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BECAUSE I LIVE

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Introduction

When Jesus was about to be glorified through His death and resurrection, He said to His disciples in John 14:19, **“because I live, ye shall live also.”** How many Christians understand what Jesus was saying in this verse? Jesus said this to His disciples, the same evening that He was betrayed, before He went to the cross and died. Jesus was there with them, before He was taken, and crucified. Yet, He said, **“Because I live, ye shall live also.”**

Jesus was talking about, “His eternal life.” He was saying, **“Because I have eternal life, you shall have eternal life also.”** In John 10:10, Jesus said, **“I am come that they might have life (eternal life), and that they might have it more abundantly.”** This was the main purpose for Jesus’ coming into this world, that we could become born again into the family of God. Jesus came to give us eternal life, so that we could be with Him forever.

In John 14:18. Jesus said, **“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”** Jesus was not talking about going to heaven and then some day (way off in the future), His disciples could also go to heaven where He was. Jesus was talking about what was about to happen the same day that He would arise again from the dead. The same day that Jesus breathed upon them they would become born again. They would become “new creatures in Christ.” In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

What is written in John 13-17 all took place the same night Jesus was taken by the soldiers. That evening He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and taken to the High Priest. Following that, Jesus was tried and judged by the Jewish council, Herod, and Pilate. Then He was crucified. He died, and was buried. The third day He arose again from the dead.

Many times in the Gospel of John, chapters fourteen through seventeen, Jesus spoke of His going away to the Father and then returning to them, to be with them forever. In John 14:3, Jesus said, **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”** What Jesus was talking about in John 14:3, he continued to talk about in John 14:18. Jesus said, **“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”** Jesus was first going to prepare a place for them. Then Jesus was going to come again to receive them unto Himself. In John 14:20, Jesus said, **“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”** When Jesus said **“At that day,”** He was talking about the same day He arose again from the dead. Jesus did come back to His disciples the very same day He arose again from the dead.

If we study all the accounts of Jesus resurrection we will find that following His resurrection from the dead certain women came to the tomb where Jesus was laid the day that He was crucified. Matthew 28:5-9 tells us that an angel spoke to the women and told them that Jesus had arisen, and they should go and tell His disciples to meet Him in Galilee. The other women left to tell the disciples, but Mary Magdalene stayed behind. When Mary turned around she saw Jesus standing, and thought He was the gardener. In John 20:17 it tells us that Jesus said unto Mary Magdalene, **“Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father...”** Then Jesus ascended to the Father and then returned again meeting the other women as they went to tell the other disciples what the angel had told them.

Therefore, we see that Jesus ascended to His Father that same day, early in the morning. Then Jesus returned and met the other women as they went to tell His disciples what the angel

told them. As they were going, Jesus met them on the way. He had already ascended to His Father, therefore He did let the women touch Him and worship Him.

Jesus did meet with a number of His disciples (and many others) that very same day that He arose again from the dead (Matt. 28:9, Mark 16:9,12,14, Luke 24:15,34,36, John 20:14,19).

What Jesus was saying to His disciples in John 14:3 was that He was going to His Father “the same day He arose again from the dead.” Then He would return to them “that same day,” that they might receive the Holy Spirit and become “born again” of the Word and the Spirit (John 3:6,7, 1 Peter 1:23).

Jesus was talking about the same day that He would arise from the dead (after He ascended to the Father and returned that day), **“He would be in them, they would be in Him.”** Look again at what Jesus said in verse twenty? **“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you”** (John 14:20).

“At that day...” Jesus would be in them. Jesus was not only talking about someday, thousands of years later, His disciples would be with Him in heaven. Jesus was talking about being with His disciples the very same day He arose again from the dead.

Jesus was talking about “eternal life.” Eternal life begins when we become born again of the Word and the Spirit. These disciples were born again the same day Jesus arose from the dead (that evening when Jesus breathed on them). It says in John 20:19-22.

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost (John 20:19).

When Jesus arose again from the dead, He came back as **“Christ, the firstborn from the dead”** (Rom. 8:29, Col. 1:15,18, Rev. 1:5). **“Christ”** is the arisen LORD, the firstborn from the dead, the head of the Church. Jesus and Christ are the same person. **“Jesus,”** being a Man in the flesh, and **“Christ in the Spirit”** (the second Adam, the head of the body of Christ).

These same disciples that met with Jesus the same day He arose again from the dead, and received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them (were born again of the Spirit). Jesus, “as Christ,” came into their lives in the new birth. They received a new spirit, which came down from heaven. This new spirit is spoken of in Ezekiel 36:26, saying **“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 an heart of flesh.”** It is also spoken of in Ezekiel 11:19. In that new spirit they were born again of the Spirit and the Word (John 3:6, 1 Peter 1:23).

It was not just Jesus that came into them that day. It was also the Father. Jesus said, **“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you”** (John 14:20). Those disciples (that same day), became new creatures in Christ. As it says in 2 Corinthians 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.”**

When they were born again, their living soul was taken from the flesh of man and translated into the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the**

Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Their bodies became the temple of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 6:19 it says, **“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?”**

God came down from heaven and made His dwelling place in the spirits of those who received Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior. As Jesus said in John 17:16, **“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”** In verse twenty-one Jesus said, **“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”**

Jesus said in John 14:20, **“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”** Everyone who is born again of the Spirit and the Word have a witness in their spirit that they are children of God. That day when Jesus breathed upon those disciples, they knew they had eternal life.

Everyone who has eternal life knows they have eternal life. They have a witness in their spirit. Romans 8:16 says, **“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”** In 1 John 5:10 it says, **“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself...”** This eternal life is the same life they will have throughout eternity.

Jesus said in John 14:3, **“I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”** How did Jesus prepare a place for them? Jesus became **“Christ, the firstborn from the dead”** (Rom. 8:29, Col. 1:15,18, Heb. 11:28, 12:23). Jesus became the head of the body of Christ, and these disciples became members of His body (which is the Church).

Once the price for all our sins, iniquities, infirmities, sickness, and diseases was paid by the blood and body of Jesus, there was peace between God and man. From that day on, God could dwell in man and man could dwell in God (Col. 3:3).

God is always in the now. God is always working from His eternal plan, and many times His Word is from eternity past and continues throughout all eternity. In John 17:14-24, Jesus was speaking of after He arose again from the dead concerning His disciples, when He said,

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

This was a part of Jesus' prayer, speaking *"those things that be not as though they were"* (Rom. 4:17). Jesus said, **"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world"** (John 17:16).

Jesus is "Christ," the arisen LORD, living in the spiritual realm. In the spiritual realm, things cannot be seen with the natural eyes of the flesh. Yet, that does not mean spiritual things do not exist. All who are born again are "in Christ," and "Christ is in us." We are one Spirit with the LORD (1 Cor. 6:17). The Father also dwells in us. In Ephesians 4:6 speaking of Christians, it says, **"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."** Many places throughout the New Testament it speaks of God the Father being in us (that is, in our spirit where the fulness of the Godhead dwells). In 2 John 1:9 it says, **"He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."**

Jesus prayed in John 17:21, **"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."** This prayer began to become answered the same day that Jesus arose again from the dead. Jesus said in John 14:18, **"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."** That same day, Jesus' disciples became born again of the Word and the Spirit, and God the Father and the Son came to be with them where they were.

From the day that Jesus breathed upon His disciples, wherever Jesus disciples went, the Father was with them, the Son was with them (for God made His dwelling place in their new created spirit, which came down from heaven).

God is omnipresent, that is, in every one of His Children, everywhere, at all times. "Christ" is also omnipresent, in everyone who is "in Christ." Christians are not omnipresent, but they are "in Christ," Who is omnipresent at all times.

Christians are "born from above," they are not of this world, for they are a new creation in Christ Jesus (John 17:16, 2 Cor. 5:17). A new spirit came down from heaven, and took up residence in our bodies of flesh and bones. In that new spirit, the fulness of the Godhead dwells (Col. 2:9,10). Therefore, we are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3, 2:6).

All of this took place in the spiritual realm. To understand who we are in Christ we must receive the "revelation" from the Holy Spirit, Who is our teacher. Jesus said in John 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."** In 1 John 2:27 it says, **"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."** We must be taught by the Holy Spirit, who operates from our new created spirit. Job 32:8 says, **"there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."**

God always operates in the now. Therefore, we must also learn to operate in the now. We cannot walk with God if we are going to put things into the future that God's Word says is already in the now. When Christians keep looking for things to happen in the future, they are not hearing from the LORD. Some things will happen in the future. But, if we are born again we are already children of God (with God dwelling in us). We already have everything that the Word of God says we have.

We must not be looking for things to happen in the future that are already here. Some Christians are not understanding John 14:2,3,19-24. Therefore, they are waiting for Jesus to return in the flesh and set up His kingdom here on earth. Then they believe they will be a part of that kingdom, which they say will come.

What they don't understand is that the kingdom of God which is spoken of in the Bible has already come. **"The kingdom of God is within you"** (Luke 17:21). The kingdom of God came following Jesus' resurrection from the dead. God came down to earth and dwells in the bodies of Christians who received Jesus Christ as their LORD. It already happened, starting on the same day Jesus breathed upon His disciples and said **"Receive ye the Holy Ghost"** (John 20:20). Then in Acts 2:4, these same disciples received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the fulness of the Godhead began to manifest in those who were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The kingdom of God is, "the reign of God the Holy Spirit" in the lives of those who are born again of the Word and the Spirit. The kingdom of God spoken of in Daniel 2:44 came, just as it was prophesied. The Kingdom of God is already here. It has been here for almost two-thousand years.

We must learn who we are in Christ. We must learn to know what is of God and what is not of God. We must be led by the Holy Spirit in our lives here on earth the same way Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit when He was here in the flesh.

The same things that Jesus did we can do also (John 14:12). But, we must do the same things the same way Jesus did them. It's not our will that must be done, it's only the will of God the Father that must be done in our lives. Jesus is our example. We must follow Jesus.

NATURAL LIFE & ETERNAL LIFE

You can see the difference between eternal life and natural life in John 10:10,11. Jesus said in John 10:10, **“I am come that they might have life (zoe), and that they might have it more abundantly.”** “Zoe” in the Greek pertains to spiritual life. In John 10:11 Jesus said, **“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life (psuche) for the sheep.”** The Greek word “psuche” pertains to soul life, “life in the flesh.”

This is what Jesus was saying to His disciples in John 14:19, when He said, **“because I live, ye shall live also.”** Jesus has eternal life. Those who are born again have eternal life also.

That day in John 14:23, Jesus was telling His disciples that He was about to give His “soul life” (the life of the flesh), for those who will believe on Him. Then, after He arose again from the dead, and became **“the firstborn from the dead,”** they would also have eternal life in Him. Our eternal life is **“in Christ Jesus.”** Jesus is **“the firstborn”** of many brethren (Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:15,18; Rev. 1:5).

What is eternal life? What is the difference between eternal life and natural life? One way of knowing the difference is that natural life operates from our mind, which is a part of our soul. In the Greek it is called “psuche.” In English it is called “psyche,” meaning: 1. The human soul. 2. The intellect. 3. The mind.

When we were born into this world, we were born **“a living soul”** (Gen. 2:7, 1 Cor. 15:45). We have a body of flesh and bones, and a spirit within us (given to us by God). We are born “natural people,” operating in the natural realm, from our mind which is a part of our living soul.

What is interesting about this living soul is that it can operate in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm. That is, it is able to receive information from the five senses, as well as from the intellect (mind, reasoning, thinking, understanding, etc.). These are all natural processes which take place in the living soul of man.

Besides all these natural processes, our living soul (being psychic), is also able to receive information from the (unseen) spiritual realm. There are two different unseen spiritual realms within this universe.

1. There is the demonic spiritual realm, consisting of Satan and his demonic spirits.
2. There is the spiritual realm of God, which includes the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the angels who are working for us.

Being that each individual person is “a living soul,” they are not limited to this world, but will continue to live for all eternity. Some will spend eternity in hell, with the devil and his followers (Rev. 20:14,15). Others, which have been “born again” (being they are true children of God, and God is their true Father), will spend eternity in heaven with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The difference between these two is summed up in 1 Corinthians 15:22, where it says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** The word **“die”** in this verse means, they will leave this earth, and spend eternity in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15).

The lake of fire is not a good place to spend eternity. Yet, anyone whose name is not **“written in the book of life,”** will spend eternity in the lake of fire. It says in Revelation 20:14,15,

**And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of**

fire.

Therefore, anyone who does not have “eternal life” will spend their eternity in the lake of fire. Only, because their name was not written in **“the book of life.”**

Is your name written in the book of life? You should know (without question) if your name is written in the book of life? No one should take such an important matter lightly. Everyone should be positive (beyond all doubt) that their name is written in the book of life. Multitudes have been deceived throughout the ages, and many are still being deceived today. Unknowingly, some will discover too late, that their name was not written in the book of life. It could have been, and should have been, but they did nothing in their lifetime to be sure it was written in the book of life before they died on this earth.

How can a person know (beyond all doubt) that they have eternal life? Jesus said in John 3:6,7,

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

If a person is not **“born again”** of the Spirit, then they do not have eternal life. Only those who are born again have eternal life. In John 1:11-13 it tells us how to become born again. It says,

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The new birth doesn't come because of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man. No one else can cause you to become born again. Their will and their prayers will help, but they cannot cause you to become born again. Water baptism will not cause you to become born again. No matter what another person does, it can help, but they cannot cause you to become born again. It cannot be done, **“by blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man...”** It can only be done by God. God is the only one who can cause a person to become born again.

When a person receives Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior, God causes a new birth within them (John 1:11,12). God responds to our will when we receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior. This is a work of God in our lives when we believe on Jesus Christ.

It is sad that there are many good people in the world, even in Churches today, saying they are Christians, but they are not truly born again. They are wonderful people in the natural. They love everyone. They help anyone who needs help. They don't lie, cheat, steal, kill, or do anything that a Christian should not do. Yet, they have been deceived, and are not truly born again.

Many of these have been told they are born again by someone who claims to be a Pastor of a Church. Many of these have been told that they were born again when they were water baptized as an infant.

If they do not have a witness in their spirit (knowing, beyond all doubt), they have not truly been born again. The Word of God tells us in Romans 8:16, **“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”** The Bible also tells us in 1 John 5:10, **“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.”** If we are truly born again, we have a witness within ourselves. It is not something we know in our mind, but it is a witness in our spirit.

If you are one of those who does not have a witness in your spirit that you are truly born

again, you can make sure right now. Simply ask Jesus to become your LORD and Savior. If you ask Him from your heart He will come into your life and you will become born again of the Spirit (John 3:6,7).

The Word of God is truth, and God cannot lie. It says, **“as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”** (John 1:12). God knows every thought and hears every word you speak. So do it now, and receive eternal life in Christ Jesus! From your heart, pray a prayer like this:

"LORD Jesus, I know that You are the Son of God. I know that You died on the cross for me. I know that God raised You from the dead.

Jesus, forgive me of all my sins, wash me clean in Your blood; that I may be the righteousness of God in You. Thank You, Jesus!

Jesus, I ask You to come into my life? Live Your life in me! Let Your will be done in me! Let the will of God be done in my life as it was in Your life. I surrender my life to You, Jesus!

You lead me by Your Spirit and I will follow to the best of my ability. I will live for You all the days of my life, as You lead me by Your Spirit.

I receive You now, as my LORD, and SAVIOR for all eternity. I will be with You here on earth, and I will be with You in heaven, forever and ever. I will give You all the Glory, it is for You that I will live forever. Amen."

BECAUSE HE LIVES

To understand what Jesus meant when He said, “...because I live, ye shall live also” (John 14:19), we must understand what eternal life is? The best way to explain eternal life is to use the example of earthly life. In earthly life each person has their own life.

Before a person (as a baby) is born into this world, they are connected to their mother with an umbilical cord. Before that cord is cut or broken, their life is dependent upon their mother. From the time their mother becomes pregnant their life (in the flesh begins).

Every person is “a living soul.” When their mother becomes pregnant, their physical body begins to form in their mother’s womb. All during the time their body is being formed of flesh and bones, they are in their mother’s womb. They are a living soul (a living being--a living creature), but their physical body is still being formed of flesh and bones.

Their physical life is dependent upon their mother. Every part of their physical body is formed in their mother’s womb. Thereby, while they are still in their mother’s womb, their future life is dependent upon their mother. At the time of birth, they are delivered from their mother’s womb, but still connected to their mother by an umbilical cord. Until that cord is cut or broken, their physical life is still dependent upon their mother. Her physical life in the flesh and their physical life in the flesh are the same. Before they come out of their mother’s womb, they cannot live physically without their mother.

Once the umbilical cord is cut or broken, they have their life and their mother has her life. They become two separate physical lives, the mother’s physical life and the child’s physical life. From that point on, the child’s physical life is no longer dependent upon the mother. It is a separate physical life from their mother’s life.

This is what the Bible calls “life in the flesh,” or “born of the flesh.” Jesus said in John 3:6, “**That which is born of the flesh is flesh...**” In this, He is talking about the life that a person is born into this world with. The physical life of a person is dependent upon their “living soul.” The “living soul” is not a part of the physical body, but is in the body “the flesh” and controls the operations of the physical body. The person themselves is not the physical body, neither are they “the spirit.” They are the living soul, called “psuche” in the Greek.

When Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:19, “...because I live, ye shall live also,” He was not talking about the life we live in the flesh. Jesus was talking about “zoe” (in the Greek), the life we live “in the Spirit of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17). That is why Jesus also said in John 3:6, “...**that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**” The life we live in the spirit is called “eternal life.” Eternal life means exactly what it says “a life that will never end.”

Let us understand this “eternal life” better by using the example of “life in the flesh.” In the flesh we have our own life, which manifests in our body of flesh and bones, which we received when we were born into this world. Our mother’s life is her life, and our life is our life. But, not so in eternal life.

In eternal life there is no separation between the life that is in Christ Jesus and the life we live in the Spirit. Our life and His life are the same life, they are One... (1 Cor. 6:17). Not only is our life and Jesus’ life the same life, but the same life Jesus has is the same life God the Father has (John 5:26). It’s all “one life,” the same life dwelling in the Father, the Son, and all of those who are born again of the Spirit and the Word (John 3:6, 1 Peter 1:23).

All throughout the New Testament it is called “eternal life” not “eternal lives.” Eternal life is always spoken of in the singular form, not the plural form. There is a major difference

between life (psuche) in the flesh and life (zoe) in the Spirit. Those who have “eternal life” have the very life of God dwelling in them (Col. 2:9,10). God dwells in them in His fullness. They are complete in God. Colossians 3:3 says, **“and your life is hid with Christ in God.”**

We are joined “One Spirit” with the LORD (1 Cor. 6:17). The very life of God the Father flows through the Son, and through all who are in Christ. We are branches of the True Vine (which is Jesus Himself) (John 15:1-8). Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. The same life that flows through the Vine flows through the branches. It’s the same life that is in the Father, that is in the Son, that is in those who are born again into the family of God.

Jesus said, **“...because I live, ye shall live also”** (John 14:19). This means, as long as we are “in Christ,” the same life that is in Jesus, is in us.

The Incorruptible Seed

In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** This is the Word of God. Christians need to understand the Word of God concerning our new birth in Christ.

We can easily understand the **“incorruptible seed,”** by understanding why God called it **“a seed.”** The words **“incorruptible seed,”** are symbolic words. They are words that describe what God is talking about.

A “seed” contains all that it takes to produce another plant exactly the same as the plant that produced the seed. Contained in a seed is a complete new plant, which can grow and mature into another plant exactly the same as the plant that produced that seed. When the plant is mature, it also will produce more seeds, exactly like itself, which will then grow and produce more plants and seeds.

Look at what Jesus said in John 15:1, **“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.”** Then in verses four and five, Jesus said, **“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me....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.”**

The source of the life of the vine comes from the root of the vine. The life of the vine flows from the root through the vine into the branches. The branches produce the fruit that produces more seeds, that when planted, produce more vines with branches that produce more fruit.

The life of the vine is dependent upon the roots. The life of the branches is dependent upon the vine. The fruit of the branches is dependent upon the vine and the root.

Therefore, the seed of the new birth is **“the Word of God.”** To understand what is in **“the incorruptible seed,”** we must understand “what is the Word of God?” The Word of God is twofold in nature.

First, the Word of God is God Himself contained in His Word. In John 1:1 it says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** The Word of God and God are one. In 1 John 5:7 it says, **“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”** You cannot separate the Word from God. Being that the Word of God and God are one, he who has the Word of God abiding in him, has God abiding in him. You cannot have the Word of God abiding in you without having God abiding in you. Therefore, John 1:1 is speaking of Jesus, the Son of God

who is also the Word of God (John 1:2,14).

Secondly, the Word of God is “spirit,” and it produces and sustains eternal life. In John 6:63, Jesus said, **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** The Words that Jesus speaks **“are spirit and they are life.”** Jesus is the Word of God, and the Words He speaks are spirit and they are life to all who receive them.

John 1:4 says, **“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”** The very life of God was in Jesus when He spoke those words in John 6:63, 14:19. When we receive Jesus into our lives, we receive the “living Word of God” into our spirit and we have eternal life dwelling in our spirit.

Once we are born again of the incorruptible Word of God, we maintain our eternal life by living on the Word of God. Our new life in Christ Jesus matures by living on the Word of God. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, **“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** Man is a three-part being. One part is the physical body of man. The physical body does live by “bread,” which means physical food. But, the spiritual part of man **“lives by every Word that proceed out of the mouth of God.”** We live in the new birth by the Word of God--twofold, by God dwelling in us by His Word, and continually being feed the written Word of God (the Words that are spirit and life) (John 6:63).

God’s Word is eternal. God and His Word are One. God’s Word cannot fail to produce that which God sent it to produce. This is something that very few Christians understand. Mainly, because they operate from their natural mind rather than from their spirit. They believe the words of men, rather than the Word of God.

If Christians “abide in Jesus,” and “His Word abides in them,” they cannot lose their eternal life. This is God’s promise to those who are born again. Jesus said in John 15:4, **“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”**

The difference between abiding in Jesus, or not abiding in Jesus, is up to the individual, not up to God? We make the choice if we abide in Jesus or not?

What is Jesus talking about when He says, **“Abide in me?”** Jesus is the Word of God. To abide in Jesus we must abide in the Word of God. Those who do not abide in the Word of God will not have the Word of God flowing through them.

This is all explained symbolically in Revelation 22:1,2, which says,

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The word “water” in these verses is symbolic of **“the Word of God.”** The Apostle John used the Greek word “hudor” symbolically many times in the Gospel of John and in his Epistles as well as here in Revelation 22:1,2. Therefore, the Word of God flows from the **Throne** (the Father), through the **Lamb** (the Son) into the **Branches** (born again Christians). This same Word of God produces **Leaves** (outward signs) of the life that is in the **Vine**, and in the **Branches**, for the **healing of the nations**.

Now look at what Jesus said in John 15:6, **“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are**

burned.” If we do not abide in Jesus (the Word), we can be cast forth, like a branch is cast into a fire and burned.

Remember what Jesus said in John 6:51, **“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”** Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is the living bread that came down from heaven. In John 6:53,54 Jesus said,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Our eternal life is dependent upon the Word of God, which is Jesus Christ. As we consume His flesh and His blood (the Word of God), we maintain our eternal life “in Christ.”

What happens if we do not abide in Jesus (the Word)? The very life of God that is in the Word stops flowing from our spirit and we become withered (dry-like in a desert), and no fruit or leaves are produced on the branches. The branches die (of starvation) with no life of the Vine flowing through them. When this happens, men gather us up and cast us into the fire (what we say and what we do no longer agrees with the written Word of God). We become gathered among those who have departed from the faith, and teach false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1).

This is very important to understand, for our names can be taken out of the book of life. Revelation 3:5, says, **“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”** Revelation 22:19 says, **“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”** That could be worse than if we had not known **“the Way, the Truth, and the Life”** (John 14:6). Revelation 21:7,8 says,

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Even though we are born again of **“incorruptible Seed,”** which is the Word of God, and have the very life of God in us (in our spirit) we must continue in the Word of God, in the Words of Jesus. Jesus said in John 8:31,32, **“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed...And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** Our eternal life is dependent upon the Word of God and on God’s Son, Christ Jesus. We must abide in Him.

Departing from the Word is not a good position to be in (cast out, for not abiding in the Word of God). Yet, God is greater than man, and God is greater than the devil. God is not willing that any should perish. Therefore, God will do all He can to keep us unto eternal life in heaven.

God has many ways to help us and keep us unto eternal life in heaven. Therefore, it is important that we do not hinder God from working in our lives by not understanding spiritual things.

Spiritual things are not understood by the natural man. The natural man is that which was born of the flesh, before we were born again of the Spirit and the Word. If we trust in our natural mind to know what is of God, we will easily be deceived. We must learn to listen to our spirit

(where God dwells) to know things in the Spirit.

We must not let the teachings of men hinder us in our life here on earth. The Word of God is true, and the Holy Spirit will bear witness with the Word. Jesus said, **“Because I live ye shall live also...”** In 1 John 3:2 it says, **“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.”** Eternal life is not a life that we will receive when we get to heaven. Once we are born again of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23), and the Spirit of God (John 3:6), we already have eternal life abiding in us. We are truly children of God, even though we may not totally understand eternal life.

Even a child, when it is first born into this world does not totally understand natural life in the flesh. It takes years of teaching and training a child before that child becomes a mature adult. So it is in the spirit. We must be taught by God to know the things pertaining to God and spiritual life in Christ Jesus. Jesus, quoting the Old Testament Scriptures said in John 6:45, **“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”**

Men who teach things from the Bible without the help of the Holy Spirit get deceived and deceive many who believe what they say. We must get our information from the Holy Spirit within us. In 1 John 2:27 it says, **“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.”** We must abide in the Word of God and the Holy Spirit (which is the anointing within us).

In 1 Corinthians 2:12 it says, **“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 is given to us that we might know the things of God. Therefore, it says in 1 Corinthians 2:13,14,

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

Many have tried to teach from the Bible (what they believe), without first receiving it from the Holy Spirit. Their teachings do not agree with the Word of God, and they become deceived. We must have “revelation of the Word of God, from the Holy Spirit,” otherwise we will only have information according to the natural man. The natural man does not have spiritual discernment of the Word of God.

If we listen only to our natural mind, we will not have “revelation.” But if we listen to our spirit, the Holy Spirit will give us understanding by “revelation.” Revelation is important, without it we can easily be led astray by other spirits.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT

The words “New Testament” mean “New Covenant.” When Jesus came into this world as the Son of Man, born in the flesh (of Mary) and the Holy Spirit, He came that we might have eternal life. There are multitudes of things Jesus came to do, when He came into the world as the Son of God and the Son of Man.

As the Son of God, Jesus was always with the Father from the beginning. Jesus is called “the Word of God” in John 1:1,2. By Jesus’ coming into this world “according to the Word of God,” He became the manifestation of the Word of God in the flesh (John 1:14).

Everything that manifests in the natural had its beginning in the spiritual. Everything that happens in this creation is dependent upon the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit bringing into manifestation that which is the Word of God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work together, never separate of each other. Whatsoever is determined by the Father is carried out by the Word (the Son) and brought into manifestation by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God always goes forth before the Holy Spirit causes the manifestation. The Holy Spirit never works outside of the Word of God. In John 16:13-15 Jesus said,

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.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The Holy Spirit carries out the will of God according to the Word of God. The Holy Spirit never goes outside of the Word of God to do His will. The Holy Spirit manifests the “reign of God” on this earth, according to the will of God the Father (which is revealed in the written Word of God).

Everything Jesus did, He did according to the will of God the Father. He was with the Father from the beginning. This whole world was created by Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16,17 says,

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

John 1:3 tells us, “**All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**” At the appointed time, Jesus became the Son of Man, born of a woman and of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in John 1:10 it tells us, “**He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.**”

It would take a book the size of the Bible to tell us everything we should know about Jesus and God. We need the complete Bible from Genesis through Revelation to get the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of what God wants us to know.

Although, we could start learning by what Jesus taught and did. In Mark 1:14,15 it says, **Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,**

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and

believe the gospel.

Much of what Jesus taught was not taught in the Old Testament. Jesus was teaching the New Covenant, which is sealed with His blood.

The Jews, at the time of Jesus thought they were doing the will of God according to their covenant. In many places, they did not understand the Old Covenant, neither did they understand the New Covenant that Jesus was teaching.

Therefore, Jesus said, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel”** (Mark 1:15). Repent means “change.” The “kingdom of God” means “the reign of God.” By “the reign of God” it is speaking of God, the Holy Spirit, reigning or having power and authority to lead, guide, comfort, help, and teach us from within our spirit. Once Christians truly understand this, their whole lives will change for the better.

What the Jews could not understand, and many Christians today do not understand is that Jesus was saying, “it is time to let the Holy Spirit have complete control in our lives.” Let the Holy Spirit reign according to the will of God the Father.

The Jews only understood the prophecies of the Old Testament according to their human mind and reasoning. They knew that the Messiah would come as the Son of David. King David was a king over the tribes of Israel. David reigned from the king’s palace, using natural weapons to defeat natural people and secure his kingdom. The Jews were looking for a Messiah that would reign in Jerusalem like King David reigned. They wanted to be free of the Roman Empire over them.

Jesus said, “change, and believe the good news,” God wants to reign in our lives from within us. In Luke 17:20,21 it says,

**And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:
Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.**

Too often Christians think like the Jews thought, a kingdom where a King reigns from a palace in Jerusalem. Many Christians are looking for Jesus to return and reign like King David reigned back in the Old Testament.

The reign of God is from within our spirit where the fullness of the Godhead dwells (Col. 2:9,10). When Jesus walked on this earth, the fullness of the Godhead was in Him. The Father was in Him doing the works (John 14:10). He was filled with the Holy Spirit from the day that the Holy Spirit came upon Him, following His baptism in water by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, John 1:32,33).

The Holy Spirit reigned in Jesus’ life as He went about teaching, ministering, and doing the works of God. The Holy Spirit brought to pass the Word of God according to the Words Jesus spoke. When Jesus said to evil spirits “come out,” the Holy Spirit caused them to leave. Jesus said in Matthew 12:28 **“if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.”** It was the Holy Spirit reigning in Jesus, that cast the devils out. Jesus said, **“the kingdom of God is within you”** (Luke 17:21).

Jesus said in John 14:12, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”** When Jesus went to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who believed on Him. With the Holy Spirit in us, we can do the same works that Jesus did. But, we

must do the works the same way Jesus did the works. Jesus said, **“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works”** (John 14:10).

The kingdom of God is “the reign of God” within us. When God the Holy Spirit reigns from within us, Satan has nothing on us. Every demon must bow to the name of Jesus (Luke 10:17-19). When God reigns in our lives, Satan is defeated by the “reign of God, the Holy Spirit within us.”

Too many Christians today are still like the Jews at the time of Jesus. They are looking for all the material things they can get to serve God. They think the more material things they have the better they can do the work of the ministry.

Jesus was setting an example of how to do the work of the ministry. He didn't look for material things. He received His instructions and His ability from within His spirit. God was dwelling in Jesus' spirit, giving Him all the information and all the power He needed to do whatsoever God wanted Him to do. The kingdom of God was within Jesus. Therefore, Jesus did all things according to the will of God the Father. He heard from the Father from within His Spirit. When He needed anything, He waited until the Father showed Him how to obtain whatsoever He needed.

Matthew 17:24 says, **“And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?”** Jesus, knew that they came to Peter asking for tribute money, therefore it tells us,

And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?”

Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee (Matt. 17:25-27).

Jesus had heard from God from within Himself. The answer Jesus gave Peter was not according to the way the world does things. In the Kingdom of God we are not limited to the way the world does things. God has ways that the world does not know about.

JESUS

When Jesus was in this world as the Son of Man, He knew who He was and why He was here. Jesus was not ignorant of His past with His Father in heaven. In John 17:5, Jesus was praying to the Father when He said, **“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”** Jesus always knew who He was and why He came into this world.

Even the demons knew who Jesus was. In Mark 1:24 there was a man in the Synagogue who had an unclean spirit. The spirit cried out, **“Saying, “Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.”**

Jesus always knew who He was and why He came into this world. Even when He stood before Pilate, it tells us in John 18:37, **“Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then?”**

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

We must not be deceived by the teachings of men. Jesus is who He said He is. He is the Son of God, the LORD, and Christ. The Son of God meaning “He came forth from the Father, with the very life of God the Father flowing in Him and through Him.” The LORD, meaning “supreme in authority.” Christ, meaning “the anointed One,” or “the Messiah.”

If people would study the gospels and believe what Jesus said, their lives would be totally different from those of this world. There is a total difference between life in the flesh and life in the Spirit. The life in the flesh is called “psuche,” a living soul in a body of flesh and bones. Life in the Spirit is called “zoe,” the very life of God, in Christ Jesus, living in us and through us.

In John 12:25, Jesus said, **“He that loveth his life (psuche) shall lose it; and he that hateth his life (psuche) in this world shall keep it unto life (zoe) eternal.”** In Matthew 6:24, Jesus said, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”** We cannot serve God while walking after the flesh. We cannot serve God doing things the way the world does things. If we are to serve God, we must serve Him from our spirit, not our natural mind. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 1:9, **“For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son...”**

When we get to know God in our spirit, then the Holy Spirit can work through us to do the will of God in our lives. The Holy Spirit can use us to reach others for Jesus. **“The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things,”** will not **“choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful”** (Mark 4:19).

Jesus did not let the world or the cares of this world take His attention off of why He came into this world. Jesus knew what to do, that Satan would have nothing on Him. Following are some of the statements that Jesus made concerning Himself.

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (John 5:30).

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work (John 4:34).

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me (John 6:38).

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise (John 5:19).

Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man....And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me (John 8:15,16).

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things (John 8:28).

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak (John 12:49).

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth

the works (John 14:10).

These, and many other statements were made by Jesus, signifying how He did the will of God. These should also be our guides as to how to do the will of God in our lives. Without Jesus, we can do nothing of any value in our lives. We must learn from Jesus, how to live in this world, and do the will of God the Father.

We can learn how to live in this world from Jesus, Who lived His life according to the Word of God. Jesus is our example, for He was “One Spirit” with the Father, and He also was “Man in the flesh.” This is our position today in this world. If we are born again, then we are “one with God in the spirit,” and also “man in the flesh.”

LOOKING AT JESUS

Jesus was born in the flesh as the Son of Man. Jesus' mother was Mary, a virgin who lived in Nazareth of Galilee. Mary was espoused (engaged to be married), to a man whose name was Joseph (who also was of the tribe of Judea (Judah), of the descendants of King David). Jesus' Father was God (He was born of the Holy Spirit). See Luke 1:26-35.

Jesus was always the Son of God, even from the beginning of eternity. Yet, as a Man in the flesh, He relied upon God for everything. He trusted in the Word of God in every area of His life on earth. He obeyed God the Father perfectly. He was led by the Holy Spirit in everything He did. Therefore, He was without sin, and lived a righteous life, even unto His death upon the Cross of Calvary.

As a Man, Jesus did not do anything that you and I cannot do, if we follow His example. Jesus maintained His relationship and fellowship with God from His childhood on up. At the age of twelve, it was important to Jesus that He be about His Father's business (Luke 2:42-52). In Luke 2:49, Jesus said to His mother and stepfather, **"How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"** Jesus lived His life here on earth "doing His Father's business." Luke 2:52 tells us, **"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."**

As Christians, we also must walk the way Jesus walked, and become followers of Jesus in all areas of our lives. We must trust totally upon God and the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Romans 12:2 says, **"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."** Jesus was not conformed to this world. He controlled His thoughts to bring them into agreement with the Word of God, not the words of men.

Jesus was never moved by circumstances, or pressure from others (or even Satan and his demons). Jesus obeyed the Word of God in every area of His life here on earth. The Word of God was Jesus' source in every area of His life. Jesus lived by the Word of God, not by the world's system.

What Jesus did is no different than what Christians can do if they do as Jesus did. In Jesus' life here on earth, He did only the will of God the Father, He never did His own will of the flesh. Jesus set an example for all who will follow Him. Jesus did not do anything that any Christian could not do. Everything that Jesus did, we can do also (if we obey the Word of God, and trust in God only, not in the flesh).

Jesus knew the Word of God. Jesus knew God the Father as His true Father. Jesus knew the leading of the Holy Spirit in every area of His life here on earth. Jesus was not "conformed" to this world (the world's system did not control how Jesus lived, or how Jesus did things). When Jesus needed to feed five-thousand men, besides women and children, He did not raise money to buy the food. Jesus took a few loaves of bread and a few fish, **"gave thanks, looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude."** (Matt. 14:19, Mark 6:41, Luke 9:16, John 6:11).

Many Christians today are so conformed to this world, believing the only way they know, doing things is the way the world does things. God, who created this world and all things within is well able to supply all that we have need of (if we will follow Jesus and do as Jesus did).

There are two systems operating in this world today. There is the world's system and

God's system. We choose which system we will operate by. We can choose life or death, heaven or hell, it's all up to each individual person to choose for themselves.

The first choice we must make is to choose Jesus Christ as our LORD and Savior. Then choose to follow Him by learning and obeying the Word of God, by the leading of the Holy Spirit from within us. We must continue to grow up from being a child of God, to becoming son's of God who are led by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14). God must become the source of everything we have need of in this life and in eternity forever. We cannot serve two masters...

Jesus obeyed the Father in everything He did. In Matthew 14:22-33 we have the account of Jesus' obedience to the Father following the feeding of the five-thousand. Jesus sent His disciples off to go across the Sea of Galilee to Gennesaret. Then Jesus went up into a mountain to pray. Jesus prayed until the fourth watch of the night. Then Jesus came to His disciples walking on the water.

When we obey the Father by the leading of the Holy Spirit, the natural things of this world must give way to the supernatural ability of God. There is no limit to what God can do, when we obey His Word. Jesus was a man, in a physical body of flesh and bones. Jesus walked on the water. The wind and the sea could not overtake Jesus as He walked out to His disciples.

When His disciples saw Him walking on the water, they thought they had seen a spirit, but Jesus comforted them, saying, **"Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid"** (Matt. 14:27). Then **"Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water"** (Matt. 14:28). Peter also walked on the water, until he let his mind cause doubt to arise in him. Jesus said to Peter, **"O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"** (Matt. 14:31).

Jesus was teaching His disciples "faith!" The whole New Covenant is based upon "faith." It tells us, **"...it is written, The just shall live by faith"** (Rom. 1:17). In Hebrews 10:38 it says, **"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."** Jesus pleased God by **"living by faith."** As Christians, we must learn to please God by living and walking by faith, not by sight (1 Cor. 5:7).

Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6). Jesus is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Jesus said in John 14:12, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."** Jesus didn't do any works that we cannot do, if we will obey the Word of God and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Yet, we cannot walk with God if we are going to continue to be conformed to this world. We cannot serve two masters....

Look not to what man can do, but look to God for what He can do. Jesus said, **"the kingdom of God is within you..."** If you are born again, then God is your Father (your source for everything). If you are baptized in the Holy Spirit then you have the same Holy Spirit in you that was in Jesus. If you love Him, then obey Him in everything you do and you too will walk as Jesus walked.

TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES

We could say, Jesus was “a faith teacher.” He was always teaching His disciples faith. In Matthew 9:35,36 it says,

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Jesus was teaching faith. He was “preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

Then in Matthew 10:1 it says, “**And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.**” Remember, Jesus did only the will of His Father (John 5:19, 6:38). When Jesus sent these twelve out, He sent them out to do the will of God the Father.

Isn't it interesting that these twelve were not born again. They were not baptized in the Holy Spirit. Yet, Jesus sent them out, saying to them,

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,

Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence (Mt 10:7-11).

This was not the only time Jesus sent His disciples out. In Luke 9:1,2 it seems to be speaking of the same account. It says,

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Did you notice that in Matthew it says, Jesus said, “**as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand**” (Matt. 10:7). In Luke 10:2 it says, “**he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.**” The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are the same. It is still the work of the Holy Spirit carrying out the will of God the Father by confirming the Word of God.

In Luke 10:1 it says, “**After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.**” Look also at what Jesus told them to do. Jesus said,

Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house (Luke 10:4,5).

Then in Luke 10:8,9, Jesus also said to these seventy,

And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Now look at what it says in Luke 10:17, **“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.”** Did you know that these disciples were not born again. They were not baptized in the Holy Spirit. Yet, the devils were subject to them in Jesus’ name.

Should it be anything less for those who are born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit? Should not Christians today do the same works that the disciples did before Jesus died and arose again from the dead?

Now look at what it says in Luke 22:35. **“And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.”**

Jesus was teaching faith. When His disciples believed and did what Jesus taught them it worked. Even the devils were subject to them in Jesus’ name. They went and did what Jesus told them to do, and when they did they lacked nothing.

God is faithful. God cannot lie. If we do what Jesus said to do, it will work for us also. These disciples were not born again, they were not baptized in the Holy Spirit, yet they obeyed the LORD and even the devils were subject to them in His name.

Jesus was teaching His disciples faith, yet in Matthew 17:14-21 they could not cast out a deaf and dumb spirit from a child. It says in Matthew 17:19-21,

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Why couldn’t those disciples cast out that deaf and dumb spirit? Jesus said, **“Because of your unbelief...”** Their problem was not the deaf and dumb spirit in the child. Their problem was **“their unbelief.”** They didn’t need a lot of faith. What they needed was to overcome their **“unbelief.”** Jesus said, the way to overcome **“unbelief”** is by **“prayer and fasting.”** Jude 1:20 says, **“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”**

What about Christians today? Why are not Christians today doing what those disciples of Jesus were doing? What is the reason so many Christians today are not walking in faith? *“Because of their doubt and unbelief.”*

If we would let Jesus teach us faith, there is nothing impossible for those who believe. Jesus said to the man whose son had a deaf and dumb spirit, **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark 9:23).

Many Christians today have become so educated by the teachings of men that they missed what the Bible teaches concerning faith. Most of the preachers today do not know how to listen to their spirit, so they operate from their mind. They hear someone else teach something and they teach the same as they heard others teach. There is very little understanding of what the Holy Spirit is teaching, confirming the Word with signs following.

Let’s take a look at faith.

What is faith, where does it come from? In Romans 10:17 it says, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God.”** The word “rhema” means “an

utterance.” An “utterance” is something you hear, not always with your physical ears, but it is something that is said, and you hear it. This utterance comes from the Holy Spirit, bringing forth the true Word of God to those who can hear the utterance of the Spirit of God.

We must understand that the written Word is very important in the lives of Christians. Without the written Word we would have no testimony of Jesus, and what He has done for us. Romans 10:14 says, **“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”** We must have the written Word of God to know what God has done for us through Jesus Christ His Son. In 1 John 5:10,11 it says,

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

The record that God has given us is His written Word. If we do not believe the written Word, faith cannot come. God does not give faith to those who do not believe that He is God (Heb. 11:6). The testimony of what Jesus has done for us is in the written Word of God. Those who do not believe the written Word of God will not benefit from all that Jesus has done for us.

But faith does not come from the written Word of God, it comes from God. It comes when the Holy Spirit bears witness with the written Word of God. If the Holy Spirit does not bear witness with the written Word of God in an individual’s life, then the written Word of God is of none-effect in that situation. Not that the person is not a born again Christian. For there are many hindrances in the spiritual realm that prevent Christians from receiving the “rhema” from the Holy Spirit.

Faith comes from God. In Romans 12:3 it says, **“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.”** So faith is given to every Christian. Every Christian has received a measure of faith to do that which the LORD has called them to do, whether it be prophecy, or ministering, or teaching, or exhortation, or whatsoever the LORD has called them to do. Faith is given to each one individually to do whatsoever the LORD has called them to do. This does not mean, every person has faith. It means, “every Christian” has faith given to them to do what the LORD has called them to do.

In Jude 1:3 it says, **“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”** Here it tells us that **“faith was delivered to the saints.”** It is very possible that Jude is talking about the twelve disciples, and then also the seventy that Jesus sent out in Matthew 10 and Luke 9 and 10. These saints had faith.

It tells us in Matthew 10:1, **“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”** When it says **“he gave them power.”** It could very well be that it is speaking of the LORD giving them faith. For it takes “faith” to please God. When God is pleased, He rewards us by manifesting that which we have faith for. But, what is important to understand is that the faith these saints had **“was delivered to them.”** It was not

something they came up with on their own, it was given to them by God.

Then in 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2 it says,

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

Unreasonable and wicked men do not have faith. Christians are not naturally unreasonable and wicked, but there are those who are not Christians that are unreasonable and wicked. That does not mean that Christians cannot become unreasonable and wicked at times, unfortunately this does happen.

So, who has faith, and who does not have faith. Faith is a fruit of the Spirit given to everyone who is born again of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22,23 says, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,...Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”** There are nine fruit of the Spirit given to every born again Christian when they receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior into their lives.

The word **“fruit”** in this verse is symbolic of something that is produced upon a plant after the plant becomes mature. Therefore, we do not always see all nine fruit of the Spirit manifesting in the lives of all born again Christians. Many Christians today are still babes in Christ and they are not manifesting the fruit of the Spirit at this time in their lives. But that does not mean they do not have the fruit of the Spirit within them. They received the “seed, of the fruit” in their spirit when they were born again. Now that seed must grow to produce the evidence of the fruit which is in them.

Every person that has received Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior has faith. Every person whom God saw in their heart the desire to obey God has faith given to them by God. Before anyone was born again into the family of God, some men had faith. All the way back to before the flood. Abel had faith given to him. Enoch had faith given to him. Noah had faith given to him. Then after the flood, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, etc. all had faith given to them by God. Study the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and see all those listed as having faith.

In contrast to these, let us look at Jacob and Esau, the sons of Isaac, the grandsons of Abraham. Jacob had faith, but his twin brother did not have faith. Why is it Jacob had faith and Esau did not have faith. Hebrews 12:16 tells us that Esau was a profane person. A profane person is one “who shows disrespect or contempt for sacred things.” God could see Esau’s heart, and it was not right before God. Those whose heart is not turned toward God will not have faith.

God looks at the hearts of individuals, and responds to them, giving them faith to accomplish all that God desires for them to accomplish. Jeremiah 17:10 says, **“I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”** Over and over the Scriptures tell how that God searches the hearts of individuals to know what is in their heart.

When Jesus chose His twelve disciples, He did not do it according to human understanding. God, who searches the hearts of men gave each of them to Jesus to be His disciples. In John 17:12 Jesus said, **“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.”** Every one of Jesus’ disciples were given to Him by the Father, including Judas Iscariot, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

These disciples had faith, for God had given them faith to do that which they were chosen

to do. Even though they were not born again, they did have faith given to them. Therefore, we must understand faith and how faith works if we are **“to live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38).

Faith operates from our spirit, whereas believing operates from our mind (which is a part of our soul). Man is a three-part being. Man is a living soul, and has a physical body and a spirit given to him by God. God operates in man from man’s spirit. The spirit of man belongs to God and God controls what happens in the spirit of man. Job 32:8 says, **“there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”** Everything God does in our lives comes through our spirit, which belongs to God. We are a living soul. Our body belongs to us, but our spirit belongs to God.

When we understand that faith operates from our spirit, “when we believe in our heart,” then we can understand how faith works. In Mark 11:23 Jesus said, **“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.”** Romans 10:10 says, **“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

Doubt and unbelief operate from our mind, and faith operates from our spirit. Knowing this helps us to **“walk by faith and not by sight”** (2 Cor. 5:7). Faith does not operate from our mind, therefore, we must operate according to the Word of God, not according to the thoughts in our mind. God looks at our heart, then He gives us faith from our spirit. Faith for believing starts first in our heart (Mark 11:23).

When Christians understand that faith operates from our spirit and not from our mind, then they will see more manifestations of their faith. One thing that Christians can do that Jesus’ disciples could not do is “build up their faith, praying in the Spirit.” Only those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues can “pray in the Spirit.” In Jude 1:20 it tells us, **“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit”** (NKJV).

The reason praying in the Spirit can cause us to build up our faith is that when we are praying in the Spirit, it is our spirit that does the praying, our mind has no understanding of what we are saying. Look at 1 Corinthians 14:14,15, which says,

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Notice, this is not talking about “speaking in tongues” which is a ministry gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:10,30). Speaking in tongues needs an interpretation. Speaking in tongues is an operation of the Holy Spirit, as the Holy Spirit wills.

In 1 Corinthians 14:14,15 it is talking about our personal prayer language, whereby “we are in control,” and it is our spirit that does the praying. Therefore, praying in the spirit and faith both operate from our spirit, not from our mind, where doubt and unbelief can hinder our faith. When our spirit does the praying and not our mind, Satan cannot interfere with our prayer. When the complete operation of building up our faith takes place in our spirit and not our mind, the Holy Spirit can help us “build up our faith.”

Be careful when you read 1 Corinthians 14:13 along with 14 and 15 that you don’t get over into trying to interpret your “praying in the Spirit.” Only “speaking in tongues” should be

interpreted, “not praying in the spirit.” For, “speaking in tongues” is an operation of “God the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, “speaking in tongues” comes by the unction of the Holy Spirit, as the Holy Spirit wills, not by the will of man. Whereas, “praying in the spirit” is as the man wills, as the Holy Spirit helps us pray (Rom. 8:26,27).

We must stay with the Word of God, not the words of men. God can only confirm the “inspired Word,” in which the Holy Spirit inspired Himself. When men change the “inspired Word” to make it agree with their ideas and desires, the Holy Spirit has no part in it. The “inspired Word of God” works all the time, but the teachings and doctrines of men do not work, they only hinder God from manifesting.

When Jesus walked on water, He did not do it according to the thoughts in His mind. Jesus received the information from His spirit. Jesus never did anything unless He received His information from His Father. Therefore, Jesus walked on the water after receiving “rhema” from the Holy Spirit, from within His spirit. That is how faith works, God must be involved for faith to work. It must be God’s will, not man’s will of the flesh.

This “rhema” in our spirit can also be explained as “a knowing, or confidence.” We know in our spirit that God is faithful to bring to pass whatsoever we are praying for. The Greek word translated “faith” in the English is “pistis” meaning “persuasion.” This Greek word comes from a primary verb “peitho” which includes “by an inward certainty.” Faith has an inward certainty, which comes from the Holy Spirit in our spirit. It is a positive knowing, not a guess in the dark.

God and His Word are one (John 1:1,2). When we live in the Word and walk according to the Word, the Holy Spirit is in control of everything we do. The Holy Spirit guides, comforts, leads, teaches, and helps us in everything we do. The Holy Spirit brings to pass that which He authorized by giving us “rhema” to do the works He desires for us to do.

When we associate the word “faith” with the word “rhema” then we will understand how faith works. Faith operates from our spirit, not our mind. Faith is always “positive.” There is no un-faith. Doubt and unbelief operate from our mind, not from our spirit. Man, and the demonic spiritual realm operate from the minds of people. God operates from the spirits of people. Knowing what is of God and what is of the demonic spiritual realm is very helpful when it comes to faith.

Back to Jesus teaching faith

When Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 17:20, “**If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,**” He was talking about having “rhema” from the Holy Spirit. When you have “rhema” from the Holy Spirit in your spirit, and you do not let doubt or unbelief control your mind, whatsoever you say, shall come to pass.

When Jesus said in John 14:12, “**...the works that I do shall he do also...**” He was speaking the truth. Jesus is “**the Way the Truth, and the Life**” (John 14:6).

Jesus was not conformed to this world, or the world’s system. In Mark 11:12-14 we are told about when Jesus was coming into Jerusalem from Bethany He saw a fig tree that had leaves on it but no fruit. It says in Mark 11:14, “**Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.**” The way the world does things about fig trees that do not bear fruit is, they dig them up or cut them down. Jesus didn’t take the time to dig it up or cut it down. Jesus cursed that fig tree, speaking words, that caused it to die.

Jesus was not conformed to this world. Jesus walked in a higher power, “the power of

God.” Jesus knew how to hear from His spirit, what the Father wanted Him to do. Jesus never did anything unless He first heard from His Father. In John 5:19, Jesus said, **“The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”** In John 5:30 Jesus said, **“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”**

In Mark 11:20 it tells us, the next morning, **“as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.”** It didn’t take long for that fig tree to die. Already the next morning Jesus’ disciples noticed it was dried up from the roots. What Jesus did concerning that fig tree was an example of what Christians can do also, if they are doing the will of God and walking after the Spirit.

Those who are conformed to this world do not know how to be led by the Holy Spirit. They do not know how to walk in the power of God. They need the world’s system to do whatsoever they do.

Jesus was setting an example of what Christians can do if they are led by the Holy Spirit and obeying the Word of God. After Peter mentioned seeing the fig tree dried up from the roots, Jesus began to teach on “How to do the works He did.” Jesus said in Mark 11:22, **“Have faith in God.”** Those who only believe in the world’s system will only do things the way the world does things. But those who **“Have faith in God,”** will do things the way God does things.

Jesus went on to say, **“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”** (Mark 11:23). This is not the way the world does things.

Jesus used the example of even speaking to a mountain, and it will obey the words that are spoken. But, we must not forget, before we speak to a mountain, we must **“Have faith in God.”** We are not the ones who will the cause the mountain to move. God, the Holy Spirit within us, is the One that will cause the mountain to move.

When we do the works that Jesus did, we must do them the same way Jesus did them. Jesus first heard from His Father before He spoke words that caused the manifestation of whatsoever He said. Faith operates from our spirit, where God dwells, not our mind where Satan is able to blind us from the true gospel of the kingdom of God (2 Cor. 4:4).

But the thing that is so wonderful about what Jesus was teaching is it works every time. Every time Jesus spoke by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, it came to pass. Even when He cursed the fig tree.

Jesus didn’t stop teaching on faith in verse twenty-three. Jesus then said, **“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”** (Mark 11:24). Jesus then gave us a better understanding of faith, by telling us we must believe it is already done before we will see the evidence. This is where most Christians miss it. Just because they do not see the evidence at the time they speak, they let their minds rob them of the rewards of faith. Remember what it says in Hebrews 11:6? **“...he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** Believing has a lot to do with faith. If we don’t believe the Word of God, God cannot help us. God does not reward people who do not believe. That is why doubt and unbelief can stop faith. We must control the thoughts in our minds so that doubt and unbelief cannot hinder our faith.

Back in Mark 11:12-14, notice that when Jesus spoke to the fig tree, all that happened was that the disciples heard what Jesus said. They did not see any evidence that the fig tree died until the next morning when they passed by. Then they recalled that Jesus had spoken to that tree the day before.

As Christians, we must understand what faith is. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that **“faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** The only substance we have and the only evidence we have is **“faith.”** Jesus said, **“Have faith in God”** (Mark 11:22). This is the only substance and evidence we will have. That substance and that evidence comes from our spirit, not our head. In our spirit, we hear from God, which we could say is “rhema.” We receive a Word from God in our spirit, where God dwells in His fulness. Then we speak by faith, we know that God will respond to whatsoever we say (being God is the One that gives us the word of faith to speak).

When we speak the Word of God from our spirit, it will come to pass. We may not see the evidence at the time we speak, but we know in our spirit that it will come to pass. It is not our responsibility to bring it to pass. That is God’s part, our part is to do the speaking.

Jesus never did anything unless He first heard from His Father. When Christians understand this, and do things the way Jesus did them, they will walk in the same power and the same anointing that Jesus walked in. They will no longer be conformed to this world, but they will be conformed to doing the will of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit within them.

When Jesus taught “faith” He taught it the way God said it works. Jesus taught how faith works. Jesus taught how to walk by faith, and how to live by faith. Romans 10:17 says, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God.”**

Jesus was not conformed to this world. Faith is not conformed to this world. Faith is a higher power, which comes from God. Faith comes when we believe the Word of God, and our heart is right before God. God looks at our heart, then He responds to our words and gives us faith to accomplish all that we do by faith.

In Mark, chapter four, Jesus was teaching by the sea side (Mark 4:1). Jesus taught them in parables. Then when Jesus was alone with His twelve disciples He explained the parable of the sower in Mark 4:14-20.

When evening came, Jesus and His disciples got into ships to go across the sea to the other side. In Mark 4:37-39 it says,

And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Jesus was not conformed to this world. The people of the world do not have faith. People can believe, but without God no one has faith. God is looking for those who will believe He is God and **“live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38).

Jesus was teaching His disciples faith. After Jesus calmed the storm by speaking to it, it tells us in Mark 4:40,41,

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

God is looking for those who will **“live by faith.”** When Jesus came into this world, He came to do the will of God the Father. The will of God the Father is that all of His children will **“live by faith.”** We cannot live by faith if we are still conformed to this world, and the world’s system. The world “walks by sight,” but those who walk by faith do not walk by sight.

Faith is a higher power than what the world has. Faith comes from God and is given to every born again Christian as a fruit of the Spirit. Every Christian has faith in their spirit.

When Christians do the will of God, faith manifests. When we are obedient to the Word of God the Holy Spirit helps us to walk by faith. Everything Jesus did, we can do also, if we do things the same way Jesus did them.

There are also gifts of the Spirit that can manifest through Christians (1 Cor. 12:7-11). Listed among these gifts of the Spirit is “Faith” (1 Cor. 12:9). All the gifts of the Spirit operate only “as the Spirit wills.” There is a slight difference in the way the gifts of the Spirit operate from the way the fruit of the Spirit operate. When a gift of the Spirit operates, the Holy Spirit is in total control of it’s operating. Doubt and unbelief cannot stop the operation of a gift of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit bypasses the mind and operates these gifts according to His will.

Satan works in the minds of Christians, telling them that they can operate in the gifts of the Spirit according to their own will. That is not of God. All the gifts of the Spirit operate as the Holy Spirit wills. When this happens, God moves by His power in the lives of those who He chooses to, at that particular time.

People cannot operate in the gifts of the Spirit without the Holy Spirit initiating the gift, and then finishing what He started. Satan likes to use men to teach that they can control the gifts of the Spirit, but that is not true.

I believe it would be good to give an example of the gift of faith in operation, from the life of Smith Wigglesworth. This could help many Christians to know how the gift of faith works.

When the gift of the Spirit, called the “gift of faith” works, the Holy Spirit is in control, not you. Smith Wigglesworth told about a time when the gift of faith operated in his life.

There was a woman who was a part of the prayer group that Wigglesworth went to. She became very ill and they tried to get as many of their prayer group together as they could to pray for her. When they found Wigglesworth and told him of her condition, Wigglesworth listened to his spirit and knew he was to go and pray for her. By the time he got there, she had died, and the doctor had already left to make out the report.

Wigglesworth said, he got down on his knees by her bed and started to pray. All of a sudden, something came over him and he pulled her out of the bed, pushed her up against the wall and commanded her spirit to come back into her body. She came back to life, and lived a long time after that.

When “the gift of faith” operates, it is not you, but the power of the Holy Spirit comes over you and you are no longer in control of what you do. The Holy Spirit is in control. The gift of faith operates “as the Spirit wills” (1 Cor. 12:11). But, when the fruit of the Spirit, called “faith” operates you must get involved, as Jesus said many times, “where is your faith?”

Faith is not conformed to this world. Faith comes from God and is given to all who are “in Christ.” Everyone who is “in Christ” has faith as a fruit of the Spirit. That is the faith we are to be living by. We control the fruit of the Spirit, but God controls “the gifts of the Spirit.” If we do not spend time in the Word of God and praying in the Spirit, our faith will not operate the way God wants us to operate. The Bible teaches us, **“the just shall live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17, Gal.

3:11, Heb. 10:38).

Jesus was a faith teacher, and when Jesus asked His disciples, **“where is your faith,”** He was not talking about “the gift of faith” that operates as the Spirit wills. He was talking about the fruit of the Spirit, which every Christian has in their spirit.

Therefore, when Jesus calmed the storm by speaking to the wind and the sea, He was not doing something that any born again Christian cannot do. Any born again Christian can speak to the wind and speak to the sea and cause the wind to stop and the sea to become calm. That is “faith,” the kind of faith that God is looking for among Christians. That kind of faith is given to every Christian as “a fruit of the Spirit,” and that is what the Bible is talking about when it says, **“the just shall live by faith.”**

Jesus was not conformed to this world. Jesus did not use the world’s system to do the ministry work that God sent Him to do. Jesus walked by faith, and taught His disciples how to walk by faith. Jesus didn’t do anything that Christians cannot do.

Remember, when Jesus sent His disciples out in Matthew Chapter Ten and Luke Chapters Nine and Ten, He said to them, **“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give”** (Matt. 10:8).

When Jesus sent His disciples out He said to them, **“Heal the sick”** (Matt. 10:8). How did Jesus and His disciples **“Heal the sick?”** If we study all the accounts in the Gospels, in every case either it was the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus or Jesus spoke Words.

When Jesus spoke the Word of God, they were healed. Sometimes, Jesus said it was their faith that brought the healing to them. Yet, for faith to work it must be in agreement with the Word of God. Faith, cannot work without the Word of God.

Look at some of the times when Jesus healed people. In John 5:2-9 there was a man at the pool of Bethesda who **“had an infirmity thirty and eight years”** (John 5:5). We need to study this Scripture closely, and see what did Jesus do, and what did Jesus say about this man and his condition? First if you noticed, it says, **“When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?”** (John 5:5). Jesus did not go into any long discussions as to why the man was there? He didn’t look for any of the man’s excuses for being there all those years. Even when the man tried to explain his situation, Jesus didn’t pay any attention to what the man was saying.

In verses eight and nine, it says,

Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked..

Was what Jesus did according to the way the world does things today? Was Jesus conformed to the world’s system of how to heal the sick?

Jesus was listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit within Him. Jesus did things the way He is telling us to do things when it comes to healing the sick. Jesus “spoke the Word,” and when the man responded and did what Jesus said, **“immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked..”**

It is interesting to notice that Jesus didn’t heal the man using the world’s system for healing. It is also interesting to notice that the man was well enough to carry his bed as he walked away. In other words, it didn’t take weeks and months for this man to get his strength back.

Then in John 5:14 it says, **“Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”** If the cause of sickness and disease is not dealt with according to the Word of God, healing is only

temporal. The same condition can come back, and then it could even get worse.

Physical healing for our bodies is only temporal, being that our physical bodies are only temporal. What happens when we leave our bodies and go on into eternity? Where will we spend eternity, in heaven or in hell?

This man had a problem which was much more serious than his physical problem. This man was not looking to Jesus or the Word of God for healing. He was looking to another source. (For more information on the man at the pool of Bethesda, you will find it in many of the others books written by Merle E. Koepke)

In every case that healing was received in the Gospels, it was either that Jesus touched them and healed them or He spoke the Word and they were healed. Therefore, it was either the anointing or the Word that brought their healing.

In Mark 8:22-25 it says,

And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

What was it that brought this man's sight back that he could see? If you study this closely you will notice both times, Jesus laid His hands upon him. After the second time **"he was restored, and saw every man clearly."**

Remember what it says about Jesus in Acts 10:38, **"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."** This is a major part of the ministry of Jesus. It was the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus. The anointing is released by the laying on of hands.

Many times, it was the anointing that brought healing to the sick. In Matthew 20:30-34 it tells about **"two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David"** (Matt. 20:30). Following that in Matthew 20:34, it says, **"Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him"** What was it? It was the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Look at the case with the woman with an issue of blood. In Luke 8:43-48 we see, it says, **And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.**

And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

The world's system was not working for this woman. She **"had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any..."** (Luke 8:43). The world's system didn't work for

this woman, but the anointing did work.

Look at what Jesus said in Mark 16:16,17,

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

These are Jesus' instructions to everyone who is born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit. You will notice in verse sixteen it says, **"they shall speak with new tongues."** Only those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit speak in tongues. At the same time, when Jesus spoke of casting out devils, He said it would be done **"in His name."** We are not the ones who will cast the devils out, it will be the Holy Spirit casting them out when we speak **"in Jesus' name."**

Now, in verse seventeen Jesus said, **"they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."** This is the anointing of the Holy Spirit within us. The same anointing that Jesus had when He laid His hands upon people and they recovered. Jesus is telling us, whatsoever He did, we can do also (John 14:12). We must do these things the same way Jesus did them, then we will have the same results that Jesus had.

In Matthew 8:5-10 it tells of a centurion whose **"servant lieth at home sick of the palsy"** (Matt. 8:6). **"And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him"** (Matt. 8:7). **"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."** In Matthew 8:10 it says, Jesus said, **"Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."** It was the spoken Word that healed this centurion's servant.

This is not the way the world heals people. Jesus was not conformed to the world's system. God's system works much better than the world's system.

Jesus was not conformed to this world. He did not want His disciples to be conformed to this world either. What Jesus was doing and what He told His disciples to do was not something the world does.

In Matthew 10:8, Jesus told His disciples to **"raise the dead."** These disciples were not born again, they were not baptized in the Holy Spirit, yet Jesus said to them **"raise the dead."**

Look in the Gospel of John, Chapter Eleven. Lazarus, of Bethany, the brother of Mary and her sister Martha, was a friend of Jesus. Jesus went to their house many times. In John 11:3 Lazarus' sisters sent a message to Jesus that Lazarus was sick. It says in John 11:4, **"When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."** Remember, Jesus said He did nothing unless He first received information from His Father (John 5:30). The Father was in Jesus, doing the works (John 14:10). Jesus was not conformed to doing things the way the world does things, but He was conformed to doing the will of the Father after knowing in His spirit what the Father wanted Him to do. In John 11:4, Jesus already knew that He was to raise Lazarus from the dead.

When Jesus came to the place where Lazarus was placed in a tomb, He said, **"Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days"** (John 11:39). Martha was still conformed to this world, but Jesus was not conformed to this world. What Jesus did, the world does not do. In John 11:41-44 it tells us,

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

This is not the way the world does things. But the Bible tells us, **“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”** (Rom. 12:2). What is **“that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God?”** It is to do the works that Jesus did the same way Jesus did them. Not according to the way the world does them, but by following Jesus’ example.

Jesus knew it was the Father in Him that was going to do the works, and raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus knew He was to look to the Father, and receive the power to raise the dead. It wasn’t Jesus doing the works. It was the Father in Him doing the works (John 14:10).

Jesus said in John 14:12, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”** Jesus said, **“He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also...”** Then Jesus explained what He was talking about by saying, **“because I go unto my Father.”**

Where is the Father today? God is omnipresent, everywhere at all times. After Jesus went to the Father, He returned with the Father and they both made their dwelling place in the spirits of every born again Christian.

If you are a born again Christian, then God the Father is in you, the same as He was in Jesus before Jesus went to the cross and died, and arose again from the dead. In John 14:10, 11, Jesus said,

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

Before Jesus died and came back again from the dead the Father was in Him. After Jesus breathed on His disciples and they became born again of the Spirit, the Father and Christ made their abode in them. From that time on, God was in Jesus’ disciples, doing the works that Jesus did. It was God in them, doing the works.

This is the way it should be today among Christians. Christians today should not be conformed to this world. They should be doing the same works that Jesus did, the same way Jesus did the works, by the Father in them doing the works (John 12:10).

Joint-heirs with Christ

Christians need understanding of who Jesus is and who Christ is. They are the same person, with the exception that the name “Jesus” pertains to the Son of God in the flesh. The Son of God in the flesh is also called the Son of Man. In Matthew 16:13, it says, **“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”** Here, Jesus is calling Himself the Son of Man, and at the same time asking the question, **“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”** In Matthew 16:16 it says, **“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

Sometimes Christians do not understand that there is a difference between Jesus and Christ. In Matthew 1:17 it says, **“So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.”** If you count the generations from the carrying away into Babylon to “Jesus” you will only get thirteen generations. “Jesus” is the thirteenth generation and “Christ” is the fourteenth generation.

When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, that became the end of the thirteenth generation. When He arose again from the dead, He was “Christ” the King of the fourteenth generation. When a person dies in the flesh, whatsoever belongs to them at that time, is passed on to the next generation. Everything that belonged to Jesus by His defeating of Satan before He died, was passed on to “Christ” as an inheritance.

“Christ” is Jesus, the arisen Second Adam. He died in the flesh of man and now He lives as “Christ,” in the Spirit. He is the head of the body of Christ, which is called the church. He is the firstborn from the dead (which means from physical death). Physical death had no power over Christ.

Jesus was the Son of God from the beginning (John 1:1,2,14). Jesus always had spiritual life from the beginning. Jesus never died spiritually. Spiritual life has power over death. When Christians are born again, they are born again “in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17). In Christ, there is no spiritual death. In the new birth, spiritual death is defeated by spiritual life “in Christ.” Jesus said in John 5:24, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”** When a person becomes born again, spiritual death is overcome by spiritual life in Christ Jesus.

Jesus took our place in death when He died in the flesh for us. For us, physical death still reigns in this life here on earth. Physical death is called “mortality.” Mortal means that death is reigning within us and will eventually overtake us, unless God intervenes like He did with Enoch (Gen. 5:24, Heb. 11:5).

Yet, unknown to many Christians, physical death has no power over those who are in Christ. Satan, who has the power of death, cannot take our lives against our will. We must “give up our lives,” for Satan to take our physical life from us. This does not sound right to those who “reason out things with their minds.” Yet, it is a spiritual truth that many do not understand.

Jesus, Who “is Christ,” talking about dying physically, said in John 10:18, **“No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”**

When the time of physical death comes, Christians will face separation from their bodies

in one form or another. It could be by accident, or at the hand of another in one form or another. It could be by sickness or disease. Yet, at that time, when we face Jesus, we will still have the choice of coming back into our bodies and continue to live longer on earth, or stay with the LORD in heaven. The choice is still ours, not the devils, and even not the LORD's, although, the LORD may influence our decision one way or another.

All who are "in Christ" have eternal life, and can choose if they will remain on earth or go to be with Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote it this way, "**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain**" (Phil. 1:21). Then in verses twenty-two through twenty-four, Paul wrote,

But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

The Apostle Paul knew the choice was up to him. Paul had experienced death more than once. Each time, he came back to life and continued to fulfill his calling. In 2 Corinthians 11:23, Paul wrote of himself, saying, "**Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.**" In the Greek, the word translated "**oft,**" means "many times." Death does not have power over those who are "in Christ." This is one of the many benefits that is included in our inheritance "in Christ."

The same day that Jesus arose again from the dead, those disciples that He breathed upon became "joint-heirs with Christ," to the inheritance of all that Jesus received in His victory over the devil. Jesus received victory over sin, iniquity, infirmities, sickness, disease and death (1 Cor. 15:54,55). Jesus defeated the devil on the Cross of Calvary, and now His disciples became "joint-heirs with Christ," in sharing the benefits of Jesus' victory.

Christians today, are also "joint-heirs with Christ," in all that Jesus received when He defeated the devil. Being joint-heirs with Christ, we have the same legal rights as "Christ," to all that Christ inherited from Jesus. In this alone, there needs to be much more understanding among Christians.

The name of Jesus has been exalted above every name (Phil. 2:9,10). As joint-heirs with Christ, that name has become our inheritance. When we use the name of Jesus, every demon must bow to that name. Every sickness or disease must bow to that name.

Peter and John knew the authority they had in using the name of Jesus. In Acts 3:6 it says, "**Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**" Peter knew the power of Jesus' name. In verse seven and eight it says,

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Peter knew he didn't heal this man by his ability. In verse twelve it says, "**And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?"** In Acts 3:16 Peter said, "**And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect**

soundness in the presence of you all.”

It's the name of Jesus which has been given to all who are in Christ. All who are “in Christ” have authority to use the name of Jesus against all the works of the enemy. This authority is ours as Joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).

In Colossians the Apostle Paul reveals a mystery that was not known by those of the Old Testament times. Paul wrote,

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col.1:26,27).

What is this mystery? It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who are joint-heirs with Christ. (Those who, after they have been born again, received the Holy Spirit and power to be witnesses unto Jesus).

Jesus said to His disciples in Acts 1:8, **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”** Those who are born again, when they are filled and baptized in the Holy Spirit, receive the power of God to be witnesses unto Jesus.

Jesus, Himself was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power to destroy the works of the devil (Acts 10:38). After His resurrection, this same anointing comes upon those who receive the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, just as the disciples did on Pentecost day (Acts 2:1-4). God continued to pour out His Holy Spirit upon all flesh (Acts 2:16-18).

This mystery, **“Christ in you, the hope of glory”** still seems to be a mystery to many Christians. Many Christians today are baptized in the Holy Spirit “speaking in tongues,” yet they do not fully understanding what it means to be “in Christ.”

Those who are “in Christ” are “joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17). Being “joint-heirs with Christ,” they are also seated with Christ in heavenly places. Ephesians 2:6 says, **“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”** We are no longer in Adam, but we are now in Christ (1 Cor. 15:22). We are new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). We are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit (Rom. 8:9). Christ is in us, and we are in Him.

In Christ, we have power over all the works of the devil. In Christ we have “eternal life.” Eternal life has power over death. Jesus had “eternal life,” and death had no power over Him (1 Cor. 15:57, Heb. 2:14).

When we walk in the light as He is in the light, darkness has no power over us. Light destroys darkness. Darkness cannot destroy light. When light comes, darkness must leave. Therefore, in 1 John 1:5-7 it tells us,

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

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

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

Christians, who walk in the light as He is in the light have power over all the works of the devil. For they are seated with Christ in heavenly places. They are anointed with the Holy Spirit and

power to destroy all the works of the devil. They have authority “in the name of Jesus” to set the captives free. To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.

God is for us, not against us. He has given us the power “in Christ Jesus” to destroy the works of the devil. When the works of the devil are destroyed, God gets the glory. For it is **“Christ in us, the hope of glory.”** God is glorified when His Children go in the anointing of the Holy Spirit and destroy the works of the devil, in the name of Jesus Christ.

The name of Jesus has been given to us to use against all the works of the enemy. The anointing has been given to us to destroy the works of the devil. When we walk in the light, as He is in the light, all our sins are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, sin and death have no power over those who walk in the light.

The Way, The Truth, The Life

Jesus knew who He was from the beginning (John 1:1,2,14). Jesus knew who His Father was from the beginning (John 17:5). Jesus also knew who the devil was from the beginning (Luke 10:18).

Jesus knew that He was the one the Father used to create all things (John 1:3, Col. 1:16). He knew He was the Word of God from the beginning. He also knew Who the Holy Spirit was (John 14:26, 15:26,16:13-15). Therefore, Jesus knew that He could do nothing of Himself (John 15:30). Jesus knew the Holy Spirit would bring to pass whatsoever He said, therefore, He didn't say anything unless He first received it from His Father.

Jesus had eternal life with the Father from the beginning. The main purpose of Jesus' teachings was that we could have eternal life with Him and the Father for all of eternity. That we would be in Him, as He was in the Father, and live forever in the presence of God.

Jesus, did all He could so that people could know the Father and receive Jesus as their LORD and Savior to spend eternity with Him and the Father forever. Jesus knew all about the devil, and the works of the devil. Jesus knew all about hell, where those who do not do the will of the Father will spend eternity. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”**

It is very important that we, as Christians get to know Jesus as LORD, the Father as our Father, and the Holy Spirit as our helper, guide, comforter, teacher, and leader in every area of our lives. Without the Written Word of God we cannot know God. Without the Holy Spirit helping us, we cannot spend eternity with God. What is written in the Word of God, cannot help us without the help of the Holy Spirit, giving us “revelation” from the “information” written in the Bible.

It is very important that we learn and obey the Word of God, and not be persuaded or led astray by the teachings of men. Many have gone astray, following the doctrines and teachings of men. In 1 Timothy 4:1 it says, **“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”** By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul is warning us, **“some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”** This is very important for us to understand, for some of these who have departed from the faith, at one time were used of God to teach and manifest the true Word and power of God. But, they have departed from the faith, **“giving heed to seducing spirits,”** and taught things they should not have taught.

Jesus is who He said He is. He is, “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” There is no other **“Way”** to the Father then through Jesus. Jesus said in John 14:6, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** To be with God the Father, we must have eternal life abiding in us. John 1:4 tells us that our eternal life is in Jesus. It says, **“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”** There is no other **“Way”** to eternal life. From Genesis through Revelation, we can see Jesus as the **“Way”** to everything God has promised in His Word.

Jesus made it possible for us to come to the Father “according to His Word,” not according to man's ideas and thinking. Anyone who tries to come to the Father another way, will end up forever in hell, with the devil and his demons. This is a Truth that everyone living on this

earth must understand. There is “no other way” then through Jesus. He is the only Way, and anyone not believing in Him will spend eternity in hell.

Jesus is the “**Truth**,” and anyone who does not believe what Jesus taught, will not experience the truth in their lives. Only the “**Truth**” that Jesus taught will set us free of the lies of the devil. Adam and Eve did not believe the “**Truth**” and they experienced the same works of the devil as we all experience when we don’t believe Jesus. Only the “**Truth**” as Jesus taught it, can set us free of the works of the devil in our lives. Only the “**Truth**” that Jesus taught can keep us forever with the LORD in eternity.

Jesus is the “**Life**,” which is speaking of “eternal life” in God with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our eternal life is dependent upon Jesus, for “in Christ,” and “in Him only” can we have eternal life. Our eternal “**Life**” is dependent upon Jesus. Without Jesus, we cannot spend eternity in heaven.

Christians need to understand that Jesus is “**the Only Way, Truth, and Life**,” that God has promised to all who live on this earth. Satan is a liar, and he has been blinding the minds of people from the day of Adam and Eve. He always was a liar from the time he rebelled against God and was cast down to this earth. He will always be a liar, forever throughout eternity. Those who believe the lies of the devil will suffer much in this world, and many will spend eternity in hell.

We must make a decision in our lives here on earth, who we will believe, the Word of God or the words of men. From the time of Adam and Eve, Satan has used people to deceive others into thinking there is another way than the **Way** Jesus taught. Satan is a liar. There isn’t any other **Way**. There isn’t any other **Truth**. And there isn’t any other eternal **Life**, than that which Jesus revealed.

Don’t follow men, follow Jesus Christ. Be led by the Holy Spirit from within your spirit. The Holy Spirit will lead, guide, comfort, teach, and help you in every area of your life.

Stay in the Word of God every day, and pray in the Spirit! In Luke 18:1 it tells us, “**And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.**” In Ephesians 6:18 says, “**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.**”

Life on earth is too short to waste it upon the things that are not pleasing to God. God is not pleased when we do not live by faith (Heb. 10:38). Jesus taught us faith that we could know how to live and please the Father.

It doesn’t make any difference where you live in this world. Jesus will help you, if you will obey Him. Back in Genesis 18:14 the LORD asked Abraham, “**Is any thing too hard for the LORD?**” Abraham learned by experience that there is nothing too hard for the LORD. In Matthew 19:26 Jesus said, “**with God all things are possible.**” In Luke 18:27 Jesus said, “**The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.**” In Luke 1:37 the angel said to Mary, “**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**”

Over and over in the Bible we see accounts of where God did things that man could not do. In Acts 8:39,40 The Holy Spirit caught Philip up, and he was translated from Gaza, to Azotus (which is many miles away). Philip didn’t need a vehicle, or an airplane. God can easily take a person from one place to another without the help of the world’s system.

In Genesis 19, when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were about to be destroyed, the LORD sent angels to get Lot and his family out of those cities. The LORD has ways to protect those who are His own, no matter what the situation or circumstances may be.

In Daniel, Chapter Three, when the three Hebrew children were cast into a burning fiery furnace, the LORD Himself was in there with them. It tells us in Daniel 3:24,25,

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

The LORD protected them. They were not burned, or hurt in the midst of the fire. The LORD was in the furnace with them and they were delivered.

Again in Daniel, Chapter Six, when Daniel was cast into the lions' den, the LORD protected him from all harm and danger. In Daniel 6:22 it tells us that Daniel answered the King, saying, **“My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.”**

Those who put their trust in the LORD will never be forsaken. Hebrews 13:5 says, **“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”** In Deuteronomy 31:6 it says, **“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”** In Matthew 28:20, the LORD said, **“...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”**

If you are in Christ, you have the fulness of the Godhead in you (Col. 2:9,10). God is for you, not against you (Rom. 8:31). If we put our trust in God, nothing can come against us that God cannot handle.

If we put our trust in the LORD, all of heaven is with us, no matter what the world does. It doesn't make any difference where we live, or what our circumstances may be. The LORD is with us...God is in us, doing His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 says, **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”** In 1 John 4:4 it says, **“...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”**

The LORD created the world and all that is in the world. In Colossians 1:16 it says, **“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”** That means, everything that was created, was created by Him and for Him. That includes every individual whoever lived on this earth.

If we make Jesus “LORD,” totally and completely in our lives, He will protect and deliver us, no matter what the circumstances may be. No matter where we are, or where we live, the LORD is well able to deliver and protect us.

Get to know Jesus for Who He really is, He is **“the Way, the Truth, and the Life”** (John 14:6). Jesus loves everyone, especially those who love Him and keep His commandments. There is nothing too hard for the LORD!

UNDERSTANDING PARABLES

It is very important that Christians today understand the parables that Jesus taught. As it is with all of the parables that Jesus taught, Jesus said, **“Who hath ears to hear, let him hear”** (Matt. 13:9). Then in Matthew 13:10,11 it says,

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

God looks at the hearts of people, and reveals the secret things of God to those whose heart is right toward Him. God knows those who are His, and those who have gone astray. Therefore, it is important to know why we are here in this world?

Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:14-15, saying,

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

It is not the will of God that we should be taken out of this world, even though we are not of this world. Heaven is our home, but the will of God is that we remain in this world and do the works that Jesus did (John 14:12). In John 17:18 Jesus said, **“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”**

When we understand who we are in Christ, then we should also understand our position and our purpose for being in this world. Jesus taught His disciples in parables, for they were chosen by God to do the works that Jesus did. In doing the works that Jesus did, we must understand the kingdom of God and also understand the kingdoms of this world. We must know our enemy, who is Satan and his demons.

Jesus said, in Mark 4:13, **“Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?”** This is one of the most important parables that Jesus taught. Let’s see what Jesus taught His disciples in this parable?

The sower soweth the word.

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred (Mark 4:14-20).

Jesus explained this parable to His disciples, those who God had given Him to do the same works that Jesus did. In explaining this parable, Jesus made certain things clear to those whom

God had chosen to be Jesus' disciples. In Mark 4:15, Jesus spoke about those who were by the wayside. Jesus said, **“when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.”**

These did receive the Word, but, immediately Satan came and took away the Word that was sown in their hearts. If Christians are not careful they will end up in churches that do not preach the same gospel that Jesus preached.

Then Jesus went on to explain about those who received the Word, but were on stony ground. Jesus said,

**when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;
And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended**
(Mark 4:16,17).

These end up in churches that teach their idea of salvation, but they do not go deeper into the purpose for their lives here on earth. They are not taught what Jesus was teaching His disciples. They have a desire to know the Word to a degree. They have experienced God working in their lives. As long as things are going well they continue to do what others tell them to do. They follow their leaders to the best they know how. But they **“have no root in themselves,”** and they are not prepared for the attacks of Satan. When **“affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.”**

Then there are those among the thorns. Here is where Satan gets them, if he didn't get them before this. They hear the Word, but, **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”**

It is interesting how that God teaches His Word. He starts at the beginning and continues to the end. Each phase brings us closer to the fullness of God in our lives. But, along the way, many are offended and many are deceived by the god of this world. If Satan cannot get the Word away from them in the first two attempts, then he becomes as though He is God, and attempts them with **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.”**

Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). That means, Satan has powers greater than man. Satan is able to work in the supernatural, similar to that of God.

In Matthew 4:8-10 and Luke 4:4-7 it tells about some of the temptations the devil tried on Jesus. In one of them, Satan took Jesus up on a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of this world in a moments time. It says, Satan said to Jesus, **“All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me,”** (Matt. 4:9).

If Satan has the power to tempt Jesus the way he did, certainly he has the power to give to Christians all the riches and all the wealth of this world that they desire. Satan can make it look like it is God, when in the end it is not God, but Satan himself is blessing those who desire the things of this world.

Isn't it interesting that Satan is able to tempt those who are “in Christ” with the things of this world? Christians already have greater power and greater blessings than what the world has. In Ephesians 1:3 it says, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”** Christians already have **“all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”** How come, they are still interested in the world and the things of this world?

Satan is the god of this world (1 Cor. 4:4). Man does not have the power to bless others “with all the wealth of this world,” but Satan does have that power. Christians need to know the power that Satan has, that they be not deceived when he tempts them with **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.”**

Christians can go a long way with God, and experience the power of God working in their lives. But, if they loose their focus on “why God has kept them in this world” they can easily be deceived. The world’s system looks good to those who are not willing to keep their focus upon why God called them?

In these last days, this is more likely to be the temptation of the devil that will overcome many who have received the Word and overcome the other areas before this. We have an example of this in the life of Balaam.

In Numbers, Chapters Twenty-two through Twenty-four we are told about Balaam who became a true prophet. God used Balaam to prophesy concerning Israel. Balaam learned to know the voice of God, and how true prophecy works. All of Balaam’s prophecies were true. Yet, Satan got Balaam in his last days. Peter spoke about Balaam in 2 Peter 2:15-22. In 2 Peter 2:15, it says, **“Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”** The wages of unrighteousness include the rewards of this world. The things of this world (which can become more important than the will of God). If we forsake the will of God in our lives, Satan has an advantage over us.

Jesus spoke about Balaam in Revelation 2:14, saying, **“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”**

There are two types of fornication. There is sexual fornication and there is spiritual fornication. Spiritual fornication is serving another god. For Christians today, when **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things”** enter in they could very well be serving another god (the god of this world). Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”** The word “mammon” could have been translated “wealth, riches, or money.” Therefore, we must be careful when we speak about the things of this world.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus would not have mentioned **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things”** if it was not important for us today. It is just as important to understand this verse as it is to understand all the parables that Jesus taught.

Everything Jesus taught was dependent upon Christians being led by the Holy Spirit and doing the will of God in their lives. Without God, it is not possible for us to overcome the works of the devil, especially this one mentioned in Mark 4:19.

Yet, Jesus told us that **“with God all things are possible”** (Matt. 19:26). If you are one that has been deceived by the devil in **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things,”** God is well able to deliver you, and set you free of this world’s system.

I was very fortunate in what the LORD did for me when I received Jesus as LORD and Savior in my life. When I was born again in 1979, I had a desire for the riches of this world. I

was a self-righteous religious person. I was working to own a number of apartment homes and retire by the age of fifty-five.

The same day that I received Jesus as LORD and Savior of my life, that desire was taken away from me. The LORD took away all the desire for the wealth and riches of this world. A few days later, I was sitting on my davenport, watching television. I just wanted to relax for a while after finishing the noon meal.

As I sat on the davenport, all of a sudden I found myself standing in the clouds above the earth. I looked down on the earth below and saw all the property I owned. I saw people in the Olympics, diving from a high tower into a pool below, simply to receive a metal for their accomplishments. As I looked up from the cloud I was standing on, I saw a bright light shining down from above. I heard a voice say to me, *“All of this will pass away, the only thing that will matter is your relationship to Me.”* That voice I heard, I was sure it was the LORD speaking to me. After I heard the voice, I was suddenly back in my body on the davenport in my living room. The LORD had assured me that the things of this world, are not as important as our relationship with Him. The desire for the world and the things of this world was gone, forever.

Over the years the LORD has proved to me that He can supply all that I need, if I will obey Him and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit from within my spirit. There is a time when Christians need to give up the world and the world’s system, and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit from within their spirit. We must be willing to give up everything, including our physical lives if we want to follow Jesus. If we are willing, the LORD will help us and take away the desire for the things of this world. If we ask Him, He will do it! Nothing is too hard for the LORD (Gen. 18:14, Matt. 19:26, Luke 1:37).

I am reminded of John G. Lake. It is said that in 1907, he was a married man with seven children. He had given up all his financial wealth and resolved to serve the LORD wholly. Late in 1907 the Holy Spirit spoke to him to go to Indianapolis Indiana for the winter, and minister there. Then in the spring leave for South Africa.

He took his family and moved to Indianapolis. He joined with a former friend and they ministered together for about six months. Near the end of the six months they were praying for finances for South Africa. During their prayer his friend told him the LORD said He is sending \$2,000, and it will be there in four days.

In four days the money came from an unknown donor and they made their way to board ship to South Africa. John G. Lake had only \$1.50 when they landed in South Africa. There he was informed that immigration laws for South Africa required they have at least \$125.00 or they wouldn’t be permitted to get off the ship.

Lake’s wife asked him what he was going to do? He said, *“I’m going to line up with the rest. We have obeyed God this far. It is now up to the LORD.”* As he stood in line a fellow passenger tapped him on the shoulder and called him out of the line. He then gave Lake \$200. And said, *“I feel led to give you this to help your work.”* The man was a stranger to Lake.

When they arrived in Johannesburg, they saw a little woman running around, looking for someone. First she asked John G. Lake’s friend, “are you an American missionary?” When he replied “Yes,” she asked “how many in your party?” He said, “four.” She shook her head and said, “no, you aren’t the family, is there another?” He pointed her to John G. Lake. When she asked “how many are in your family?” Lake replied, “My wife, myself, and seven children.” All excited, the lady said “You’re the family!”

She then told them how God directed her to meet them at the station and give them a

home all furnished to live in, in Johannesburg, South Africa. There is no end to testimonies like these. It's happening today, just like it has always happened since Jesus arose again from the dead. The LORD knows how to work out all the details when Christians will believe Him.

While in South Africa, it is said that Lake set up 125 white congregations and 500 black congregations. The healing ministry spread throughout South Africa.

Lake then returned to the United States and set up healing rooms in Spokane Washington. It is said that over a period of five or six years there were more than one-hundred thousand healings reported. Even medical doctors were healed and left the medical field to join in praying for the sick in the healing rooms. In 1919 it is said that there were as many as two-hundred people per day prayed for in the healing rooms.

Christians must learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit. He Leads, Guides, Comforts, Teaches, and Helps in every need they have. No matter what the circumstances, God is well able to provide all their needs. Christians must learn to **“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding”** (Prov. 3:5).

Jesus was not conformed to this world. Jesus did not seek the things of this world. In 1 John 2:15-17, it says,

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Jesus, in speaking of the end times said in Matthew 24:11-13,

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

As long as we are in this world, Satan is still working to deceive us. We must keep our focus upon Jesus, and His teachings. We must not let our love of God grow cold. We must not become **“lukewarm.”** Jesus said to the church of the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:15-17,

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

Christians must endure until the end. We must overcome all the temptations of the devil, and become fruitful in the work the LORD has called us to do. We must remain among those where the seed, **“which is the Word of God,”** is sown on good ground. Jesus said, **“And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred”** (Mark 4:20).

It is so important that we understand the Word of God as Jesus taught it. It is so important that we become fruitful in the kingdom of God. There is so much that God has done for everyone who is born again into the family of God.

But, we have a responsibility as Christians to “do the will of God in our lives.” That is our responsibility. God has already done His part, now it's up to us, individually, to know the

Word of God and be doers of the Word.

Don't be deceived by the teachings of men. If God is your Father, then commit yourself to serving Him, and Him only. For many false prophets have come into the world and have deceived many.

Jesus said to certain of His disciples, **“Come follow Me.”** Jesus was also speaking to you and I. We also, must follow Jesus, for He is truly who He says He is. He is **“the Way, the Truth, and the Life”** (John 14:6).

What about the Holy Spirit?

When Jesus walked this earth, He was a Man, the son of Man. Jesus came into this world as a Man, born of a woman. He lived as a Man in the flesh.

But there was something else that Jesus did while He was here on earth as a Man. That is, at about the age of thirty, He received the anointing of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus came up out of the water, following His baptism by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit came upon Him. From that day forth, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. That was the day that Jesus, who was the thirteenth generation from the carrying away into Babylon, became “Christ.” Acts 10:38 says, **“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”**

From that day forth, Jesus walked in the power of the Holy Spirit in everything He did. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit and did only that which was the Father’s will. The Holy Spirit is the one who reveals to us the will of God the Father. The Holy Spirit is the one who the Father uses to do the works of God here on earth.

Jesus was always the Son of God from the beginning. Jesus always was the Word of God from the beginning. Jesus always was one with the Father from the beginning. But, Jesus did no mighty works until after He was anointed with the Holy Spirit at about the age of thirty. The first miracle that Jesus did was in Cana of Galilee, when He turned water into wine.

Jesus was both filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized with the Holy Spirit from about the age of thirty until His death on the Cross. All of Jesus’ disciples were given power by the LORD to do the works that Jesus said they should do. But, these disciples were not baptized in the Holy Spirit like Jesus was.

Before a person can be baptized in the Holy Spirit, they must first be born again into the family of God. They must be children of God, like Jesus was a Son of God. Then, they can be baptized in the Holy Spirit, giving them power to be witnesses unto Jesus.

In John 7:38, Jesus said, **“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”** What is Jesus talking about? Is He talking about liquid water coming out of a person’s belly? No. Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit, bringing the Word of God out of our spirit which is in our belly. John explained this in the next verse, saying, **“(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”** The disciples could not receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit until after Jesus was glorified. Jesus was glorified by defeating the devil on the Cross of Calvary. After Jesus defeated the devil, by taking all our sins, iniquities, infirmities, sickness, and diseases upon Himself, then arose again from the dead. Jesus was glorified in His victory over all the works of the devil.

Now that Jesus did what the Father sent Him into the world to do, the Holy Spirit could come and continue the works that Jesus did. The first thing that the Holy Spirit came to do was to bring the new birth (born again of the Spirit) (John 3:6,7). The next thing the Holy Spirit came to do was to empower Christians to do the same works that Jesus did.

Jesus said in Acts 1:8, **“ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”** Christians need “power” to be a good witness unto Jesus. This power comes with the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The first disciples to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit received on what is called the

day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4). The evidence that they did receive that power was that they spoke in tongues. It says in Acts 2:4, **“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

There are two important things about this verse. It tells us that **“they began to speak with other tongues.”** They did the speaking. God did not speak through them without their help. They did the speaking. The second important thing is **“as the Spirit gave them utterance.”** The speaking came from down in their spirit (in their belly), where the living waters come from that Jesus spoke of in John 7:38. Out of their belly came the utterance as they did the speaking.

Any Christian who is a born again child of God can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. It is a gift from God to all who will believe.

Christians must believe in order to speak with tongues. Jesus said in Mark 16:17, **“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.”** Every Christian who believes will speak with new tongues. That is what Jesus said, don't let men teach you otherwise.

If you do not have the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, you can receive it right now. God will give the gift of the Holy Spirit to every one of His children who ask. Jesus said in Luke 11:11-13,

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

It is the will of God that every one of His Children have the Holy Spirit and power to do the works that Jesus did.

Just ask the Father in Jesus' name to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, and you will receive. But, remember, you must do the speaking, the utterance that comes out of your mouth will come from the Holy Spirit, down in your belly. But, if you do not speak, you will not hear the tongues. You must do the speaking, to hear the tongues.

Some Christians say, *“why do I need the baptism in the Holy Spirit?”* Simply, because that is the way God determined He was going to give you the power to be a witness unto Jesus. Who wants to “withstand God,” and say *“I don't need the power, or I don't need the baptism in the Holy Spirit?”*

The only way we can do the will of God in our lives is to do it God's way, not man's way. We need the power and the ability of God in our lives to do the will of God here on earth. If we truly love the LORD, and truly want to serve God here on earth, we should desire to do things the way God says to do them.

When Jesus walked on this earth, He said, **“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me”** (John 5:30). Jesus is our example, we should desire to do whatsoever Jesus taught us, and told us to do. We should desire to do the will of God the same way Jesus did the will of God.

To do the will of God in our lives should be our greatest desire, above everything else. Don't let anything else become more important in your life than to do the will of God. We can enjoy the world and the things of this world. Or, we can lay our life down for Jesus and follow Him. The choice is ours.

We must choose

The choice is ours. God has given us the choice to choose whatsoever we will. It is all throughout the Bible. In the beginning there was the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In Genesis 2:16 it says, **“the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.”** Because that God is Love, and knows what is best for man, the LORD said in the next verse, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”**

This is the message throughout the Bible. You choose what you will do. For those who choose to do what the LORD says to do, they will spend eternity with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Those who do not choose to follow Jesus, “by the leading of the Holy Spirit” will not be with Him forever.

Jesus said, **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”** (Matt. 7:21). There is more to life than just calling Jesus LORD. There is a choice we must make, who will we follow?

If we follow Jesus all the way, we will always be with Jesus wherever His is, whether it be here on earth or in heaven. We will be with Him forever. But, we must choose every day, who we will follow.

Did you know that it was a joy for Jesus to go to the cross and die for you and I. Look at Hebrews 12:2, which says, **“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** Jesus suffered the most horrible death known to man at that time. He was crucified for you and I. But, it was a joy for Jesus to suffer, for He knew that there would be some who would choose to follow Him.

To follow Jesus, “we must not follow” those who love the world and the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17). We must be willing to lay our lives down for Jesus, and follow Him (Matt. 10:39, 16:25, Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, 17:33, John 12:25,26). We must be willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus (Matt. 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23, 14:27).

We have the choice, heaven or hell, life or death (Deu. 30:15,19). We choose which one we desire. The choice is ours, and no one can stop us if we will follow Jesus. Jesus has already made the way. He is **“the Way, the Truth, and the Life”** (John 14:6).

The world has another way. We can follow the world’s way, or we can follow the way Jesus taught. The choice is ours, which one we will follow. Many have been deceived by the teachings of men. But for those who listen to their spirit, they will know that which is of God and that which is of man. We must choose between what Jesus taught and what men teach. Jesus said, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”** (Matt. 6:24).

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