call God our Father. The Spirit can only dwell in the part of us that has been totally renewed, which is our spirit.

**(1Co 6:17) But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.**

The Spirit comes into us and is joined to us in our spirit. The Holy Spirit cannot join to an unholy part of us.

**(Rom 5:5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

Again this has taken place in our spirits. It is important to note that God has made our spirits new by regeneration of the Holy Spirit. **(Titus 3:5)** God has sealed our spirit so that it cannot be contaminated and filled it with Himself who is Love.

**(Eph 1:13) In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,**

Once again the Spirit of God has come into our spirit. When He came into our spirit He sealed it. This sealing is for protection, to declare ownership, and for authenticity.

Now I want to look at some verses that speak of the heart that cannot be referring to our spirit. They must be speaking of our soul.

**(Heb 3:12) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.**

Here we see that it is possible to have an evil heart of unbelief. This is not referring to the perfected spirit that has the Holy Spirit residing in it. It is speaking of the soul here.

**(Eph 3:17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

Here Paul prays that Christ *may* dwell in the Ephesians' hearts by faith. Christ already dwells in the spirit of all Christians when they got saved. There would be no need for Paul to pray that Christ would dwell in their spirits because He already is! However, Christ will dwell and make Himself at home in our souls by our beliefs concerning Him and about our relationship to Him. The word "dwell" here means "*to be at home in.*" Christ is at home in a soul that is in line with him with proper beliefs and thoughts.

**(Heb 3:8) Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:**

Here we are told not to let our heart become hardened. This is in the soul, not our perfected spirit that has been sealed. Let's look at one more verse.

**(Jam 3:14) But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.**

This verse says that we can have envy and strife in our hearts. This cannot be speaking of our pure, recreated spirit that has been joined to the Holy Spirit. This again is speaking of our soul.

***The point I want you to see is that the heart is an encompassing term that is used for our inward man.***

The outward man is the body. The inward man is the spirit which has a soul. We often divide the spirit and soul so that we can define them but they are so closely linked together that the only thing that can separate them is the Word of God. **(Heb. 4:12)** The heart of man is the inward man that is comprised of soul and spirit. We must look at the context of each verse where heart appears to see what part of the heart it is speaking of. There is a spiritual part of the heart (our spirit) that is born again and there is a

soulful part of the heart (our soul) that is being renewed by revelation knowledge. (**Col. 3.10**) It is very important to know that the goal of the Christian life is **not** to try to renew our spirit. It has been renewed already at the new birth and God lives in it. We are commanded by God to let His Word renew our soulful heart so that our minds and beliefs are renewed to come in line with our renewed spirit.

***One of the main goals of the Christian life is to get a single heart (spirit and soul) towards God and get them lined up together.***

Before we were saved we had a single heart that was against God. Our spirit and soul were equally corrupted and against God. When we were saved our spiritual heart was born again and this new heart is towards God at all times. However, the soulful part of our heart was left unchanged at our new birth and through wrong beliefs it is still antagonistic against God.

***We actually got a divided heart at salvation!***

Again, one of the main goals of our Christian life here is to start lining up our soul with our completed spirit so that we can once again have a single heart, but this time towards God. As we renew our minds and beliefs we will start seeing and believing what God says about us and our soul will start coming in line with our spirit and we will begin to have a single heart once again.

I believe that wrong beliefs are held in the soul and not your reborn perfected spirit. As we have seen earlier, human behavior flows predominantly from beliefs of the heart. Beliefs are held at the heart level.

***Your actions may deviate from the beliefs in your heart for a time but your behavior will always return eventually to the level of your core heart beliefs.***

Out of your heart flow the issues of your life.

**(Pro 4:23) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**

The word for “issues” can also be translated *boundaries*. The boundaries of your life are set by the beliefs of your heart. It is important to note that the mind and heart work together.

**(Pro 23:7) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.**

The word “thinketh” is a translation of a Hebrew term which means “gatekeeper”. The mind is the gate or door keeper of your heart. It will allow ideas to come into the heart. Ideas that enter the heart form beliefs. Once a belief is made then the mind will go through selective reasoning to only accept information that

coincides with that belief. That is why it is so dangerous when you have wrong beliefs because the mind will tend to only accept information that lines up with that belief. The mind will often reject truth to guard a wrong belief! It is also important to know that the heart is the seat of self. All beliefs of the heart will effect in some way how you see and what you believe about yourself.

***One way you can tell that the Word of God has impacted you at a heart level instead of just at an intellectual level is when you start seeing yourself differently and in line with what God says about you.***

This will bring about a change in behavior. Another thing that you need to know about the heart is that it is the place where images are stored. They can be godly images or they can be evil. The heart is the place where our imagination resides.

**(Gen 8:21) And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.**

As we see in this verse it states that the imagination is of the heart. The imagination of man was used for evil in this verse in Genesis but imagination itself was given to us by God and is to be used for good.

***Until we get an inner image of what God says about us as being true in our hearts we will not see it manifested in our life.***

A word-based imagination in your heart is the spiritual blueprint for what God wants to manifest in the natural realm! You cannot build something without blueprints! The word imagination has the word “image” as its root. The heart is the place for inner images. They can be true images or false images. Even wrong images still hold massive power and potential connected to them.

**(Gen 11:6) And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.**

The heart is where we can see the things our natural eyes cannot see. God is still saying that same thing today about you that He said back in Genesis 11, “**Nothing will be impossible to you**”. This is true if you can only get the inner image of God’s truth on the inside of your heart and see yourself as God sees you. Paul knew this and prayed that the eyes of the heart of all Christians everywhere would be opened to see the hope of God’s calling, the glorious inheritance in the saints (in you!), and what the greatness of His power released when they believed.

**(Eph 1:18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,**

I have included this chapter about the heart because I will be talking about the importance of the heart and changing wrong heart beliefs in the chapters to come. Changing heart beliefs is vital to seeing lasting transformation in your life. God wants you to walk in freedom more than you do. Doing that starts at the heart level. Most people try to change their behavior with their will power. This will not produce lasting results unless you first change your core heart beliefs about God and yourself to line up with His truth. In the last section of the book we will show you how God has ordained that we do just that.

## Chapter 25

### **Taking It To Heart**

In this last section of the book we will look at the importance of Biblical meditation. In the chapter on the spiritual disciplines I mentioned that many believers are misusing the bible and prayer. They are trying to use them as tools to achieve things God has already done for them in Christ. Even though this is the case I brought out the vital importance of the Word to see transformation in your life. If you have used the Word as a tool for fixing up the old you, I am going to show you how you can now use the Word as a mirror and start manifesting the new you! This is going to happen by what the bible calls meditation. Before I look at some verses that talk about meditation I want to differentiate between biblical mediation and meditation taught by false religions and cults. In Eastern philosophy and in the New Age, it is taught that to meditate you need to empty your mind completely and open up yourself to whatever spiritual influence that comes. This is very dangerous. This is an open door for Satan and spirits of deception to come in and influence you. On the contrary, the Bible teaches us that instead of emptying our mind we ought to fill our mind with the truth of God's Word. Instead of trying to think nothing we are to think deeply on the Word of God. Many Christians are leery of anything called meditation because of false and demonic forms of meditation. Because there are satanic inspired forms of meditation is a sure sign that there is a real and genuine use for meditation that was created and given by God. Satan cannot and does not create anything.

He only copies God and twists what He has made. Because Satan has twisted meditation shows us there must be a genuine meditation that God intends for us to practice. I am going to make a strong statement, but I believe it whole heartedly. I believe that Biblical meditation is the least practiced discipline given to us by God to tap into His resources of grace and truth. Reading the Bible is good but it is not meditation. Studying the Bible is great but it is not meditation. Both of these are very important and viable, but neither is Bible meditation. Reading and studying the Bible affects the intellectual realm but Biblical meditation affects the heart. Reading and studying the Bible are very useful in preparation for meditation. Knowing what the Word really says will help you meditate on those truths and get them to impact your heart beliefs. Again, the heart is the inward man. The inward man is comprised of the spirit and soul. The soul is comprised of the mind, will, and emotions. The soul is the seat of our sense of self and personality. Our soul has a surface to it that has intellectual thoughts that go on constantly. It is important to note that much of our behavior is governed by our heart beliefs. It is our sense of identity that impacts our life and behavior the most. Again we behave mostly from our heart beliefs. If these beliefs are twisted or wrong then our behavior will be twisted and wrong.

***Our behavior is like a photo of our beliefs. Our heart beliefs are like the negatives that the photos of our behavior are developed from.***

Many Christians have wrong views of God and themselves in their hearts. They have old beliefs about who they are and what God is like from many years before they were born again. They can hear truths from the Bible and intellectually agree that they are true but still hold to the old heart beliefs that are completely contrary to that truth. They might hear that they are righteous in Christ and give mental assent to it but still feel at the core of their being very unworthy, unacceptable, dirty, and flawed and thus their beliefs about themselves are not impacted by the truth.

***It is vital to have the old beliefs exchanged for new beliefs before we can see the power of the gospel impact our lives like God wants it to. One of the main ways this is going to happen is by Biblical meditation.***

God has given meditation as a means to change our heart beliefs. This can work positively or negatively. We actually use meditation every day. Most use meditation in a negative way and meditate on the lies of the enemy. This impacts beliefs which impact the emotions which impact the will which impacts the behavior. We can meditate on the truth or on lies, but we do meditate. We must learn how to meditate God's Word.

The heart of man is the seat of self. It is the place of self perception. Truth impacts your heart to the level that it impacts your self-perception. When you fundamentally see and feel different about yourself, then you have impacted your heart. Just hearing sermons or reading the Bible will not necessarily do

this. I liken just reading the Bible to going to the gas station, standing two feet away and shooting gas at the gas tank! This is what we do when we just merely read the Word and do not think deeply on it. Biblical meditation is like sticking the nozzle deep into the tank and filling it up!

In the next few chapters I will talk about three different components of Biblical meditation. The three components of Biblical meditation I want to discuss are: **Ponder it, See it, and Say it.** When all these components are present then the truth has the greatest impact upon your heart. You will start to see changes automatically. Meditation is a key to changing your heart beliefs. Again we all behave effortlessly from our heart beliefs. If these beliefs are wrong then your behavior will be a reflection of that belief and Satan will rule over you. In the next few chapters we want to talk about how to meditate, but now I want to look at the goal of meditation and the reason why God wants us to meditate on His Word.

## **SECTION III**

### **RECEIVING FREEDOM**

## Chapter 26

### First Things First

What is the key to success in the Kingdom of God? Many have wondered that and many have different answers. However, I would like to go to the Word of God itself and see what it has to say.

**(Jos 1:8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

After I read this verse in the Christian school where I used to teach, I liked to ask the question I just asked you. The answer I got almost every time to my question was to meditate the Word of God, and every time I tell them- No, it is not!! I will have them re-read the verse again. This verse does NOT say that by meditating you will make your way prosperous and have good success. It says that you meditate so that you will observe to DO all that is written for THEN you shall make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have good success. Here we see the key to success in the kingdom of God. It is DOING the Word of God. This is what Jesus said Himself,

**(Luk 11:27) And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted**

up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed *is* the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.

**(Luk 11:28) But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.**

Lets look at another verse in Psalms that says the same thing as Joshua did.

**(Psa 1:2) But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**

**(Psa 1:3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

Again, we see that prosperity comes from doing. However, doing is preceded by meditating on the Word of God. Meditating the Word will lead us to do the Word which will bring us success and prosperity the way God intends for us to experience. Let's see this same thing in the New Testament in the book of James.

**(Jam 1:22) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

**(Jam 1:23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:**

**(Jam 1:24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.**

**(Jam 1:25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

If we are not doers of the Word and only hearers of the Word we deceive our own selves. Self deception is the worst kind of deception. Knowing what the Bible says and doing what the Bible says are worlds apart. Notice that the Word is likened to a glass or literally a mirror. A mirror shows you what you look like. The mirror of God will show us two sides of ourselves. First it will show us what our life looks like naturally with its faults and failures and sins. Secondly it will show us who we are in Christ; spiritually perfect and complete. According to what we see, we are to put off the old man and put on the new man. If we do not meditate we will forget about what we need to put off and we will forget what manner of man we are in Christ and will not put on the new! If we however look into the perfect law of liberty, which is the New Testament teachings of grace and who we are in Christ, then we will not be a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work. This person will then be blessed in their deeds. The word for look in this verse means to stoop down for concentrated focus on something. The word "continueth" implies doing this for a protracted period of time. Success and prosperity come from acting on the Word in faith, but having faith and doing the Word comes from meditating the Word of God.

**(Psa 119:15) I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.**

Once again we see that meditation of the Word will cause you to respect and do things God's way. Meditation is a major way the Holy Spirit will empower you to do God's Word. Let's look at a passage we have seen before.

**(Eze 36:27) And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.**

The Spirit and the Word work together. As you meditate the Word, the Holy Spirit will illuminate to you who you are and what you have in Christ. Faith will arise and, because you constantly have the Word in your mind, you will act on it. A spiritual law is: what predominates your thoughts will predominate your actions! When you act in faith on the Word, then the power of God is released and the God kind of life is released into the earth. This brings blessing, success, godliness, and prosperity to your life and to those around you. This is the goal and reason for meditation. It is well worth your time to meditate the Word of God. Now that you see the importance of meditating the Word let's look at how you do it.

## Chapter 27

### **Ponder It!**

The first step to true Biblical meditation is to bring deep thought to bear upon the Word of God. The mind is much like a magnifying lens. As it focuses on something it becomes magnified and you can see things more clearly and in greater detail. Often the Spirit will expand on what you deeply consider. Many people simply read the Word of God. They will read a few chapters a day or even a book of the Bible and they call it their devotion time with God. Reading sections of the Bible is very good to get the flow of thought and the ideas of a section of scripture. However, just a casual reading will reap little insight from the scripture compared to intense focus on a certain passage of scripture. Just reading the scripture will give you a panorama view but focusing on a certain scripture with deep thought will bring it under the microscope to see the rich detail it holds.

Two of the major Hebrew words for meditate both mean to ponder, muse, or to give deep thought to. The Greek word for meditate is the word, **meletao**, which means to roll over and over in the mind. This word was used in the Greek theatre for actors who memorized their lines by rehearsing them over and over again. As we mull over and think deeply upon a scripture, then it will release it's knowledge, wisdom, and even its power into your heart. Just reading the scripture will minister to your head, but meditating the Word ministers to your heart. Remember, the heart is the place of beliefs-both of God and yourself. The more of the Word that enters you heart the more your beliefs are molded into

the image of God and the truth. When the revelatory light of the Word enters the heart faith springs forth to appropriate the things of God. The Spirit of God shows us what belongs to us and we, by faith, receive what has already been freely given to us. (1 Cor. 2:12)

I believe that by and large many of us have lost the art of deep thought and the discipline of concentrated focus. We live in a fast paced society that makes many fast transitions. To keep up with this pace we have compensated for the quick transitions and, in doing so, we have lost the ability to focus on one thing for a protracted period of time. Often the attention span has been decreased. This is becoming more prevalent in the young people today. They live in a hi-tech, multi-media world that is fast and transitory. Popular video games and T.V. programs directed at youth are very fast paced and transition quickly. The concentration ability and attention span of the youth is becoming shorter and shorter due to this phenomenon. It takes more focus to read a book than to watch T.V.. Reading has declined steadily with more people tuning in to television and cable stations. Meditating the Word of God takes more focus and concentration than reading a book! Many people simply lose focus when it comes to meditating the Word of God or they get bored. Their mind drifts off onto other things. They will soon find themselves doing things that are more fun or stimulating to their senses. I am not advocating getting rid of your television unless God leads you to do that. I am saying that we need to investigate our priorities and that we need to re-cultivate the discipline of concentration and focus. To help you make the transition to meditating, you might start reading more than you do now. Start with setting aside some quiet

time to focus on printed material. Do not just read it real fast but read slowly and thoughtfully. Make some notes when ideas come to you about what you are reading.

What we deeply think on gets absorbed into our heart. You have probably heard the term of “being absorbed” in something. What we think on deeply gets absorbed into us. Of course we would like to be absorbed with the Word of God. It is possible. Paul wrote to Timothy on this issue:

**(1Ti 4:15) Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.**

Here we see that Paul wanted Timothy to meditate on the teachings he had given him. He was to give himself wholly to them. This means to be absorbed by them. This would cause him to profit so much that it would be evident for all to see.

**(Mat 22:37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God. We are to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind. He started from the inmost to the outward. We are to love with all our heart, then he isolates the soul, and then isolates the mind. Jesus knew how critical the mind was. The normal Greek

word for mind is nous, but that is not the Greek word we find here. The word for mind in this verse is the word dianoia, which means “deep thought”. We are to love God by deep thought upon Him and His Word. This same word appears in other passages. I want to look at two of them.

**(Eph 1:17) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

**(Eph 1:18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

**(Eph 1:19) And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

The word for understanding in the Greek text that the KJV comes from is dianoia, which again means deep thought. In this verse we see the cooperation between God and man. God supplies the wisdom and revelation but we are to bring the deep thought. As we deeply think on the Word of God, the Spirit of God will illuminate the eyes of our heart. Notice that we will see three things. We will see God’s calling on our life, we will also see the inheritance and resources given to us to fulfill that calling, and then we will see the great power of God to fulfill that calling.

**(Heb 10:16) This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;**

Again we see the cooperation of God and man. The word for minds here is the same word *dianoia*- deep thought. As we think deeply on the Word, then God writes His Word on our hearts and minds. It becomes a part of us. We then no longer struggle to do the Word but the Word becomes a part of us and we instinctively live it out!

## **Chapter 28**

### **See It!**

The second key to biblical meditation is to see or picture the Word of God in your heart. I believe this to be the most neglected part of meditation and I believe that is because we have not been taught to do it. God wants us to see the Word, not just with our physical eyes but with the eyes of our heart. In our western culture we are taught to be thinkers and we by in large live in the arena of ideas and thoughts. Our thoughts are vital to meditation as we have seen in the last chapter, but so are the inner images of our hearts. Our lives take on the shape of the images we have in our heart. Seeing with our heart is called imagination. We often regulate imagination to small children but our imagination was given to us by God to be used throughout our lives. The imagination is our image maker. Often children use their imagination to make up characters and stories that are not based upon reality. However, God intends for us to use our imagination to see the real unseen realm of the Spirit and the kingdom of God. We can and should base our imagination upon reality. It is only when we can see ourselves being, having, and doing what God says about us that we can see our lives take on that image. Here is a small test for you to see if you exercise the eyes of your heart or not on a daily basis.

1. Do you visualize or imagine what you read?
2. Do you visualize or imagine what you pray? Ex. Picture yourself in the throneroom talking to God.
3. Do you visualize or imagine what you sing to

## God?

If your answers are no to these questions then you are not exercising your heart like you should. God wants us to see His Word. Matter of fact, the Hebrew language, like many of the oriental languages, is a picture language. The letters themselves form pictures. The prophets of the Old Testament were called "Seers". We need to be seers also! Too often many Christians have correct theology in their heads but wrong images of themselves in their hearts! Down deep in their hearts that have a self image that is negative. Photos are made from negatives. When you have a negative self image of yourself or one that is inconsistent with God's Word, then those photos are reproduced into your everyday life. The image you have of yourself is like the cruise control in your car. The car may go faster or slower depending on whether you are going down or up a hill but it will always come back to the set point. We can rise higher or lower on occasion than the image we have of ourselves but over time our lives will return to that image and that image will be outwardly displayed. What is in your heart is what will dominate you. Combining deep thought and picturing the Word with the eyes of your heart will cause the Word to be absorbed into your heart and make new images and new beliefs. Out of these beliefs we live effortlessly. It takes great effort and time however to renew our mind and the inner images we have in our heart. Now let's examine some scriptures that show us the importance of seeing the Word.

**(Heb 11:13) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

This verse is speaking of the “heroes of faith”. They all died believing God. This verse really encapsulates how faith really works. The first thing it says is that they all saw the promises of God. This is not with their physical eyes, but with the eyes of their hearts. They imagined and saw the promises as being true. They saw themselves possessing the promises and living out the promises. When they saw the promises of God they became persuaded of them. When you start seeing yourself as God says you are then you will become persuaded at the heart level that it is true. You need to see yourself righteous and doing righteous things. You need to picture and imagine yourself living out the fruit of the Spirit. You need to see yourself doing great things in God and for God. You will become persuaded. You are persuaded by what you see in your heart whether good or bad. After they were persuaded they embraced the promises. This means they claimed them for themselves. It was no longer promises for others but promises for them! They saw themselves having and being what those promises proclaimed. Lastly it says they confessed the Word. Faith in the heart that is spoken out of your mouth is what got you saved (**Romans 10:9-10**) and it is the same principle that receives freedom from sin, healing, blessing, protection, provision, and everything else that we need. With our heart we believe and with our mouth confession is made unto salvation. The word salvation

is all encompassing. It means everything you need spiritually and naturally.

**(Heb 11:27) By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.**

Moses forsook Egypt and endured because He saw God. He did not see Him with his natural eyes but he saw Him who is invisible. He saw him with the eyes of his heart.

**(2Co 4:18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.**

Paul looked not at the things he could see with his eyes, but the things that cannot be naturally seen. Although Paul could not see with his natural eyes the promises and truths of God, that does not mean they were not real. They were and are very real. They are just in another realm. Paul saw into this realm with his heart.

**(1Co 2:12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

The Holy Spirit was sent that we might know the things given to us by God. The word here for know is the Greek word eido, which means literally to know by seeing. This does not mean physically seeing but seeing it with our hearts. Here we see the cooperation again of God and man. We are to look and the Holy Spirit will illuminate and show. Many are waiting for God to give them a vision of spiritual things. They even ask God for visions. It is unwise to ask for visions. Satan and demons can give you visions. Then how do you see spiritual things? It is by using your God-given imagination to picture the Word in your heart. Many are afraid of doing this because they fear that they will make up something or get off. If your heart is right and your imagination gets off, then Holy Spirit will alert you. Often Jesus appeared to people in different forms. Even after His resurrection some people did not even recognize him because he appeared differently. God will meet you where you are. When you read the Word do not just read it, but picture it. Picture yourself in the Word and being and doing what the Word says. See it! When you read a story from the Old or New Testament, picture it in your imagination. Put yourself in the story. I have done this before and many times I will have insights about the story I do not believe I would have gotten otherwise. Do whatever it takes to replace the wrong images in your heart with those in the Word of God. Picture the Word in such a way that it starts effecting your emotions. What you experience with emotion attached to it will cause it to be registered into your long-term memory and be registered upon your heart. Once you add deep thought, picturing the Word in your heart, and the last ingredient, which is speaking it, then you produce a powerful process that

writes God's Word on your heart. This will impact your behavior in a powerful way.

## Chapter 29

### Say It!

Who do you believe most in your life? Your spouse? Your boss? Your parents? Your kids? God? The fact of the matter is that the person you probably believe more than all of these is yourself! Your ears are closer to your mouth than any others. There is not enough space here to cover all that the Word of God says about the power of our words. A book could be written just on a study on what Proverbs has to say about it. The fact is that God has given us a wonderful and power gift of speaking words that express our thoughts and beliefs. No animal has this power, even parrots! God is a speaking God. This is what separates Him from all the false gods of the heathen. The Bible calls them “dumb” idols. This means they cannot speak. God speaks and releases His faith and power in the form of words. You can see this by a quick glance at Genesis chapter 1. Count the times it states that “God said” and see what happens when He did! Some might say, “Well, that is God”! No, that is true of us also. Jesus related how important faith and words are.

**(Mar 11:23) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**

Paul understood this principle also.

**(2Co 4:13) We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;**

God has ordained not only that faith be released from us by words but that faith would come by hearing words.

**(Rom 10:17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

The Greek word for “word” in this verse is *rhema*. This means the spoken word. Faith comes by the spoken word of God. This is one of the biggest reasons meditation is so important. Two of the main Hebrew words translated as meditate both mean to utter or speak to yourself. In meditation you utter or speak the Word to yourself. This will minister faith to you. There are two types of confession. There is the confession *unto* faith and then there is the confession *of* faith. One is speaking the Word in order to obtain faith in the heart and the other is the releasing of faith that is present in the heart. Faith released out of your heart by faith releases the dynamic power of God. I believe that at the new birth, you have the measure of faith deposited within you, but it will lay dormant until the Word of God is ministered. When the Holy Spirit

illuminates the Word of God to your heart then faith will rise and take hold of what the Spirit shows us. If we do not expose ourselves to the Word or do not speak the Word, then faith lies dormant in us and does not become active or useful to us. Meditating the Word is exposing your mind and heart to the Word of God.

Humility starts when you get into agreement with God. God is the only source of reality. What He says is ultimate truth. When we agree with God and say the same thing He says about us, then we will start seeing His grace released in us to see that truth become reality in our lives.

***I want to make this very clear. This is one of the most important points in this book! You must speak aloud out of your mouth the Word concerning your new identity in Christ. You must continue to do this to see the transformation you seek.***

You need to do this no matter if it feels like it is making a difference or if it looks like any changes are happening right away. We must continue believing the truth, but we need also need to continue to speak the Word of God out of our mouth in each situation with face.

***Failure in the Christian life comes from either not believing the right things or speaking the right things. Our behavior comes from these two realities.***

One final thought on the process of meditation: It is vitally important that we make our time with the Word of God each day a sight and sound experience! Why? It is because we need to have both sides of our brain activated in order for the Word to impact us like it should. Humans have two sides of their brain- the right and the left. Each side controls different functions in our life. The left side of the brain controls the reasoning and speech, while the right side is utilized in picturing and imagination. What happens when we ponder the Word (use our reason), and we picture the Word in our hearts by our imagination, and we also speak the Word? We engage both sides of our brains! When both sides of our brains are engaged it has the greatest potential to impact the heart. The right side of the brain is also where most emotion is experienced. It is a fact that what you experience with emotional involvement is placed into long term memory and has a deeper impact on you. Women are more right-brain dominated than men. They usually have a greater long-term memory than men. My wife can tell you what was said and what was worn at an event five years ago, and I do not remember the event at all! Women experience life much more in an emotional realm, which is a right-brained activity, resulting in more things get placed into their long term memory. That is why it is so important to incorporate all three parts of Biblical mediation- thinking, seeing, and speaking. Jesus knew this fact and when he had a bunch of left-brained disciples he not only spoke the Word of God but He also used stories to get the men to visualize and experience the Word emotionally. Have fun with your time in the Word. The Father wants you to have a fun time with Him and wants all of your being impacted by His Word. So,

open the Word and start meditating it. Ponder it, see it, say it, and it will impact your heart and your beliefs, which will impact your actions. Do this on a regular basis and not just once and awhile. It is what you do regularly that will form habits, transform character, and determine destiny!

## Chapter 30

### Living The High Life

I want to end this book talking about what is most important to God. When I ask groups what is most important to God I usually get the answer- man, souls, or people. Whatever your answer is to this question is what you are saying is of the highest priority with God and is first place in the universe. Your answer to the question will automatically develop a paradigm in which you see everything and how you approach life. Those who say man is most important to God will end up with a man-centered paradigm. I do not believe the Bible supports the idea that man is most important to God. Don't get me wrong, man is very important to God, but he is not most important.

***What does the Bible reveal is most important to God? It is God's name or His glory.***

I can list multiple scriptures under each statement below, but I will just give one per point for time and space sake.

**God saved Israel for His name sake, not theirs primarily-**

(Psa 106:8) Nevertheless He saved them **for His name's sake**, That He might make His mighty power known.

**God did not cast off disobedient Israel for His**

**sake, not theirs primarily-**

(Isa 48:9) "**For My name's sake** I will defer My anger, And *for* My praise I will restrain it from you, So that I do not cut you off.

**God forgives sin for His name's sake, not ours primarily**

(1Jn 2:12) I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you **for His name's sake**.

**God leads us and guides us for His name's sake, not ours primarily**

(Psa 23:3) He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness **For His name's sake**.

**God planned redemption for the praise of His glory**

(Eph 1:12) that we who first trusted in Christ should be **to the praise of His glory**.

**Jesus revealed what's most important to God when He taught His disciples how to pray. What did He mention first?**

(Mat 6:9) In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, **Hallowed be Your name**.

These are just a small sample of scriptures in the Bible that reveal that His name and glory is most important.

***God's name or glory is most important because God ministers and provides for us from His glory and on the basis of His name.***

If God did not maintain His name and glory then He could not give of Himself to us. God ministers from the riches of His glory.

(Eph 3:16) that He would grant you, according to the **riches of His glory**, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

(Eph 1:18) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the **riches of the glory** of His inheritance in the saints,

(Eph 1:18) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the **riches of the glory** of His inheritance in the saints,

God pours out from the riches of His glory and on the basis of His name. Therefore, it is paramount that we get the answer correct on what is most important to God, because our answer will impact every area of our life! If we have a man-centered paradigm then our life will be off center! If we have a God-centered paradigm then our life will reflect and promote God's glory. There are two approaches to life. One is man-centered and the other is God-centered. One is living the low life and the other is living the high life!

***One says that God exists for man to bless him. The other says that man exists for God to bless Him.***

It is important we have the right paradigm in our lives. A person who has a man centered paradigm will

use God for His purposes. They will become offended at God when God does not come through for them as they think He should. Such a person can do good things such as study the Bible, pray, give, attend church, and minister but it is all done from a selfish perspective and for self. This life will lack fruit, blessing, and power. A person who experiences this thinks the problem is with what they are doing so they try to change what they are doing. The problem is not with what they are doing, but why they are doing it. They are doing it to promote self and for selfish purposes. A Christian that has a God-centered focus and lives to glorify Him in all they do will experience fruit, blessing, and power in order to bring about God's glory. The Spirit will not cooperate with self and the flesh. He will only cooperate to uplift the name of Jesus and glorify God. We have looked at many wonderful truths in this book, however, if you use what you have learned here to try to fix yourself so that you can further your own selfish purposes, it will not work. Many want to be free from sin because of selfish purposes instead of to bring glory to God. Their whole life is tainted by self instead of giving glory to God in all they do. We need to allow the Spirit of God to shine His light into our heart and show us what paradigm we are living from. The answer to the question of what is most important to God helps us see what our paradigm is. It should be to glorify God and uplift His glorious name. When it is, then God's power will be released in us to live a God honoring life to the praise of His glory and we will experience true freedom!

## **Chapter 31**

### **What Now?**

Hopefully, at this point you see that everything that needs to be done to set you free and make you acceptable to God has been done already by Christ. That is called grace. Your response to this is to believe it and act on it. That is called faith. God has put an end to the old Adamic man that was present from the garden through the finished work of Jesus Christ. He identified you with Christ as your covenant representative and put you to death with and in Him. You now are a new creation in Him, no longer bound by sin and laws to try to perfect yourself. You are complete in Christ. The Holy Spirit was sent into your heart to show you who you are in Christ and what you have to walk in because you are a child of the Father. You are to walk daily the same way you got saved- appropriating grace by faith- step by step. You must count on the fact that through Christ the old you with his old ways was put to death in Christ and you count on the fact that through Christ you have a new nature and new disposition towards God. You put off the old and put on the new by renewing your mind. You put off the old way of thinking and the old beliefs for new ways of thinking and new beliefs by meditating on the Word of God. You must renew your mind now to the new things God has done in Christ. What now? Enjoy the process. When you fail or sin, confess it as sin but also confess that you are righteous, free, and holy. Get up knowing that God has perfected you and sees you complete. When we fail it is a sign to us that we are not walking in close enough fellowship with God or that our

beliefs and thinking are wrong. We often are not spending sufficient time in the Word of God and fellowshiping in prayer with God. What can stop the whole transformation process is you. If you stop exposing yourself regularly to the Word of God and looking into the mirror, you will lose sight of who you are in Christ and what you have in Him and you will slip back into the old way of thinking and living. If you stop daily relying on your death to sin and new life in Christ then sin will draw you under its influence. Remember, from the experiential side you still have the flesh that constantly is pulling and drawing you to sin. Your flesh is no more holy than anyone else's. If you yield to the flesh you will sin, and often in terrible ways. God has a course for you to run and things for you to accomplish. Do not let anything or anyone come in and side-track you from that heavenly calling. Unlike earthly races, you are the only one running in your race. That is good news because, no matter how much you have fallen, you can get up and you are still in the lead! You can and will win your race by finishing it! Finish your course and you win. The fact is you have already won because you are in Christ, the Champion and the Victor of Universe. You are seated with Him and are forever His. Enjoy the journey and thank you for letting me spend some time with you on the way.

May the grace of God be with your spirit.

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**APENDIX A**  
**THE ROOTS OF GRACE**

Romans to Jude

These are what I call roots of grace (see chapter 1). These verses tell us what God has already done for us, to us, in us. They show us what already belongs to us. From the truths of these verses we can bear the fruit of them in our outward everyday lives. We do this by faith. Faith means to believe that something has been done and is working for us and in us right now, before we see it in the natural. Meditate on these verses and get them into your heart. Faith will arise, and when you speak out of your mouth the truths contained in these verses in first person, present tense, watch the power of God be released to bear the fruit of these roots of Grace. Remember the root produces the fruit. These must be revelation to your heart first before faith can be released to see them manifested. Enjoy!

**Rom 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:**

Thank you Lord that you called me by Jesus Christ

**Rom 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called [*to be*] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Thank you Lord that I am your beloved and that you call me a saint (a holy one). I believe I am holy.

**Rom 2:29 But he [*is*] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [*is that*] of the heart, in the spirit, [*and*] not in the letter; whose praise [*is*] not of men, but of God.**

Thank you Lord that you made me a Jew inwardly. My spirit has been circumcised by your operation. My praise comes from you.

**Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God [*which is*] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**

Thank you Lord that you have made me as right as you are by my faith in Jesus Christ.

**Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**

Lord I thank you that I have been declared completely innocent of all sin and guilt by a gift of your grace through the ransom price you paid for me at Calvary.

**Rom 4:7 [*Saying*], Blessed [*are*] they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.**

I am now blessed because my iniquities have been forgiven and because my sins are covered.

**Rom 4:8 Blessed [*is*] the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**

Thank you Lord that I am now blessed because you are not taking account of my sin.

**Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**

Thank you Lord that Jesus was delivered over for death because of my offenses, but was raised again from the dead because I was declared righteous and innocent of sin.

**Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

Thank you Lord Jesus that you made me righteous and innocent by my faith in you. I now have peace with God through you Lord Jesus.

**Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

Lord, Thank you that you gave me access by my faith in Christ into this grace in which I am standing right now. I am rejoicing in the confident expectation of your glory!

**Rom 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

Thank you Lord, that I will never be ashamed, because you poured out your love into my heart by the Holy Spirit, which you gave me forever!

**Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

Thank you Lord that I have been declared righteous and innocent by your shed blood. I am saved from your wrath in this life and the next.

**Rom 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**

Lord I thank you that, even though I was an enemy to you, you exchanged my sin for your righteousness, and made me to be at peace with you. I have peace.

**Rom 5:11 And not only [so], but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**

I rejoice in you God because through Jesus I have received reconciliation with you.

**Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)**

Thank you Lord that I have received abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness and I now reign as a king in this life by Jesus Christ your Son.

**Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

Thank you Lord that in Christ I have died to sin and live no longer in it!

**Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Thank you Lord that you caused me to be buried with Christ in baptism and that when Christ was raised from the dead by your glory I was raised also and now I walk in the newness of your zoe life.

**Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

Thank you Lord that my old unregenerate man was crucified with and in you as my covenant representative. I declare now that sin in my body is rendered powerless and I am walking in and by your new life by faith.

**Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

Thank you Lord that I died with Christ and I have been set free from sin once and for all. I am free!

**Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

Thank you Lord that sin has no dominion over me because you took me out from under the law where I struggle to perform for you and placed me under your grace where you have done everything for me.

**Rom 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**

**Rom 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

Thank you God that when I was a servant of sin, I believed from my heart that form of doctrine that was delivered to me which was grace, I then was made free from sin. Thank you that I am always free from sin when I believe from my heart what you have done for me in grace. I am your servant of righteousness.

**Rom 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.**

Father, I thank you that I am here and now free from sin and I am your servant. The fruit of holiness in my life is born from the root of Christ in me and the conclusion of my life is everlasting life.

**Rom 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, [even] to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.**

Lord, thank you that I have become dead to trying to live up to all your

holy standards on my own effort. I rest in the sacrifice of your body. Thank you Lord that I am married to you so that through our holy union your fruit is born through my life to your glory.

**Rom 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not [in] the oldness of the letter.**

Thank you that I have been forever delivered from the principle of me trying to perform for you to obtain your blessings. The law held me in death. I am now serving you in the newness of my recreated spirit through faith and not in the old life of trying to live up to your written standards.

**Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**

Thank you Lord that the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the principle of sin and death. I will not try to live for you but let your life live through me by faith and I praise you that sin is conquered in my life by your life!

**Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:**

Thank you that you already did what I have been trying to do all my life in my own energies. You sent your own Son for my sin and you condemned sin in my life. Thank you that I am free from trying to condemn my sin, but you did it for me and you enforce it when I believe it.

**Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up 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.**

Thank you Father that your Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead is dwelling in me and is giving resurrection life to my body to overcome sin right this moment. Praise you Father!

**Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

I praise you Father that you did not give me a spirit of bondage to fear, but I have received the spirit of adoption. Through my new spirit I am now your legal and mature son and I cry out triumphantly, Daddy God!

**Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.**

Thank you Lord that because I am your child, I am your heir and a joint heir with Christ.

**Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**

Praise you Father, that you predestinated me in Christ. You called me in Christ. You made me right in your sight. You also see me right now in your presence in the utter perfection of your Son in glory.

**Rom 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.**

Thank you Lord that through Christ, although I was a Gentile outside of your covenant and did not pursue you or your standards in my life, I have attained to a place of right standing with you and completion in Christ. I thank you that this comes by the faith you gave me in Christ.

**Rom 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded**

Thank you Lord that I have attained what the nation of Israel is seeking so desperately by all their efforts and careful observance of the law. I am righteous in Christ and everything you desired for a person to be. You did this by your grace in Christ. Thank you that I have been selected by you in Christ because you foresaw my faith in Christ. Thank you that you have opened my eyes!

**Rom 11:30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:**

Thank you Lord that I have mercy now! I know that is why I can come to your throne of grace and obtain it!

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

Thank you Lord that you have given to me the same measure of faith as everyone else that has ever existed in the Church. Thank you that I am not lacking in faith. I choose to exercise what I already have right now.

**Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, [*let us prophesy*] according to the proportion of faith;**

Thank you Lord for giving me gift(s) by your grace to minister to others. I believe your Word that they are in me and so I stir them up!

**Rom 15:14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.**

Thank you Father, that you filled me with goodness and knowledge in Christ. I now am filled with goodness and knowledge!

**Rom 15:16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.**

Thank you Lord that you have set me apart holy by the Holy Spirit. I am holy.

**1Co 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:**

Thank you Lord that you set me apart holy in Christ Jesus and that you have called me a saint (holy one).

**1Co 1:4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;**

I thank you my God that you gave me grace which I possess right now by Jesus Christ.

**1Co 1:5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and [in] all knowledge;**

Thank you Lord that you have enriched me in everything including utterance and knowledge. I am rich in word and knowledge.

**1Co 1:9 God [is] faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Thank you Father for your faithfulness and that you have called me

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into sweet fellowship with your Son Jesus Christ my Lord.

**1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**

Praise you Father that by your doing I am now in Christ Jesus and that Jesus Christ has been made unto me wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. I am wise, righteous, set apart, and redeemed by your placing me into Christ.

**1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

**1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**

Thank you Lord that you have revealed to me by your Spirit those great things you have already prepared for me. I realize that I cannot understand them with my natural faculties but I draw them up out of my spirit man.

**1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

Praise you Father, that I have received not the spirit of this world but your Spirit so that I can know all the things that are freely given to me from God. I know all that I need to know.

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

Thank you God that I have the mind of Christ right now within me and I have access to your thoughts!

**1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

Thank you Lord that the foundation of Jesus Christ has been laid in my life. I am now building on the basis of all that the Lord Jesus has already accomplished for me. I build on this foundation works of faith.

**1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

Thank you Lord that you made me your temple and your Spirit has taken up residence in my spirit, which is your Holy of Holies!

**1Co 3:21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;**

**1Co 3:22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;**

I glorify and thank you Father that all things are mine! All things- the world, life, death, things that are now and things that are to come are all mine! I have need of nothing because you have provided it all!

**1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:**

Thank you Lord that by the sacrifice of Christ as my Passover I am now unleavened, completed purged from all sin in my spirit man. I can purge out the sin in my flesh and soul by confession, knowing that you have purged out all sin out of my spirit.

**1Co 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

Thank you Lord that even though I once was a wicked sinner with no

inheritance in Christ, I now have been washed by your Spirit in regeneration. I have been set apart holy, I have been declared right with you and complete in your sight in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God. Thank you, I am qualified right now to partake of the inheritance in Christ.

**1Co 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.**

I praise you Father that have joined me to the Lord Jesus and now we are one spirit. The life of my reborn spirit is Jesus Christ!

**1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**

**1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

I magnify you and thank you Lord that you bought my body with a price and it is now yours and it has become your holy temple.

**1Co 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.**

Thank you Lord that you bought me with the price of your own blood. I am yours eternally. Thank you, that I am not subject to the desire and opinions of men.

**1Co 8:3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him.**

Thank you Lord that I have been known of you, this is the reason I can and do love you.

**1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.**

Thank you Lord that I have been baptized in the body of Christ and I drank deeply of the Spirit of Life and now my thirst has forever been quenched!

**1Co 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;**

Thank you Lord that when the gospel was declared to me I received it by the faith you gave me. I now stand in and by this good news of your grace!

**1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which [*was bestowed*] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

Thank you Lord that you have given me grace and by that grace I am what I am. It was not given to me in vain because I am working that grace out according to your working in me.

**1Co 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak [*this*] to your shame.**

I praise you God that you have given me a right standing and a right nature in Christ. I choose to stay awake and alert to that righteousness and grow in the knowledge of you by your Spirit through you Word.

**1Co 16:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you;**

Thank you Lord that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ has been given to me and is with me and will never leave me.

**2Co 1:10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver [*us*];**

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Thank you Lord that you have delivered me from so great a death in hell.

**2Co 1:20 For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.**

Thank you Lord that all your promises are yes and amen because you already have given me them in Christ. I have all things that pertain to life and godliness.

**2Co 1:21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, [is] God;**

Thank you Lord that you have anointed me with the Holy Spirit.

**2Co 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**

I praise you Father that you have sealed (authenticated, protected) my spirit with the earnest and first fruits of your Spirit. Thank you Lord that your Spirit is in my spirit.

**2Co 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.**

Thank you Lord that you have made me an able minister of the new testament of grace. The Spirit ministers life as I minister the word of your grace to people.

**2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty.**

Lord I thank you that you caused your Spirit to dwell in my spirit. I am a spirit that has a soul and lives in a body. I am forever free! Thank

you that I am free from the bondage of law and striving to achieve your standards in my own effort!

**2Co 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;**

Thank you Lord that I have received this ministry of grace. I praise you that I have received your mercy so I will not faint today.

**2Co 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Thank you Lord that you commanded light to shine out of my darkness, You have shined in my dark heart to give me the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the radiating face of Jesus Christ.

**2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

I praise you Father that I have the treasure of your glory in my earthly body, so that the display of power in my life today will be plainly seen as coming from you and not me.

**2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:**

Thank you Lord that your love compels me because I believe that since you died for me, I died with you. I am now dead to sin and to the law. I am alive with you in grace.

**2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

Thank you Lord that when I received Christ I became a new creature in my spirit. The old spiritual nature passed away and I see by faith that all things have become brand new. I am now clean as a new born baby in your sight!

**2Co 5:18 And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

**2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

I praise you Lord for reconciling me and making peace between us by Jesus Christ through the cross and have given to me the ministry of reconciliation.

**2Co 5:21 For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

Thank you Lord that you were made to be sin for me so that I am now your righteousness. Thank you that I am now as holy, pure, and righteous as you are because you are my holiness, purity, and righteousness.

**2Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.)**

Thank you Lord that you heard me and helped me in the day of my salvation and every day now is the day of salvation to experience your help.

**2Co 6:10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and [yet] possessing all things.**

Thank you Lord that I possess all things in Christ. You have given me everything!

**2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.**

Thank you Lord that when you were rich, you became poor, so that through your poverty on the cross I am now rich and prosperous. Because I am rich I give and it comes back to me in greater degrees and I become rich in the natural.

**2Co 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.**

Thank you Lord that I have been enriched in every thing so I can be generous to all and that the thanksgiving and praise all goes to you Lord. I am now rich.

**2Co 9:15 Thanks [be] unto God for his unspeakable gift.**

Thank you Lord for your unspeakable gift that I have in your Son Jesus Christ!

**2Co 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. Amen.**

Thank you Lord that you have given me grace. Father thank you for loving me. Holy Spirit thank you for your sweet fellowship.

**Gal 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:**

Thank you Lord that you gave yourself for my sins to deliver me from this evil age I am living in. I am now delivered from this evil world and its lusts.

**Gal 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.**

Thank you Lord that when I believed on you I was made right and complete in your sight by the faith you gave me.

**Gal 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.**

I praise you Father that through the law (Jesus' body in life and death being the substance of the Law's commands and sacrifices) I died to the principle of trying to meet your holy standards in my own efforts. I am now alive to you God by and in your marvelous grace.

**Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I live; yet no longer I, but Christ lives in me. And *that* life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith toward the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself on my behalf.**

Thank you Lord that my old spiritual man was crucified with Christ and that old man no longer lives, but you now live in me. I live in my body now by the faith you gave me. Thank you that you loved me and gave yourself for me so that I am now joined to you in your life.

**Gal 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**

Thank you Lord that I received the Holy Spirit when I heard the message of grace and believed.

**Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:**

Thank you Lord that you have given yourself as the ransom price to deliver me from the curse of the law. I praise you Lord that you became a curse for me on the tree. I am now delivered from the curse of the law which is all sickness, poverty, and spiritual death.

**Gal 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

Thank you Lord that the blessing of Abraham has come upon me through Jesus Christ. I have received the promise of the Spirit through the faith you gave me. I am blessed!

**Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

I praise you Father that when I was baptized into Christ's body I was clothed with the son-ship robe of Christ. I am now your legal, adult son able to partake of your inheritance, Father.

**Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,**

**Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.**

Thank you Lord that you came in the fullness of time and you paid the ransom price with your life so that I would be adopted as a legal and adult son able to partake of your inheritance. I am now your legal and adult son and I partake now of the inheritance!

**Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**

Thank you Lord that because I am a son, you sent forth the Spirit of your Son into my spirit crying Daddy, God!

**Gal 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

Thank you Lord that I am no longer a cringing slave, but your adult son and I am an heir to your inheritance through Christ.

**Gal 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?**

Thank you Lord that you have known me.

**Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**

Thank you Lord that you set me free from the bondage of the law and trying to meet your standards in my own efforts. I stand in the liberty of your grace and righteousness, knowing I meet your every standard for perfection in Christ by your grace.

**Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**

Thank you Lord for calling me into the freedom of love. I am free from sin and now free to love.

**Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

I praise you God that by receiving you I have crucified the flesh with

its passions and desires. I see the flesh crucified daily by walking in fruits of your spirit and abiding in the vine. I allow you to live through me by faith and I choose not to try to accomplish your will in my own efforts but by faith in your grace which encompasses all that you have already done for me in Christ.

**Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**

I praise you Father that through the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ the world and its lusts are crucified to me and I have been crucified to the world and its lusts. I am now dead to the world and its lusts.

**Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.**

Thank you Lord that I am now a new creation that has never existed before, created in true righteousness and holiness.

**Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with your spirit, brethren! Amen.**

Thank you Lord that your grace is ever with my spirit.

**Eph 1:3 Blessed [*be*] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [*places*] in Christ:**

I bless you Father because you have already blessed me with all and every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. Thank you that these spiritual blessings give manifestation to every physical blessing in my life.

**Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

Thank you Father that you chose me in Christ before you founded the world. Because of Christ and because I am in Christ, I am now holy and completely without blame before your penetrating eyes of fire and love.

**Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**

Thank you Father that you predestinated me to the placing of me as a full, legal, and adult son that has the privilege to the full inheritance of the Father through your Son, according to your good will.

**Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

Thank you Father that, by the glory of your grace and what you have done, you made me accepted and acceptable in your beloved Son. Thank you for freely bestowing this on me by grace.

**Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**

Thank you Lord that in you I had the ransom-price for sin paid completely and forever by your blood. Thank you that all my sins past, present, and future have already been forgiven according to the riches of your grace (what you have already done)

**Eph 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;**

Thank you Lord that you have abounded to me your grace in every and all wisdom.

**Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed**

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**in himself:**

Thank you Father that you have made known to me the mystery of your will according to your good pleasure which has its purposes in yourself.

**Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

Thank you Father that in Christ I have obtained an eternal inheritance that I can partake of at anytime. Thank you for predestinating me in Christ for your purpose. Thank you that you are working that purpose in me now by the counsel of your own determined desire.

**Eph 1:13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

**Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

Thank you Father that when I believed upon Christ you sealed me, thus authenticating and protecting me with your Holy Spirit of promise.

**Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

Thank you Father that you have placed within me the riches of the glory of your inheritance. All that you bought for me and all that I need are already within my spirit man. Thank you Lord!

**Eph 1:22 And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave**

**him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church,**

**Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

Thank you Father that you have put all things under the feet of Jesus and have given him to be the head over the church which is your body. I praise you my Father that since I am in your body then all things are now under my feet! I believe that I am filled with your fulness!

**Eph 2:1 And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins;**

Thank you Lord that when I was dead in my trespasses and sins you made me alive in my spirit and gave me a new life and start.

**Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

**Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**

Thank you Lord that you are so rich in mercy and love. You loved me even when I was a dead sinner and you made me alive with Christ. Thank you that by your marvelous grace- all that you did saved me and still delivers me day by day.

**Eph 2:6 And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus:**

Thank you Lord that you have raised me up with Jesus as my covenant representative and made me sit down with him in heavenly places in Christ. I rule and reign in this life with Jesus Christ with all things under my feet.

**Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:**

Thank you Lord that by your grace, all that you have already accomplished in Christ on my behalf, was given to me through faith. I realize that this faith is from you and not my own inherent goodness, power, or intellect.

**Eph 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.**

Thank you Lord that I am your work of craftsmanship and poetic masterpiece created in Christ Jesus. I thank you that you form-fitted me for works that work out your master plan. I will do those works today. Praise you Father!

**Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.**

Thank you Father that now in Christ Jesus I am near to you because of the shed blood of Jesus on the cross.

**Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [*between us*];**

Thank you Lord Jesus that you are my peace with God. Thank you for breaking down the dividing partition of the law for me.

**Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [*even*] the law of commandments [*contained*] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [*so*] making peace;**

Thank you Lord that you abolished the hostility of the law and commandments in your body by dying on the cross. Thank you that I am part of the new man in Christ.

**Eph 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one**

**body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:**

Thank you Lord that you reconciled and brought me into harmony with the Father by your body on the cross. Thank you Lord that there is absolutely no hostility between me and you.

**Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**

I thank you Lord that I now have access by the Holy Spirit to the Father. Here I am Lord!

**Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;**

Thank you Lord that I am no longer a stranger and a foreigner but a saint and citizen of heaven and of your Father's household.

**Eph 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.**

Thank you Lord that I have boldness and access with confidence into the Father's presence through the faith that you gave me.

**Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

Thank you Lord that you rooted and grounded me in your love. Thanks for loving me.

**Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

Thank you Lord that you have given me grace according to the

measure of your gift. I have this grace and walk in it!

**Eph 4:22 *namely your having put off according to the former conversation the old man which corrupts itself according to the deceitful lusts;***

Thank you Lord that I can put off the conduct of the old man. The old man was crucified with Christ. Therefore I am free from the habits of the old man right now!

**Eph 4:24 *and your having put on the new man, which according to God is created in truthful righteousness and holiness.***

Thank you Lord that I put on the new man when I was saved. I am a new man and I am truly righteous: complete, innocent, and meeting all the standards of God. I believe I am holy. Thank you Jesus for accomplishing this for me. You are my righteousness and holiness.

**Eph 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.***

Thank you Lord for sealing me, thus authenticating and protecting me by the Spirit of God. Thank you that you put down your payment on me and will come to get me lock-stock-and barrel at your appearance for the church.

**Eph 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.***

Thank you Father that you have completely forgiven me of all sins past, present, and future for Christ's sake.

**Eph 5:2 *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.***

Thank you Lord that you have and still do love me and gave yourself for me as an offering and sacrifice for my sin.

**Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now [are ye] light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

Thank you that I am no longer darkness and in the dark stumbling around in sins and bondages. Now I am light in you. You are the light of my spirit that gives me light to walk in to not stumble, and to walk free from sin and bondages.

**Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

Thank you Lord that you left me your armor to fight in. When the devil sees me in your armor he does not see me but you. I am an overcomer and have triumphed in you. I rule and reign with Christ right now! Thank you for your grace.

**Phi 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Thank you Lord that you began a good work in me the day I received you as Lord and Savior and I know that your Word is completing that plan in me every day. I know you will never stop until the completion day of the project which is the day of Jesus Christ.

**Phi 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;**

Thank you Lord that you have graciously given me the gift of faith to believe in you and also the gracious gift of patience to suffer for your sake, enduring the conflict of the flesh, world, and the devil.

**Phi 2:1 If [there be] therefore any consolation in Christ, if**

**any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,**

I praise you Lord that there is consolation in you, comfort in your loving me, and fellowship with the Spirit. Thank you for your compassions that are toward me.

**Phi 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

Thank you Lord that my citizenship has been established in heaven. I am on the roll!

**Phi 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

Thank you Father that you are supplying all my need right now according to the riches of glory that you have laid up in my spirit in Christ Jesus.

**Phi 4:23 the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you all. Amen.**

Thank you Lord that your grace is ever with me.

**Col 1:5 because of the hope that is laid up for you in the heavens, which ye heard of before in the word of the truth of the good news,**

Thank you Lord that you have laid up hope for me in the heavens- a new body, new mansion, new name, and new occupation.

**Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:**

Thank you Father that you have made me qualified right now to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in the light of revelation. I choose to partake of my inheritance now!

**Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

I praise you Father that you have once and for all time delivered me from the authority of darkness and have transferred me into the kingdom of your beloved Son. I am delivered from sin and bondage!

**Col 1:14 In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins.**

Thank you Lord that in you I have had the ransom price paid for my sin by your blood. Thank you for forgiving my sins past, present, and future. I am forgiven!

**Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled**

Thank you Lord that you reconciled me to the Father even when I was alienated from you and an enemy of yours in my own mind because of my wicked deeds. Thank you that I now have peace with you and know in my heart and mind that you are at peace with me.

**Col 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**

Thank you Lord that through your slain body you presented me to the Father without blame or reproof in His sight. I am now unblameable and unproveable in your eyes of fire and love.

**Col 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and**

**knowledge.**

Thank you Lord that in you is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge and you are in me and I am in you. I therefore have wisdom and knowledge in me!

**Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:**

Thank you Lord that I was made complete, lacking nothing in you. I am all that you intended a person to be in Christ. Thank you that I am in your body and you have put under my feet all principality and power.

**Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**

Thank you Lord that in you I was circumcised by your operation when I believed. I thank you that you cut away from my spirit man the body of the sins of the flesh and I am dead to them and not dominated by them. I am dominated by my new nature in Christ in my spirit through faith. Thank you for the covenant of the new birth.

**Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

Thank you Father that you buried me with Christ in baptism of death and that you raised me up to new life by the faith you gave me. Thank you for doing this for me. I walk now in new life and power; it is flowing in me now!

**Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

Thank you Lord that, when I was dead in my sins and the uncircumcision of my flesh, you made me alive together with Jesus and you have forever forgiven my sins past, present, and future. Praise you Lord!!

**Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;**

Thank you Father that you blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against me and that I had broken, and nailed it to Jesus' cross and thus declared that my debt to the law was paid in full.

**Col 2:15 [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**

Thank you Lord Jesus for spoiling and stripping naked the principalities and powers and making a triumphal procession, openly disgracing them to the world. You are my triumphant Jesus and I triumph now in you.

**Col 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,**

**Col 2:21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;**

Thank you Lord that I am dead with Christ from the A.B.C.'s of do's and don'ts of life to find favor with you. I have favor through the finished work of Christ on the cross.

**Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

Thank you Lord that I have risen with Christ. I seek those things which are above where you are seated and I am seated with you.

**Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.**

Thank you Lord that my old man is dead and my new spiritual man is hidden with you in the Father. I am double-wrapped and protected!

**Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;**

Thank you Lord that I have put off the old spirit man I used to be with its wicked deeds. I am free from them right now in you!

**Col 3:10 And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:**

Thank you Lord that in you I have put on the new spiritual man and I am renewed outwardly from the inside out by the revelation knowledge that I have been created in your image.

**1Th 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.**

Thank you Father that I have been hand-picked by you in Christ. You wanted me, you bought me, and now I am yours.

**1Th 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.**

Thank you Father that you called me into your Kingdom and glory. Thank you for your grace to walk worthy of you, which is to walk in faith. I receive your power right now to walk worthy of you and believe that as I act, your power is released in and through me.

**1Th 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.**

Thank you Lord that you called me into your holiness. From this root of holiness inside of me I bear your fruit of holiness.

**1Th 4:8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.**

Thank you Father that you have given to me your Holy Spirit, by whom I walk in holiness.

**1Th 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.**

Thank you Lord that when I received you as Lord and Savior I became a child of light and of the day. Thank you Lord I am no longer in the darkness of sin and bondage.

**2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:**

Thank you Lord that you have from the beginning of time hand-picked me unto salvation through the Holy Spirit setting me apart and through my believing the truth of your finished work on the cross.

**2Th 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Thank you Lord that you called me to obtain your glory. Thank you that you already have glorified me!

**2Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,**

Thank you Father and Lord Jesus for loving me and giving me

everlasting comfort and a good expectation through your finished work of grace on the cross.

**2Th 3:16 and may the Lord of the peace Himself give to you the peace always in every way; the Lord is with you all!**

Thank you Lord that you give me peace always and in every way because you are ever with me.

**2Th 3:18 the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you all! Amen.**

Thank you Lord that your grace is with me right now.

**1Ti 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.**

Thank you Lord that your grace was exceeding abundant, giving me faith and love straight from your heart.

**1Ti 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

Thank you Lord that you gave yourself to be the ransom price for my sin. I am free from sin and the claims of the broken ordinances of the law.

**2Ti 1:2 To Timothy, *[my]* dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, *[and]* peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Thank you Father that I am your dearly beloved son. Thank you for giving me your grace, mercy, and peace.

**2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of**

**power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

Thank You Father that you have not given me a spirit of fear or timidity but you have given me a new spirit filled with power, love, and saved thinking which comes from the mind of Christ.

**2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,**

Thank you Father that you saved me and called me with your holy calling, not according to my strivings and efforts but according to your plan and what you already accomplished for me by grace. I realize that you did this even before the world began because Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:**

Thank you Lord that you abolished death by your death for me and brought new and eternal life to me by way of revelation when the good news of salvation was preached to me.

**2Ti 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.**

Thank you Lord that the Holy Spirit dwells in me and I keep all that you have given me by Him.

**2Ti 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

Thank you Lord that in you is grace. You are in me and I am in you. Your grace is in me and I am in your grace.

**2Ti 2:11 [It is] a faithful saying: For if we be dead with [him], we shall also live with [him]:**

Thank you Lord that I died with you on the cross and I shall live with you at your second coming in glorious resurrection.

**2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

Thank you Lord that I have salvation through the faith you gave me in Christ Jesus. I look to your Word that gives me the light of wisdom to see that salvation that is already accomplished for me.

**2Ti 3:16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Thank you Father for giving me you Word so that I can profit from its doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction. Thank you that your word shows me that I have been perfected in Christ and that you have fully loaded me for this journey through life in order to do the works of Christ you have ordained for me.

**2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**

Thank you Father that you have laid up for me a crown of righteousness because I love your appearing.

**2Ti 4:22 The Lord Jesus Christ is with thy spirit; the grace is with you! Amen.**

Thank you Lord that you are with and in my spirit and your grace is ever with me.

**Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

Thank you Lord for giving yourself for me as a ransom price to deliver me from all iniquity. I declare that I am now free from all iniquity. Thank you for purifying me to yourself as a member of your special people. I am zealous for good works by the energy of your Spirit within me.

**Tit 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,**

**Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

**Tit 3:6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;**

Thank you Father that your love showed up after my life of sin. I thank you that you had mercy on me, not by my own works or goodness, and washed me with the water of the new birth and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for flooding me with your Spirit and giving me a fresh, clean spirit.

**Tit 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

Thank you Lord that you made me righteous and innocent of all sin by your grace. I am now an heir of eternal life. I have great hope and expectancy in my life!

**Phm 1:6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is**

**in you in Christ Jesus.**

Thank you Lord that the exercise of my faith is made energetic by recognizing and having revelation of every good thing that you have already deposited within my spirit.

**Phm 1:25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with your spirit! Amen.**

Thank you Lord that you are with and in my spirit.

**Heb 1:3 who being the brightness of the glory, and the impress of His subsistence, bearing up also the all things by the saying of his might--through himself having made a cleansing of our sins, sat down at the right hand of the greatness in the highest,**

Thank you Lord that you have made a complete cleansing of my sins past, present, and future and that you sat down at the right hand of the Father, thus signifying your work is forever finished in redeeming me.

**Heb 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard [him];**

Thank you Lord for accomplishing for me so great a salvation and deliverance. I am saved and delivered right now from sin and bondage!

**Heb 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,**

Thank you Lord that you set me apart as holy and that you are my older brother.

**Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**

Thank you Lord that you have destroyed the devil and the power of death in my life. I have victory over Satan and all he possesses.

**Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

Praise you Lord that you delivered me once and for all from the fear of death. I shall die no more but have everlasting life.

**Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *[his]* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *[pertaining]* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

Thank you Lord that you made satisfaction for my sins, bringing me into a peaceful union with the Father.

**Heb 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;**

Thank you Lord that I have been made a partaker of Christ and the divine nature. I am steadfast unto the end. I am going all the way with you, Jesus!

**Heb 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

Thank you Lord for the rest you gave me when I believed. I choose the rest of faith. I rest in your finished works on my behalf. I will work

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while I rest and rest while I work.

**Heb 4:14 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.**

Thank you Jesus that you are my great high priest and that you have passed into the heavens to represent me to the Father even right now.

**Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Thank you Lord that at the throne of grace I can obtain the mercy you have for me and have an "eureka" experience when you show me what you have already done for me and what you have already provided for my need. I praise you.

**Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;**

Thank you Lord that you are my perfect sacrifice and perfect priest. You wrote and played the main role in the redemption story and have achieved for me eternal salvation and deliverance. I give you my obedience of faith.

**Heb 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:**

**Heb 6:19 Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;**

Thank you Lord that it is impossible for you to lie to me and you have given me a strong comfort in knowing that you are my hope that is in heaven and have anchored yourself to the throne of God and that I am

connected to you with the strong rope of faith you gave to me. Each day I tug on the rope and am closer to the day I will see you face to face.

**Heb 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope [did]; by the which we draw nigh unto God.**

Thank you Lord that you did what the law could never do. You made me complete and perfect in God's sight. You have given me a better hope than the law because you have already done it all for me. Because of this I can draw near to you in assurance of faith.

**Heb 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.**

Thank you Lord that your death, burial, and resurrection is my pledge of being able to partake of this better covenant of grace.

**Heb 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;**

Thank you Lord that I have you as a high priest who is eternal sitting at the right of the Father.

**Heb 8:10 For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:**

Thank you Lord that you have made a covenant with me through Jesus Christ and you have put your laws into my mind and have written them in my heart. I praise you Father that you are my God and I am a member of your people.

**Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

Thank you Father that you were merciful to my unrighteousness and sins, and my iniquities you do not remember any more.

**Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us].**

Thank you Lord that you have entered in by your own blood into the holy place and have paid the ransom price forever for me.

**Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

Thank you Lord that through the eternal Spirit you offered yourself for me without spot to the Father and you purged my conscience from works that were in my flesh and self effort. I thank you Father that I can now serve you by my faith in your finished work.

**Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.**

Thank you Lord that you became the mediator of the new testament and by means of your death you paid the ransom price to pay for my transgressions. Thank you Father for calling me and giving me an eternal inheritance.

**Heb 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made**

**with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:**

Thank you Lord that you entered into the holy place of heaven to appear in the presence of God for me. You are my representative and intercessor.

**Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

Thank you Lord that you offered yourself up once and for all for my sins past, present, and future.

**Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all].**

Thank you Lord that you set me apart as holy by the offering of your body once and forever.

**Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;**

Thank you Lord that you have offered yourself as a sacrifice for my sins once and forever thus sitting down, completing eternal redemption for me past, present, and future.

**Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

I praise and thank you Lord that by your one offering of your body on the cross you have forever perfected, completed, and made me all that you intended me to be in Christ. Thank you that in my temporal life you are working out what you have already done in my spirit and I am being progressively brought outwardly into the image you made me in my new spirit man.

**Heb 10:18** Now where remission of these [*is, there is*] no more offering for sin.

Thank you Lord that there is no more need for any more offering for my sin because they have all been forgiven past, present, and future. I do not have to pay for them by guilt, condemnation, and penance.

**Heb 10:19** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

**Heb 10:20** By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Thank you Lord that you have made a new and living way to the Father for me by tearing open the veil of your flesh, which is the substance of the Law, that separated me from God. I thank you that you removed this barrier for me on the cross. I enter with boldness into your presence Father by the blood of Jesus.

**Heb 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Thank you Lord that you sprinkled me from an evil conscience of my inward man and washed and cleansed my outward man and actions with the water of your Spirit.

**Heb 11:40** God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Thank you Father that you provided for me something better than what the law could produce. You made me perfect and complete in Christ.

**Heb 12:22** But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an

**innumerable company of angels,**

**Heb 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,**

Thank you Lord that I have come to mount Zion and unto the city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to the company of angels and to you Father who is my Judge Who vindicated me and to all the other spirits of men made complete and perfect. Praise you Lord that my spirit is now made complete and perfect.

**Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than [that of] Abel.**

Thank you Lord that you are my mediator of this new covenant and that you keep it active. Thank you that your blood cries out mercy on my behalf instead of justice and judgment.

**Heb 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**

Thank you Lord that you set me apart as holy by your blood when you suffered outside the gate.

**Jam 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.**

Thank you Father that you gave me birth by the Word of Truth. I am born of truth and I am of the truth. Thank you that I am a kind of first fruits of your creatures.

**1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.**

Thank you Father that you have chosen me by fore-knowing my faith in Christ. Thank you that you set me apart as holy by your Spirit so that I could really obey you by believing in the finished work accomplished by the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus.

**1Pe 1:3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

I bless you Father that by your abundant mercy you have given me new birth into an ever living hope by the resurrection from the dead. Thank you for the resurrection life that surges forth from my spirit being.

**1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

Thank you Father that you have reserved an inheritance for me that cannot be corrupted or defiled. Thank you for the first fruits of that inheritance right now which is health, prosperity, and freedom from the power of sin.

**1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers;**

**1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

Thank you Lord that you have paid my ransom price not in money but by your priceless and precious blood. Thank you for being my sacrificial lamb. Now I am delivered from a vain life of sin to a full life of righteousness.

**1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently:**

Thank you Lord that my soul was purified by believing the truth through the revelation and power of the Spirit. I love others now with a pure heart.

**1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

Thank you Father that you gave birth to me by your very own seed of your incorruptible Word which lives and abides forever. Thank you that I will live and abide forever.

**1Pe 2:9 But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:**

Thank you Lord that you have hand picked me and that I am a king-priest. Praise you Lord that you have called me out of darkness of sin and bondage and transferred me into you marvelous light of truth and freedom.

**1Pe 2:10 Which in time past [were] not a people, but [are] now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.**

Thank you Lord that I am now one of your people and that I have obtained your mercy.

**1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

Thank you Lord that you bore my sins in your own body on the cross and I died to sins and to bondage. I now live unto righteousness and freedom. Praise you Lord that by your bleeding wounds and bruises I

have been once and for all healed forever.

**1Pe 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:**

Thank you Lord that you suffered one time and forever for my sins past, present, and future and now I am yours and in your presence.

**1Pe 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

Thank you Lord that I have received a grace gift when I got saved and I will minister it to others with powerful effect.

**2Pe 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

Thank you Lord that you gave me your faith in salvation and that it is the same precious faith that the apostles had. I have my faith in and through your righteousness.

**2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

I praise you Father that by your divine power you have given me all things that are for my natural and spiritual life through the revelation knowledge of your Son Jesus.

**2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in**

## **the world through lust.**

Thank you Father that by your glory and virtue you have given me exceeding great and precious promises, so that I can tap into the divine nature that dwells within my spirit. Thank you that I have escaped the corruption that is in this world through lust. I have been delivered from lust by faith in your promises that cause me to partake of your divine nature.

**2Pe 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

Thank you Lord that I have been purged from my old sins and habits.

**2Pe 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

Thank you Father for calling me and hand picking me in Christ.

**2Pe 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in [both] which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:**

Thank you Lord for giving me a pure mind in Christ.

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

Thank you Lord that you have become my advocate with the Father. You plead my case by pointing to the evidence of your scar-marks in your hands and feet and the blood that is on the mercy seat.

**1Jo 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for**

**ours only, but also for *[the sins of]* the whole world.**

Thank you Lord that you were the satisfaction for my sins forever.

**1Jo 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *[that is]* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.**

Thank you Lord that I have overcome the wicked one!

**1Jo 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *[that is]* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.**

Thank you Lord that the Word abides in me and I have overcome the wicked one by the Word.

**1Jo 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.**

Thank you Lord that I have an anointing from you and I know the truth.

**1Jo 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**

Thank you Lord that I have received your anointing and it forever abides in me. It teaches me all things concerning the truth and will never deceive me.

**1Jo 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

Thank you Father for bestowing on me such an exotic and extravagant love that you call me your child.

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

Thank you Lord that you gave me birth and I am right now your child.

**1Jo 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.**

Thank you Lord that you took away all my sins on the cross- past, present, and future, and you purged them with your blood and now you and I are free forever from them.

**1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

Thank you Lord that you destroyed the works of the devil in my life!

**1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

Thank you Lord that you sealed your Holy seed in my spirit when I was born again and my spirit cannot sin.

**1Jo 3:24** And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Thank you Lord for giving me your Spirit forever.

**1Jo 4:9** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Thank you Lord that you came and I now live through you.

**1Jo 4:10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [*to be*] the propitiation for our sins.

Thank you Lord for loving me so much that you came and became the satisfaction for my sins- past, present, and future.

**1Jo 4:13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

Thank you Lord that I know that I dwell in you because you gave me your Spirit forever.

**1Jo 4:19** We love him, because he first loved us.

Thank you Lord for loving me so that I can love you and others.

**1Jo 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [*even*] our faith.

Thank you Father that by giving me new birth you caused me to overcome this world. I believe I am a world overcomer!

**1Jo 5:11** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Thank you Father for your eternal record that states that you have given me eternal life.

**1Jo 5:20** And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *[even]* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Thank you Lord that you came and gave me an understanding so that I now know the true Father and the true Son. This is the true God and Eternal Life.

**2Jo 1:2** For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

Thank you Lord for causing your truth to dwell in me forever.

**Jud 1:1** Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *[and]* called:

Thank you Lord that you set me apart as holy and preserved me in Christ.