

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

April 8, 2010

ETERNITY

Printed for:

HANDS FOR JESUS

P.O. BOX 18655

MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

For more information, visit our Web sites at:

www.handsforjesus.org

www.handsforjesus.cc

2010 by Merle E. Koepke

All rights reserved

Introduction

Eternity includes everything from the beginning to the end. Unless we understand eternity, we will not understand the Word of God which is revealed in the Bible. Once we understand the Word of God we must believe that what God said in truth. What is truth will always remain. What is false will lead to destruction.

The first thing we need to understand about eternity is that God is eternal (That means, God is the beginning and the ending of all things). Jesus also said in Revelation 1:8, **“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”** Until we understand God, and Jesus Christ, we will not understand the importance of eternity.

The beginning of understanding God is to understand that God is love. In 1 John 4:8 it says, **“He that loveth (agapao) not knoweth not God; for God is love (agape).”** The Greek words “agapao and agape” are not the same as the Greek word “phileo.” The Greek words “agapao and agape” are always speaking of the love of God. Whereas, the Greek word “phileo” is speaking of human love. By this many have been deceived in thinking these two words mean the same thing. In the English language there is no single word that defines the Greek word “agape,” or “agapao.” Therefore, in the English Bibles they use mostly the simple word “love,” or in some Bibles at times they use the word “charity.” The English word “charity” does not give us a good meaning to the love of God.

The love of God is “unconditional.” The Greek word “phileo” and the English word “charity” are not “unconditional.” These two types of love are human love and are conditional. There are always conditions involving all human love.

Until we have a true understanding of what it means when it says, “God is love,” we will be deceived in this life, and many will spend eternity in the wrong place because they have been deceived. Not understanding God and His love for man leads many to follow the ways of the Devil, and they end up serving other spirits, thinking they are serving God.

We cannot know the difference between serving God and serving other spirits until we know the difference between God and other spirits. The main difference between God and other spirits is that God is love, whereas the other spirits have no love.

The closest definition of the love of God is expressed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, where it says in the New King James Version, **“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up...does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil...does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”** This is a description of God, for God is Love.

God is love, therefore only that which is of God can have the love (agape) of God. Without God, we cannot have the love of God. Natural man does not have the love of God. Without having the love of God, the natural man does not know or understand the love of God. The natural man has only human love. Human love is not equivalent to the love of God. Human love does not have the ability to operate in the same ability as the love of God.

We cannot understand “eternity” until we understand God. We cannot understand God until we understand the true meaning of love (agape). Yet, without an opposite to the love of God, we still

have nothing to compare it to. Therefore, it is important to have some type of comparison between what is the love of God and what is not the love of God. Understanding the love of God helps us to know God.

Understanding eternity, will help us to understand God, for God is love. In eternity, there is no time. This is important to understand, for many have been deceived in thinking that God relates what He does and says according to time. Time is only used concerning this earth, and it is determined by the rotation of the earth, giving us days and nights, weeks, months, and years.

Being that in eternity there is no time, much of what God says and tells us in His Word is not based upon time. God is always living in the now. God sees things in the now. But, God knows things concerning the past, the present, and the future all at the same time. God has instant knowledge of all things. Nothing is hidden from God, for God is all knowing. God created knowledge and understanding. What God creates, God controls. Therefore, all things are under the control of God, who created all things.

Many times, when God speaks or reveals things to us, it is not based upon time, but is revealed according to God's knowledge of all things. God's knowledge and human knowledge do not always agree. For human knowledge is limited by that which is made known to man by another source. God's knowledge is known by God, for He is the source of all knowledge.

God has the ability to withhold knowledge from whosoever He desires, and also has the ability to reveal knowledge to whosoever He desires. This is seen in many places in the Scriptures. In Isaiah 65:7 it says, **“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”** God can cause us to not remember, or even come into our mind, the former things which He does not want us to remember.

God also forgets all our sins and iniquities that we repent of. When we are forgiven of our sins, God does not remember them any more. God is all powerful, and can, and will, control His creation according to His Word.

According to the knowledge that God has given us, we can come into agreement with God and spend eternity with God in the new heavens which are to come. This earth will pass away, and those who do not get to know God, and His plans for their lives, could be deceived and spend eternity in the wrong place.

How can we know what is of God and what is not of God? We can get an understanding of what is of God by knowing that God is love. Knowing what it means by “God is love” according to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 will help us greatly. Therefore, we need to understand the love of God, and walk in it all the days of our lives here on earth.

Understanding what God tells us in the Scriptures concerning good and evil will help us to understand eternity. Before God first created the heavens and the earth there was nothing but God. God is the beginning of all things (John 1:1). Yet, God is three persons in one, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7). Until we understand this, and believe it, we will never know God and are in danger of being deceived by the enemy.

In everything, we need to know the love of God, and how that “by the love of God” all things were created in the beginning. The love of God, reveals the true identity of God in every aspect. God is love (agape), and love does not control anyone against their own free will.

God first created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). Following the creation of the heavens and the earth, God created “angels,” which are celestial beings (living in the heavens above the

earth). Among these angels, God created three known arch angels. These are, Lucifer (Isa. 14:20), Gabriel (Dan. 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19, 26), and Michael (Dan. 10:13, 21, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7). These arch angels were over multitudes of other angels, each group having a specific purpose.

In Ezekiel 28:11-20 it is revealed to us what happened in the heavens before the creation of man here on earth. In Ezekiel 28:11-12 it says, **“Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,...Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.”** God told Ezekiel to speak to Satan, the Devil (called the king of Tyrus), who at one time was Lucifer, the anointed cherub. In speaking to Satan, Ezekiel was revealing things from eternity past, not according to earthly time.

God, having all knowledge and understanding of all things, revealed the past of the Devil, who was controlling the city of Tyrus by his spiritual powers over man. (Everything that happens in the natural realm, has its beginning in the spiritual realm). The Devil is “a god,” with supernatural powers over things that are in the natural. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 he is called **“the god of this world.”**

The Devil, who in the beginning was “Lucifer, an arch angel” over many angels, was before the throne of God leading praise and worship unto God, the Creator of all things. God created him **“...full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.”** It says in Ezekiel 28:13, **“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.”** The words **“Thou hast been...”** reveal things of the past. The description of his beauty is given in earthy terms, using natural things to describe spiritual things. (Which is called figurative speaking or symbolic language).

(There are two kinds of beings in God’s creation that have life within themselves. There are “celestial” beings and there are “terrestrial” beings (1 Cor. 15:40). Celestial beings are those beings that have heavenly bodies, and normally exist in the heavens, such as angels and demons. Terrestrial beings are those who have physical bodies and normally exist on earth).

The Devil is a “celestial” being. He does not have an earthly body. The description given in Ezekiel 28:12,13, is given to give us a type of understanding of the beauty of the Devil before he was cast out of the third heavens, from before the throne of God.

When God created different types of creatures, He created them with the ability to think, reason, understand, and know things within themselves. God did not create any robots, that did not have a mind of their own. In the creation of all living beings, God has given each one the ability to exercise their own will. God is love, and God does not, and will not, control any creature against their will.

In Ezekiel 28:14-15 it says, **“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire...Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”** God did not create evil. Evil came by the will of Lucifer, now called Satan, the Devil.

Lucifer, and the angels were not created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, they were given knowledge and wisdom according to God’s will for them. Lucifer knew God’s plan and will for him, but he sealed it up and did his own will.

This is the first indication of anyone going in the wrong direction, and not following the plan of God for their lives. Anyone who begins to follow the example of Lucifer, is showing signs of rebellion against God. Rebellion against God is sin, and sin leads to destruction. Therefore, in 1 John 3:8 it says, **“He that committeth (continues in) sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning...”** Everyone living in this world today sins (1 John 1:8,10). Those who continue in sin are following the Devil who was the first to sin (1 John 3:8).

God did not stop Lucifer from committing iniquity. What Lucifer did was his own will. God did not tempt him, and neither did God stop him from doing his own will. God gave Lucifer time to repent, but he did not repent. Therefore, he was cast out of the third heavens down to the earth.

God does not have any place in the third heavens for those who want to do their own will. The only ones that will be in the third heavens are those who are willing to do the will of God.

When people set their heart and mind to do the will of God, and not their own will, God will give them the ability to do His will. Of our own ability we cannot do the will of God. Choosing to do our own will over that of God's will is what happened in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had chosen to do their will contrary to the will of God, by that sin and death come upon all mankind.

In the Greek, the word "God" is "theos." The Greek word "theos" means "a deity or divine." Divine means "having supernatural powers greater than man, operating in the spiritual realm." Man is not a god. Man does not have supernatural powers similar to God. Satan (the Devil), does have supernatural powers similar to God. Therefore, in 2 Corinthians 4:3,4 it tells us **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost...In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”**

The Devil does have the power to blind the minds of people who do not desire to know God. The Devil has the power to inject thoughts into our minds. He can use direct thoughts, dreams, or visions to inject thoughts in the minds of other creatures. He also has the power to cause sickness, disease, and infirmities in our physical bodies. Man does not have that power. Only "a god" can operate in that power. By the thoughts in the minds of other creatures, including angels, human beings, animals, fowl, etc., Satan is able to get many of them to do his will, which is contrary to the will of God.

Man does have the ability to bring thoughts to others by different means, such as speaking, acting, and revealing something to someone or some other being. That is not the same as the power of "a god." That is a natural ability given to all creatures in some form or other. Thoughts that come to the minds of people and even other creatures "that are not through natural means," come from "a god."

This is why it is so important that Christians bring every thought, imagination, and reasoning into agreement with the knowledge of God revealed in the Word of God. It says in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh...(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)...Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”** The thoughts that the Devil puts in our minds are his strongholds in our lives.

These thoughts correspond to the thoughts of Satan, himself. They are a reflection of his attitude, formed by his will. Satan imposes his will on us through thoughts that he injects into our

minds. This leaves us with the choice of whom we will obey (the LORD our God, or Satan, the Devil)? This was the choice Adam and Eve faced in the garden of Eden, and is still the choice we face today in our everyday lives.

This is the way things work in eternity. Everything any creature does is dependent upon thoughts. Thoughts produce imaginations and reasoning, which then produce words spoken according to our thoughts. Words are spirit in nature. They are not physical, but spiritual, and they travel throughout creation, even into the heavens (Dan. 10:12).

The source of all good and evil is in the spiritual realm, not in the natural realm. They appear in the natural realm after they originate in the spiritual realm. Whatsoever happens in the natural realm had its beginning in the spiritual realm. Either it was God or the Devil. All other operations are only a chain reaction of what started in the spiritual realm.

Angels and people respond to God or the Devil. God puts thoughts in our hearts and minds and so does the Devil. Lucifer put thoughts in the minds of certain angels, and they left their first estate and are now held in chains until judgment (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6; Rev. 20:10).

False operations of the Spirit are the results of thoughts that Satan puts in the minds of people. When people give place for the Devil, he gets control of what they do.

Everything that is not pleasing to God can be traced back to Lucifer (now called Satan, the Devil). Lucifer was the beginning of all sin, and sin is the same as rebellion against God.

Knowing that God is love, and knowing what that means can help us to know what is of God and what is not of God. Love never controls another individual contrary to their will. Love always finds a way to live in harmony with each other. There are multitudes of angels in the heavens. Of all the angels in the heavens, they all work together according to the will of God. This is an example of the will of God being done.

All human beings need to bring themselves to desire to do the will of God, then Satan will not have any place in their lives. Knowing what is of God and what is of the Devil can help us greatly in our lives. God never planned for man to do his own will. God's will for man is much greater and much more pleasing than anything we can think of or imagine. Our mind cannot conceive all the good that God has planned for those who do His will. In 1 Corinthians 2:9 it says, **"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."** Those who "love (agape)" God, are the ones who will receive from God what He has planned for them throughout eternity. When we love (agape) God, we will find pleasure in doing His will.

Until Christians understand God and His love, they will easily be deceived by the spirits of this world. When we compare what is happening with the love of God, with what we see and hear, we have a good idea of who is operating and who is in control, God or the Devil?

What has been unknown to many today is that man cannot operate in the spiritual realm by his own ability. All operations in the spiritual realm have a "god" in control. Either it is our "God," or "Satan," the god of this world.

Christians need to understand, whatsoever we do, if God is not in control, then Satan is in control. We can better understand this when we understand Jesus. Jesus said many times that He never does His own will, He only does the will of God the Father. 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."** If Jesus could do nothing of His

own self, then we cannot do anything of our own self either. Jesus never did anything unless He first heard from God the Father. In John 8:26, Jesus said, **“I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.”** Jesus only did what the Father showed Him. In John 5:19, Jesus said, **“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.”**

Unless we are given the power to do the will of God, we cannot do the will of God. Already in Zechariah 4:6, it said, **“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”** This is what is sometimes called a “prophetic word,” which was a revelation of the wisdom of God as to what would happen in the New Covenant.

In the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit is in control of everything that happens. The Holy Spirit causes the Word of God to manifest in the natural realm. All the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 are controlled by the Holy Spirit “as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:11). All the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22,23 manifest as Christians permit the Holy Spirit to operate in their lives.

No one becomes born again without the Holy Spirit being involved. Jesus said in John 6:44, **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”** No one can become born again unless they are born of the Holy Spirit. In John 3:6, Jesus said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”**

God has a perfect plan for mankind. But, God’s plan only works when God is in total control of what man does. When we learn to follow God’s plan for our lives we will inherit eternity in heaven forever and ever. Those who want to do their own will, and not submit themselves to God in everything, could easily be deceived. Deception only leads to sin and death.

Those who truly love God, will desire that God would be in total control of everything they do. They will desire to become doers of the Word of God and not hearers only. Those who do the will of God, will inherit eternity in heaven.

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.”** Just saying that Jesus is LORD is not sufficient to get us into heaven when we leave this earth. We must know God, and do His will if we want to spend eternity in heaven.

God's Plan for Eternity

God has a plan for eternity, which is beyond this earth. God has a place in eternity for everyone who will follow His plan. This earth is like a melting pot, where the pure and true will be separated from the defiled and false. In Deuteronomy 30:19 it says, **“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”** This was not spoken just for the Children of Israel. It was spoken for Christians as well as the Children of Israel.

Everyone must choose who they will follow, and who they will serve. God is more interested in those who will follow His plan than he is in those who follow the Devil. Therefore, His plans are revealed in the Scriptures. God's plans are for eternity, based upon what we do here on earth.

There are two types of people here on earth. There are those who are in Adam, and those who are in Christ. We all start in Adam, which is man in the flesh. Then we can choose to become born again in Christ and inherit eternity with God forever.

It is interesting to notice that in eternity, we will not be like Adam, but we will be like Jesus. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who have become born again. We can become “one with God,” in eternity. We can become greater than the angels.

But, it is important that we understand God's plan for us in eternity. There are things that we should know and understand about what it is like in eternity. Those who obtain unto the resurrection of the dead, and inherit eternity with God, will not be like we are here on earth. We will all be “Children of God.” There will be some who are still “babes in Christ,” some who are “Children of God,” and some who are “Sons of God.” Each of these will have different positions in heaven.

One thing we need to understand is, we will be like the angels in many ways. Jesus said to the Sadducees in Matthew 22:30, **“For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”** There will not be any children born in heaven. All the children of God will come from this earth. They are all born first in the flesh of Adam. Then, they must be born again in Christ. Angels and demons cannot become “Children of God, or Sons of God.” The only way anyone can become a “Child of God,” is by being born again into the Body of Christ.

This should help many in understanding the plan of God for our lives. We must learn the ways of God, and His plans for our lives if we are to obtain that which God has planned for us. Many Christians are so attached to their families, that they do not consider others. They think only of themselves and those of their families here on earth.

This can be a hindrance to those who want to do the will of God in their lives. We must put God first in our lives. We cannot put ourselves first, or those of our families first. We must love others just as much as we love those of our families. Some have put their families first, and God second. This is not the plan of God for us. If we put God first, then God will help us bring our families along with us in eternity.

In heaven, those of our family here on earth will be “brothers and sisters” in the LORD. They will all be equal and none preferred before others. This was the question the Sadducees had for Jesus, who's wife will a woman be who had more than one husband?

In heaven, our wives and husbands will be our sisters and brothers in the LORD. They will not be preferred or looked upon as more important than others. There will be no marriage or given

in marriage in eternity.

Here on earth, Satan uses wives against husbands, and husbands against wives to stop individuals from committing their lives totally to the LORD. Many have not done the will of God, because they loved their wives or husbands more than they loved the LORD. We must put the LORD before anyone else, or anything else in our lives. Our eternal life is dependent upon who is between us and the LORD?

Christians need to understand God's plan for eternity. There is a place for everyone in eternity. There is a place in heaven for those who do the will of God. Those who follow Jesus will spend eternity in heaven.

Satan was the first creature to think he could do his own will. Therefore, Satan was cast down to the earth and become the "god" of this world, and the first creature to be destined to hell forever. There is also a place in hell for those who think they can do their own will. Those who follow Satan will spend eternity in hell.

Being that God is Love, in the Scriptures, He openly revealed to mankind His total plan for man. This is revealed in the Scriptures that we can know and understand the will of God for mankind. God is not unfair, or unjust in anything He does. God does not deceive anyone, but makes His will known to all who will seek to know His will. It is all contained in the written Word of God from Genesis through Revelation.

God has a perfect plan for every person born into this world. It is up to each individual to seek to know God's plan and then do the will of God in their lives. When we do the will of God according to His plan, we will inherit eternity according to what is written in the Scriptures.

Time is only used as pertaining to this earth. God does not give us any idea of how long ago He created the heavens and the earth. God does not give any idea of how long ago it was when He created angels.

God does not give us any idea of how long it will be before the LORD returns in His second coming. Many have tried to discern when Jesus will return, but only the Father knows when Jesus will return. In Matthew 24:34-36 Jesus said, **"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled...Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away...But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."** Jesus then gave us an indication of what it will be like when He does come. In Matthew 24:37-39, Jesus said, **"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be...For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark...And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."**

Those who know what it was like in the days of Noah, know that Jesus could return at anytime. Jesus said in Matthew 24:42, **"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."** In 2 Peter 3:10 it says, **"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."** When Jesus does come in His second coming, those who remain need to be ready to meet Him, to spend eternity with Him (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

Let us start with a quick overview of God's plan for us in eternity. In looking at this quick overview, we must understand that God reveals things to us from His point of view, not always

according to our point of view. God is always living in the now, and therefore God knows the end from the beginning. God knows the past, the present, and the future at all times. What God reveals is not always according to earthly time. For in eternity there is no time.

In the very beginning, there was God the Father. Then there came out from the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are called “God” many times throughout the Scriptures (1 John 5:7).

Then, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). Following the creation of the heavens and the earth, God created “angels,” which are celestial beings (living in the heavens above the earth). Among these angels, God created three known arch angels. These are, Lucifer (Isa. 14:20), Gabriel (Dan. 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19, 26), and Michael (Dan. 10:13, 21, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7). These arch angels were over multitudes of other angels, each group having a specific purpose.

During the course of time Lucifer (being the arch angel over certain angels who were before the throne of God praising and worshiping God), rebelled against God. This is all explained in Ezekiel 28:12-20, where it calls Lucifer “**the king of Tyrus.**” Lucifer was perfect in the day that he was created until iniquity was found in him (Ezek. 28:15). “Iniquity” means “evil, unrighteousness.” Lucifer was given an opportunity to repent, but would not repent. Therefore, he was cast out of the third heavens where the throne of God is, down to the earth, and the second heavens above the earth (Ezek. 28:16-20; Isa. 14:12-20; Luke 10:18). There were also many angels who followed Lucifer and they were also cast out of the third heavens and are being held until the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6; Rev. 20:10).

Following the casting out of Lucifer and the angels that followed him, man was created “a living, breathing creature” that lived upon this earth. All living, breathing, creatures are terrestrial beings. Man was not a “celestial” being, therefore man was limited as to where he could live. Whereas God and angels were not limited to only where they have air to breathe.

Christians need to understand that when man was created his body was formed of the dust of the ground and by the breath of the LORD God, man became a breathing creature. All living creatures that are formed of the dust of the ground and became breathing creatures, are “terrestrial” beings.

This was the first creation of man. This creation of man was called “Adam” (human beings that were limited to exist only where there was air to breathe). Yet, God had a great and wonderful plan for man, which many do not know or understand.

The LORD God created man in His own likeness and image and gave man dominion over all that the LORD God created upon this earth (Gen. 1:26-28). This was the beginning of “a new creation” in the progress of time. Before the LORD God created man upon this earth, man did not exist. Adam was the first man to exist. Never before was there a living creature called “man.”

It says in Genesis 2:7, “**And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**” Man was formed of the dust of the ground, and received his life by the breath of the LORD God who created him. By the breath of the LORD God, man became “a living soul.”

By this, man became an earthy creature, to dwell upon the earth. Man was a “terrestrial being” (an air breathing creature, limited to dwelling where there was air to breathe). Man was not a “celestial being,” and therefore could not live in the heavens like God and the angels. Angels are spiritual beings, and can live in the heavens without being limited to the earth (for they do not

require air to breathe).

God is Spirit. Therefore, God can live and exist in the heavens and on the earth. Angels are spirits and they can live and exist in the heavens and on earth. But man was earthly, of this earth and was limited to this earth and where there is air to breathe.

Man was not created in the very beginning when God created the angels. Man was not created until after Lucifer rebelled against God and was cast out of the third heavens where God has His throne (Ezek. 28:12-20; Isa. 14:12-20; Luke 10:18).

What we need to understand is that God is a creator, and creates whatsoever He desires. The Creator is greater than the created. God is greater than the angels, and greater than man, whom He created here on earth. Therefore, over a period of time, God first created angels. Then, later the LORD God created man.

Man was created in the likeness and image of God, but man was not created a spiritual being like the angels. Those who teach that Adam was spiritual, are in error. If Adam was spiritual, man would have been a “celestial” being. If Adam was spiritual then 1 Corinthians 15:46 would be in error, where it says, **“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.”** If Adam was spiritual, he could have lived in the heavens without the need of air to breathe. It is not good to believe and teach that which is not true according to the “inspired Word of God.” written in the Hebrew and Greek. Man was not created a celestial being that could move about throughout the heavens without breathing air.

The image of God that man was created in is, man was created “without sin.” Also, God is love, righteous, long suffering, kind, forgiving, but He will not pervert judgment. Therefore, man was created to walk in love, righteousness, forgiving, but not to pervert judgement. This is the “image” of God that man was created in.

Man was also created in the “likeness” of God, which means, man should do things the same way God does things. Everything God does is accomplished by the Words spoken by God and manifest by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, man was created also to operate by the words spoken by man and manifest by the Holy Spirit. In Genesis 1:3 it says, **“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”** Whatsoever God said, came to pass.

This is the “likeness of God” in which man was also created in. Being created in the likeness of God, whatever man spoke “by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit” came to pass.

When Adam named **“...every living creature, that was the name thereof”** (Gen. 2:19). What Adam named a creature is still the name of that creature today. Cows are still cows, birds are still birds. What Adam called each creature is still what they are called today.

Adam also called “woman,” woman. Women are still called women today. Women are not called men and men are not called women. Whatsoever Adam called them in the beginning they are still called the same today. According to whatsoever Adam said, it was so.

Adam said in Genesis 2:23,24, **“...This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man... Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”** In this, Adam was speaking by the inspiration of God. This we can see by what Jesus said in Matthew 19:4,5. Jesus said **“...he which made them at the beginning made them male and female...said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain**

shall be one flesh?" Adam did not **"make them"** in the beginning. The LORD God **"made them"** male and female in the beginning (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7).

Therefore, the words that Adam spoke came by "the inspiration of the Holy Spirit." This is the "likeness" of God in which man was created. Whatsoever "God says" comes to pass. Whatsoever man says "by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit," comes to pass. For, when man speaks "by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit," it is the Holy Spirit speaking through man.

Satan tries to use men to speak words that he can try to cause to come to pass. Yet, if they are not spoken "by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit," they may not come to pass. Everything that man speaks "by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit" does come to pass. This is how you can know if someone who claims to be a prophet speaks. If it does not come to pass it was not of God, it was man (Deu. 18:22).

Words are spirit. Words control everything that happens upon this earth in the spiritual realm. God's Word is over all other spoken words.

In Genesis 6:3, the LORD God said **"My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh..."** Man was flesh, just as all the other creatures of this earth that are formed of the dust of the ground are flesh. Being that man was flesh (formed of this earth), man was limited to this earth. Therefore, everyone born of Adam was earthly (of this earth) (1 Cor. 15:45-48). Jesus said in John 3:6, **"That which is born of the flesh is flesh..."**

Eve was not "born of the flesh," but was taken out of Adam, therefore Eve was also of this earth. Adam and Eve were "one in the flesh" the day that mankind was created. The same day that Adam was formed in the flesh (of the dust of the earth), Eve was also formed of the flesh of Adam. Adam and Eve were one in the beginning and God has declared they are still "one flesh." All flesh of the natural man is in Adam (1 Cor. 15:22). Everyone born into this world was born in Adam.

Adam was not greater than Eve and Eve was not greater than Adam. Adam was not more important than Eve, and Eve was not more important than Adam. Adam was created first. Therefore, Adam was the beginning of all mankind.

Look what it says in Genesis 2:18, **"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."** When the LORD God said, **"...I will make..."**, this indicates that the LORD God already knew there was not an help meet for man. But, first the LORD had Adam name all the beasts of the field and the fowl of the air. It says, **"And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof...And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him"** (Gen. 2:19,20).

In Genesis 1:27 it says, **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."** Then it says in Genesis 1:28, **"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."** Eve was taken out of Adam to be his help meet **"in replenishing the earth."**

In Genesis 1:28, it said, **"God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..."** God was talking to both Adam and Eve. Adam could not

replenish the earth by himself. Adam needed “an help meet to replenish the earth.” When Adam completed naming all **“the beast of the field and fowl of the air,”** there was not an help meet for Adam **“to replenish the earth.”**

In all of this, the LORD God was preparing the way for a new creation of mankind “in Christ.” Man was formed of the dust of the earth. By this, Adam and Eve were natural people, earthly, of this earth (1 Cor. 15:45-49).

Both Adam and Eve were created **“in the image of God”** (Gen. 1:27). Therefore **“Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living”** (Gen. 3:20). Eve was the mother of all living human beings who are born “in the flesh.” By this, when the fulness of time had come (nearly four thousand years later), Jesus came into this world **“born of a woman and the Holy Spirit.”** Jesus received an earthly body of flesh and bones through Mary, **“a woman”** who was **“the woman”** that God used to bring **“the seed of the woman”** into this world to destroy the works of the Devil. It was spoken in Genesis 3:15, **“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”** Jesus was **“the seed of the woman.”**

Satan’s hatred against women began to show in Genesis 3:16, where it says, **“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”** Notice, men did not rule over women until after sin and death entered into the human race.

Why has the Devil tried to get men to raise themselves up as being greater than women, and having control over women? Satan hates the truth that a woman brought Jesus into this world. By Jesus coming into this world through a woman, as a Man in the flesh, Jesus destroyed the works of the Devil.

Sin had entered into mankind. Therefore, the law of sin and death came into effect. Under **“the law of sin and death,”** Satan has come against women, and has given men rule over women. This is not of God. It is of Satan, who is **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4). This is a part of **“the curse of the law”** that came upon mankind because of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is the curse that Jesus took upon Himself, and set us free of **“the curse of the law”** (Gal. 3:13). Now that we are free of the law of sin and death, men should no longer claim to be better than women or have authority and power over women.

Have you noticed that the serpent “deceived Eve” and she ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Then Eve gave to Adam and He did eat also (Gen. 3:1-6). By this, sin and death entered into the human race.

Satan deceived the woman, therefore, God “deceived the Devil.” For had the Devil known, he would not have had the LORD crucified (1 Cor. 2:8). When the spirits of this world crucified the LORD of Glory, Jesus defeated sin and death for those who believe and are in Christ. Everyone reaps what they sow, even the Devil (Gal. 6:7).

Satan used a serpent to deceive the woman (Gen. 3:1-5). God used a woman to deceive the Devil. By bringing Jesus into this world through a woman, Jesus, as a Man, defeated the Devil.

In Luke 1:34,35 it speaks of Jesus coming into this world by a woman. Mary was a virgin, and became the mother of Jesus. It says, **“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?...And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy**

thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” This is very important to understand. It is the bases of the beginning of a “new creation of heavenly beings” (God and man joined together, “in Christ”).

Being that man was already created “a living soul,” with a body of flesh and bones, and a spirit within him, Jesus came into this world **“born of a woman and the Holy Spirit.”** Jesus was God with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning. Jesus became “Man” in the flesh to redeem man from sin and death, that man could become “born again of the Word and the Holy Spirit.”

Note: Satan did not steal man’s dominion. If Satan had stolen man’s dominion then there would not have been any need for the LORD to redeem us from sin. You do not need to redeem back something that was stolen. But, that which was willfully given away, needs to be redeemed back. Satan did not steal man’s dominion.

In Romans 6:16, it says, **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”** Adam willfully submitted mankind to Satan, and Satan became as a slave master over mankind.

When people become born again, they still remain man, but they are translated from the flesh of Adam to the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9, speaking of those who are in Christ, 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.”**

Being born again in Christ makes us “a new creature,” born of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, “into Christ.” Before a person is born again, they are still in Adam. After they are born again they are in Christ. In Christ they have spiritual life (zoe, in the Greek), whereas in Adam they only had soul life (psuche, in the Greek).

This new “spiritual life” (zoe, in the Greek), makes us a new creation in Christ. Being in Christ, we have the very life of God in us. We are one Spirit with the LORD (1 Cor. 6:17). We are “a new creation” of spiritual beings that had not existed (in earthly time) in God’s Creation until after Jesus became “Christ, the Head of the Body of Christ.” In eternity it was already done before Adam was created.

Adam was first created, and then Jesus came into this world, as the Son of Man, died and arose again as “Christ,” the Head of “a new creation of spiritual beings,” born of the Word and the Spirit.

Being that we are no longer in Adam, but we are in Christ, we are a new creation of heavenly beings that never existed until after Christ arose again from the dead (according to earthly time). We are true children of God. God is in us and we are in God. God is our true Father and we are His true children. We are born into the Body of Christ, and are true children of God. We could say, we were adopted by God, being that we did exist in the flesh of man before we were born again in the Spirit of Christ.

In comparison to the children of Israel, they were chosen by God, that God would be their God. God treated them as children of God. But they were not born again into the Body of Christ by a new birth. For the children of Israel to become “new creatures” in Christ, they must also become born again of the Word and the Spirit. There is only one Body of Christ and all who are new creatures in Christ are born again into the Body of Christ.

Gentiles and Jews alike can become born again into the body of Christ when they truly believe upon Jesus as their LORD and Savior. It is the believing and receiving of Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior that brings about a new birth. Many believed upon Jesus while He was still walking among them before He died on the Cross. Yet, in earthly time, they did not become born again until after Jesus became “the firstborn from the dead” (John 20:22).

Therefore, Jesus spoke of the Jews and the Gentiles becoming one body “in Christ” in John 10:16, saying, **“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”**

The children of Israel were the seed of Abraham (after the flesh; **“as the sand of the earth”**), before anyone was born again into the body of Christ. Those who are born again into the body of Christ are the seed of Abraham according to **“the stars of heaven”** There is a difference between being the seed of Abraham through Isaac, and Jacob, and being the seed of Abraham “in Christ” (Gen. 17:7; Gal. 3:16).

Before God created the angels in heaven, there were no other creatures in heaven. Following the creation of angels in heaven, the LORD God then created man on earth. Then through the new birth “in Christ,” God now has “children of God and sons of God” in heaven also. The difference between “children of God in heaven” and “sons of God in heaven,” is that **“the sons of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God”** (Rom. 8:14).

Not all children of God are “sons of God.” To become “a child of God” one must be born again of the Word and the Spirit. To become “a son of God” one must mature and be led by the Spirit of God. Those who have not matured are still children of God but not sons of God.

There can be many in heaven that are only children of God and not sons of God. They are born again into the body of Christ, but they never matured into sons of God. This is where Satan has deceived many who are truly born again. Satan has blinded their minds, and kept them from maturing in the LORD.

To mature and become a son of God, one must deny themselves and do only the will of God the Father. Jesus said in John 5:30, **“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.”** To become “a son of God,” we must become like Jesus. In Mark 8:34, it says, **“And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”** Many Christians have never denied themselves, therefore they never matured to become “sons of God.”

To become mature in Christ and become “a son of God,” one must first be filled with the Holy Spirit by receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 1:4,5,8; 2:4. It takes this anointing and power of the Holy Spirit within us be led by the Holy Spirit.

To be led by the Holy Spirit we cannot do our own will of the flesh. The desires of the flesh must be brought into subjection to give place for the Holy Spirit to have control. The flesh and the spirit are contrary to each other (Gal. 5:16,17, 6:7,8).

Those few, who deny themselves and are led by the Holy Spirit are “the sons of God.” The sons of God will reign with Christ for all eternity (Rev. 22:5). O, how important it is to deny ourselves and become sons of God for all eternity. We cannot wait until we get to heaven to deny ourselves. We must deny ourselves here on earth, and be led by the Holy Spirit here on earth. Then we will reign with Christ in eternity, which is forever and ever.

The sons of God (being they have the very life of God in them), are above the angels in heaven. The angels in heaven are faithful. They have denied themselves to serve God. But, they are not born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to become true children of God. They do not have the very life of God in them.

It is the very life of God the Father, that is in the Son that must be in “the sons of God.” This can only come by being born again of the Word and the Spirit. Therefore, only human beings, who were at one time in Adam, and then became born again can become “true sons of God.”

Are you a son of God, or only a child of God? Have you denied yourself? Have you given the Holy Spirit complete control in your life? If you have not, it would be good to do it now, before it is too late. It is great to be “a child of God” and go to heaven. But, it is better to become “a son of God” and reign with Christ for all eternity.

Eternity is a long time to spend in the wrong place. Eternity is also a long time to spend not being a son of God and led by the Spirit of God.

Jesus came into this world with both “spiritual life (zoe)” and “soul life (psuche)” (John 10:10,11). Christians also have both “spiritual life” and “soul life.” Those who are not born again have only soul life.

The soul life of man became corrupted by sin when Adam sinned in the garden of Eden. This corruption was overcome by Jesus when He paid the price with His own life of the flesh, “which was in the Blood,” for our redemption on the Cross of Calvary. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, God **“...hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”** Even though, God did this for all mankind, only those who are born again will benefit from what God did for them in Christ.

Our total redemption is not as yet complete (Eph. 1:14). Do not be deceived by those who teach eternal security. This is important to understand, for there are many in the Churches today, just like those in the Church of the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:14-22. They have used their faith to obtain worldly things. Jesus said, **“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”** (Rev. 3:15-17). What will happen to those whom Jesus will spue out of His mouth? Do they have eternal security?

What about those spoken of in the Church of Sardis? Jesus said, **“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy...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”** (Rev. 3:4,5). What about all the others in the Church of Sardis? Just because they are born again, that does not give them eternal security. As we read Revelation, Chapters Two and Three, it sure looks like Christians must overcome in this life.

We must stay with the written Word, and not be deceived by the teachings of men. Christians still have sin in the flesh, but not in the Spirit (Rom. 7:20). We must walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh to be free of sin in the flesh Romans 8:1,2 says, **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin**

and death.” It is only by walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh that we are free of the law of sin and death, which came upon mankind in the Garden of Eden.

The “new creature in Christ” is man in the Spirit of Christ, not in the flesh of Adam. Therefore, the Apostle Paul wrote about the inward man of the spirit and the outward man of the flesh (Rom. 7:22; 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 3:16). To overcome sin in the flesh we are to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

We must understand that we cannot (of our own ability), overcome sin. But, by being led by the Holy Spirit, sin will be overcome in our lives. The Apostle John wrote that, we must walk in the light to overcome sin in the flesh (1 John 1:5-10). To walk in the light we must walk in love. When we walk in love, sin is overcome by the blood of Jesus. When we walk in love (led by the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God), God will manifest the righteousness of God in us.

We are still in this world. Therefore, it is important that we walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. There are many places in the New Testament that we are told to walk after the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Galatians 5:16,17 says, **“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”** Galatians 5:25 says, **“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”**

Then Galatians 6:7,8 says, **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap...For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”** We need to be aware of what God is telling us in Galatians 6:8. Reaping corruption is the opposite of reaping life everlasting. If we want to reap life everlasting we must not sow to the flesh. Whatsoever we do, if we are not led by the Holy Spirit, we are walking after the flesh.

We have two lives, soul life and spirit life. We must decide which one we will live by. We cannot stop our mind of the flesh from operating therefore we must do what it tells us in Romans 12:1,2, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service...And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** God has a perfect will for everyone, especially born again Christians.

We need to follow the example of Jesus. Jesus said in John 5:30, **“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.”** We must do the same as Jesus did. We must not do our will of the flesh, but do only the will of God.

As Jesus said, **“I can of mine own self do nothing...”** We must follow Jesus’ example and do nothing of our own selves. We must be led by the Holy Spirit in everything we do. To be led by the Holy Spirit, we must do as Jesus told us to do. In John 15:5, Jesus said, **“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.”** When Christians try to do the will of God by their own ability they will fail.

There is a great miss-understanding among Christians concerning the New Covenant and the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant was made with those who were still in the flesh of Adam. They were not born again of the Spirit. They were natural men, walking according to the flesh. The Law

of Moses was only a schoolmaster (Gal. 3:24-26). The Law of Moses was to teach those who were still walking in the flesh how to live so that God could deliver them from the works of Satan when they called upon Him. If they did not walk according to the Law of Moses, Satan had an advantage over them. If they walked according to the Law of Moses, they could call upon the LORD and He would save them and deliver them from the works of Satan.

There is a major difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. There is also a major difference between a Christian and someone who is a Jew or an Israelite and is not born again into the body of Christ.

In the Old Testament there were many great prophets. Yet, Jesus said in Luke 7:28, **“I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”** Moses was a great prophet, yet Jesus said **“there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist.”** Christians can get into error when they compare themselves to the Old Covenant prophets. Or even claim to be a prophet after the similitude of the Old Covenant prophets.

The Old Testament prophets had the Holy Spirit, but not in the way Christians should have the Holy Spirit. Until Jesus arose again from the dead, no one could receive the Holy Spirit in the same manner as what is for Christians. In John 7:39 it says, **“(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 same Holy Spirit did manifest in the Old Covenant by seven of the nine gifts of the Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Yet, the Holy Spirit did not dwell in those of the Old Covenant as He does in those who are born again into the Body of Christ.

Christians need to know and understand the importance of receiving the “anointing of the Holy Spirit” as their Helper, Guide, Comforter, Leader, and Teacher in every area of their lives. God wants to manifest His power and glory through those who are His own by the new birth, into the body of Christ.

Christians have power over all the works of the Devil. That power was not given to those of the Old Covenant. The power that Christians have over the works of the Devil are to destroy the works of the Devil.

In the Old Covenant the Children of Israel did not destroy the works of the Devil. Instead of destroying the works of the Devil, they killed the people whom the Devil used to come against them. In the New Covenant, we are not to destroy men’s lives, but destroy the works of the Devil that operates through men.

God loves all people, and does not desire that any should be controlled by the works of the Devil. Not in the Churches, and not even in the world. God wants to work through Christians to reconcile the world back unto God. In 2 Corinthians 5:19,20 it says, **“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation...Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”**

When Jesus walked upon this earth, teaching and setting an example of “Man and God, walking together as one,” He could not teach on “how to be led by the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, Jesus said to His disciples in John 16:12-15, **“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now...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."

Only the Holy Spirit can teach us spiritual things. In 1 Corinthians 2:11-14 it says, **"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God...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...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 Christians who believe they are doing the will of God and spend a lot of time teaching from the Old Testament could still be walking after the flesh and not know it. The natural man cannot be led by the Holy Spirit. The natural man does not understand spiritual things. Spiritual things must be spiritually discerned by the Holy Spirit within us. To walk after the Spirit we must be led by the Holy Spirit.

Christians are born again of the Word and the Holy Spirit, so that God can dwell in us to help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us all things. God is love (1 John 3:8). God will not force anyone to do anything. We must be willing to permit God to work in us and through us to do His will.

Christians have been given exceeding great and precious promises from God. If we submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives, just as Jesus submitted Himself to do only the will of God the Father, we can become "sons of God," and reign with Christ forever and ever in eternity. But, if we still walk after the flesh, and sow to the flesh, we will reap corruption.

Christians who are not led by the Holy Spirit are still walking according to the flesh. When Christians walk after the flesh, they cannot please God (Rom. 8:5-8). When Christians walk after the flesh, the lusts of the flesh do manifest. The lusts of the flesh are the manifestations of Satan in the lives of those who walk after the flesh. Therefore, Galatians 5:16,17 tells us, **"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."**

To do the will of God, Christians must walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. To walk after the Spirit we must be led by the Spirit. When we are led by the Spirit, we will be doing the will of God.

We must see things from God's point of view. We must receive revelation knowledge from the Holy Spirit to know and understand spiritual things. Everything in all of creation began in the spiritual realm. If we do not have revelation knowledge of the spiritual realm, we will not be able to walk with God and do the will of God.

Jesus was in the spiritual realm from the beginning. He was with the Father and the Holy Spirit before anything else was created. Man was first created in the natural realm, a living soul, with a body of flesh and bones, and a spirit given to man by God.

Man, of himself, does not have power over spiritual things. Spiritual things have power over man. Therefore, even when Jesus came into this world as the Son of Man, born of a woman, He did

not have power over the works of the Devil. As an example, to protect Jesus, Joseph needed to take Jesus and Mary, His mother, to Egypt until King Herod died (Matt. 2:13).

Jesus was the Son of God in the Spirit and Man in the flesh, yet He was not able of Himself to protect Himself from the works of the Devil.

As Jesus grew up and matured in the Word and by the things He suffered, He was not able to destroy the works of the Devil by His own power. Therefore, when Jesus was about thirty years old, **“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”** (Acts 10:30). Jesus became “Anointed” when the Holy Spirit came upon Him and dwelt in Him following His baptism in water by John the Baptist.

Mankind can do nothing to overcome sin and the works of the Devil without Jesus. Jesus is **“the Word of God,”** which manifests in the flesh (John 1:1,2,14; 1 John 1:1). Without Jesus, we can do nothing (John 15:3-6).

Born again Christians can do nothing to overcome sin and the work of the Devil in their lives and the lives of others without the anointing of the Holy Spirit (which we receive when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues). Jesus commanded His disciples to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4,5,8). Jesus knew, His disciples (followers) had no power over the works of the Devil without the baptism in the Holy Spirit (which is the anointing to destroy the works of the Devil).

The Devil is a liar, and he has lied to many Christians, telling them they do not need the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We cannot believe the lies of the Devil and do the will of God at the same time. We must believe the Word of God and first receive Jesus Christ as our LORD and Savior. Then we must also receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is the anointing to destroy the works of the Devil in our lives as well as in the lives of others.

God is a personal GOD. God desires to dwell in each individual person Himself. God wants to be in control of everything we do in this life and in eternity to come. God is for us, not against us.

Just as God was in Jesus, reconciling the world unto Himself, He wants to be in every individual person who will receive Jesus as their LORD and Savior. Because that God is Love and does not force anyone to do anything, each person individually must receive the LORD themselves.

The Bible says, **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...”** Do what the Bible says. “Believe in your heart” and pray:

"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."

From this day forward, study the Bible daily, and become a doer of the Word of God, not just

a hearer only.

In Mark 16:16,17, Jesus said, **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned...And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues...”** If you have not been baptized with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, pray a prayer while believing in your heart on what God has promised you in His Word.

"LORD Jesus, You said in Mark 16:17, that in Your name I can cast out devils.

Satan, in the name of Jesus' I cast you out of my mind. You have no authority over my mind. My mind is clear of all demonic oppression in Jesus' name.

Father, according to Your Word in Luke 11:13, You promised me the Holy Spirit if I ask. Father, I am now asking You to give me the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in Your heavenly language. I receive Him from You now, in Jesus' name."

Continue to pray in the Spirit every day. Place God first in your life and live for God every day.

To do the will of God in our lives, we must do it according to the Scriptures, and not let the Devil tell us there is another way. There is only one way to do the will of God, and that way is written in the Scriptures, and witnessed by the Holy Spirit within us.

Jesus is **“the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”** The only way to obtain that which God had planned for us for all eternity, it to become born again “in Christ,” Who is **“the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”** There is no other way to obtain that which God has planned for man from the beginning, except that we become a doer of the Word of God as it is revealed to us in the New Testament.

While we are here on earth, we must learn the ways of God. We must learn to walk with God. God is love, therefore, we must walk in love. Christians who do not know God by His love, do not truly know God, they only know about Him. This is sad, because there are so many people calling themselves Christians, without knowing God by His love.

Baby Christians know about God, but mature Christians should know God by His love. It is the love of God that causes a person to know Him and experience the fulness of His love in their lives.

Mature Christians should understand spiritual things, but baby Christians are still being controlled by the god of this world, not knowing the power of God that comes by His love.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, saying, **“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ...I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able...For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”** Those who are mature in the LORD do not walk in envy, strife, or divisions. There is only one body of Christ, and all who are in Christ are a part of that one body.

In the book of James it tells us, **“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth...This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish...For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work”** (James 3:14-16).

When we know God by His love, we can be free of all the works of the Devil. I was born in

a family that belonged to a church. I attended Bible teachings from the age of six until about fourteen. I had knowledge of the Bible, and thought I knew God.

At the age of sixteen, I knew there was something more than what I was taught. I determined in my mind to study my Bible to find the answers I needed to know. I became involved in Church work, working with Pastors, teaching Sunday School, working on Church councils, etc. This I continued until I was in my forties.

At the age of forty-five I was struggling with issues in my life which I could not control. I cried out to the LORD and asked Him to take over my life. I could no longer live the way I lived. Religion is not the answer to the problems we face in this life. It takes the love of God to set us free.

That night when I prayed and asked the LORD to take over my life, a whole new way of living entered into my soul. My thinking changed. My outlook on life changed. I was a new creature in Christ. When I surrendered my will to the LORD and let Him have control, my whole life changed.

This was the beginning of a new life in Christ. But, it was only the beginning, I had a long way to go. At first, I needed to understand what happened that I could no longer think the way I use to think. The desires of my heart had changed.

Three days later, I had an experience with God that helped me to understand what happened. I was sitting in my living room, when all of a sudden I saw myself standing in the sky on a big white fluffy cloud, looking down toward the earth, and seeing all that I had gained in my life, my houses, business, and everything I had.

Then a bright light shined down on me and a voice spoke to me, saying, *“All of this will pass away, the only thing that will matter is your relationship to Me!”* This was the beginning of my understanding of the love of God. How He changed my life so I could live for Him. Until we permit God to change our lives by His love working in us, we will never know the true love that God has for us.

Over the years I have had many experiences with God, in many ways. I have heard the audible voice of God, and I have heard the audible voice of the Devil. I have had angels appear to me. I have experienced the love of God, and His power to heal my body many, many times without Doctors or medication. I have seen others receive healing as I prayed for them many times.

God has taught me many things, spiritual and natural things. Things I did not learn on my own. They came to me supernaturally. There is nothing too hard for God, for with God all things are possible.

Until we know God by His love, we do not truly know God, we only know about God. Christians, “even many spirit-filled Christians” do not truly know God by His love. Many who say they are called of God to the ministry are still walking in envy, strife, and divisions. If they truly knew God by His love there would be no envy, strife, or divisions among them, for these are all works of the Devil.

Satan will still have a place in our lives until the love of God within us drives out all envy, strife, and divisions among us. We cannot truly serve God while there is envy, strife, and divisions among us.

Let us get to know God by His love. When we truly know God by His love, then we will experience God in our lives, in everything we do. In 1 John 4:8 it says, **“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love (agape).”** Every born again Christian has the love of God in

them. They received it when they became born again of the Word and the Spirit (1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5).

To help identify this love of God we see a description of it in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. In the New King James Version it says, **“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up...does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil...does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”**

This is the way God’s love manifests in God and in Christians who are walking in love. When these attributes are not manifesting in the lives of Christians, there is a condition whereby God is not involved.

Whatsoever is not of God has its source in the Devil. Demons work for the Devil in inflecting all kinds of operations in people. They work through the minds of people and they inflect the physical bodies of people with deformities, sickness, and disease.

The love of God will drive these demons out of our flesh and out of our minds. We must know God by His love that we can receive from God deliverance from every work of the Devil.

The better we know the Scriptures the more successful we will be at activating the love of God in our lives, and setting ourselves and others free of the works of the Devil.

Being that God is love, everything God does for mankind is connected with His love. Begging God to do something will not accomplish very much. But, knowing God and His love for mankind will help us receive deliverance from all the works of the Devil.

We have been given many great and precious promises from God (2 Peter 1:4). Every promise that God has given us is based upon His love for us. We must receive these great and precious promises by the love of God that abides in us.

Faith is one of the avenues which we can use to receive from God whatsoever we have need of. Faith works by love (agape) (Gal. 5:6). Without faith, love does not work. These two work together, the love of God and our faith which God has given us. Faith is also a fruit of the Spirit which is given to us when we are born again (Gal. 5:22,23).

I had a woman come to me one day with pain in her leg. She said she had a stiff leg for about four years and at that time she also had pain in that leg. After spending time with her in the Word, I had her watch while the LORD adjusted the legs on another person. Then I told her, *“Just as easily as it was for the LORD to adjust this other person’s legs, He will also heal her leg.”*

Then I prayed for her, thanking the LORD for His love for her. How He loved her so much, and would manifest His healing power in her leg. Then I used the name of Jesus to command healing in her leg. I told her, from that moment on, whenever she felt pain or noticed stiffness in her leg to say, *“By Jesus’ stripes she is healed.”*

She walked out of the door saying, *“By Jesus’ stripes I am healed.”* The next morning, she called my house and left a message on my answering machine. She did not have any pain or stiffness in her leg. About a month later, she called to see if I was going to be home that day. When I told her I would be home, she came over to tell me she did not have any pain or stiffness since the night I had prayed for her.

God is love, and God works by His love. Everything God did for mankind, He did it because God is love. His love for mankind is so great that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take away the sins of the world (John 3:16,17). Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil (1 John 3:8).

When we walk in the love of God, Satan has no place in our lives. When the love of God manifests in our lives the Devil has no power over us.

Satan is a liar. There is no truth in him (John 8:44). He is a deceiver, and has deceived many into thinking he has man's dominion here on earth. That is a lie of the Devil, and many believe his lies. Satan could not get man's dominion, because man's dominion only operates when man walks in the likeness and image of God, operating in God's love. Satan cannot walk in the likeness and image of God, and Satan has no love in him.

Man has dominion over all that God created upon this earth, but that dominion only works when man walks in love. Dominion and the likeness and image of God is a package deal (Gen. 1:26). You cannot have one without the other. Satan uses force and deception, whereby God works by love.

Many Christians suffer today because the love of God in them has grown cold (Matt. 24:12). Many have left their first love of the Father (Rev. 2:4). Some have gone into envy, strife, and there are divisions among them (James 3:14-16). These things, along with many others prevent the love of God from operating in the lives of Christians.

The whole Bible, from Genesis through Revelation shows us the love of God and how it can set us free of all the works of the Devil. God is waiting for Christians to walk in His love so He can set them free of all the works of the Devil.

We do not need religion in our lives, we need to know the love of God. To truly know the love of God in our lives we must experience God working in us and through us by His love. When we give ourselves wholly over to God in everything we do, He can reveal His love to us. God is looking for those who will give Him freedom to work in their lives in everything they do.

The Holy Spirit is God with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is love, and He teaches us in love, to know the love of God that abides in us. By His love, we know God. When we truly know God, we can walk in love and experience the love of God working in our lives the same way the love of God worked in the life of Jesus.

God is love. God does not look at people the way religious people look at people. God's love is unconditional. God did not send Jesus into this world to destroy lives, but to save them (Luke 9:56).

As an example, when Jesus went through Samaria in John 4:4-24 He stopped at a well and said to a woman of Samaria, **"If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water"** (John 4:10).

The religious people of the Jewish nation did not want anything to do with the Samaritans. Besides all of that, this woman had five husbands in the past and the man she was living with at the time was not her husband.

God loves those whom He created in His own likeness and image. Just because Satan had filled their minds with his knowledge of good and evil and had gotten them to live in sin, God did not forget them.

God knows everyone. God is Love, and wants to set people free of the works of the Devil. That woman at the well in Samaria was given the opportunity to drink of "the living water" that Jesus offered to her that day.

God has never stopped loving man. From Genesis through Revelation, the Word of God declares, whosoever will, let him come and receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance into the

family of God.

God is for saving mankind from the works of the Devil. God sent Jesus into this world to destroy the works of the Devil, that people could be saved.

In Acts 2:21 it says, “**...it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**” In Revelation 22:17, it says, “**And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**”

God is love, and God wants everyone to receive His love and live forever with Him in eternity. No matter what someone has done in the past, God’s love is here to deliver and protect them from all the works of the Devil.

It was because of the love of God that He created man in His own likeness and image in the beginning. God is love. God loves man whom He created in His own likeness and image. When we receive the love of God and walk in it, the power of God manifests in our lives and Satan has no power over us.

The religious spirits today still want to condemn and destroy those whom they say sinned. God is love, and “**Love suffers long and is kind...**,” while waiting for sinners to repent and receive forgiveness of sins. There is not one person alive today who has not sinned against God.

God “**is kind,**” even to those who come against Him. For everyone who repents, God forgives them and cleanses them from all sin. In 1 John 1:9 it says, “**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**” What God does for us, Christians should also do for others.

I have seen God heal people whom I knew they were living in sin. If God can forgive those who have sinned, why cannot Christians also forgive those who have sinned? God desires for His Children to walk in the likeness and image of His Son, Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15:49 it says, “**And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**” We are to bear the image of Jesus Christ, in whom we live and have our being after we are born again into the family of God.

When Christians walk in love as God is love, we can draw many to the LORD, and see God manifest in their lives also. God wants to manifest Himself in the lives of everyone who will receive Him. It is by His love that He does manifest in the lives of those who love Him.

Even Christians will not truly know God, until they know Him by His love. Our natural mind cannot understand God and His love. Some people like to imagine things in their minds. Their imagination gets them to think things that could seem to be out of this world, so to say. Try this, just try to imagine a God who created all things, including mankind in His own likeness and image (Gen. 1:26-28). He formed man’s physical body of the dust of the ground, and then said that man should reproduce after his own likeness and image (thereby, multiplying mankind into unnumberable, countless individuals). This is awesome, almost unimaginable in our minds.

Now that goes beyond our imagination. But did you ever consider in your imagination that this same LORD God, who created mankind in His own likeness and image would then become man Himself (born of a woman and the Holy Spirit)?

God loved mankind so much that He became man by being born into this world in the likeness of man, whom He created in the beginning. As the Son of Man, the LORD God took upon Himself all our sins, iniquities, infirmities, sicknesses, and diseases and defeated the Devil for us.

Jesus Christ, who became man in the flesh did this for us, because of His love for those whom He created in His own likeness and image.

As the Son of Man, after taking all our sins, iniquities, and infirmities upon Himself, He died for us. He defeated the Devil and took from him the keys of hell and death. Then He arose again from the dead to give to us eternal life in Him.

God's love goes beyond our imagination. When the Scriptures talk about God's love, it reveals the true love of God. It says in 1 John 4:19, **"We love him, because he first loved us."** God loves mankind so much that He came down from heaven to live with us, in our spirit.

When we truly love someone, we want to be with them, wherever they are. That is the way it is with true love. God loves us so much He wants to be with us wherever we are. God never wants to leave us. God wants to be with us forever.

Jesus, who is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit said to His disciples just before He was taken up to be with the Father, **"...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"** (Matt. 28:20).

When Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:20-23, He said, **"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."**

Over and over we are told how much God wants to be with us. The Love of God desires to be with those who love God. Jesus said in John 14:15,16, **"If ye love me, keep my commandments...And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."** Therefore, Jesus said the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send to those who love Him will abide with us for ever. That is love at the highest degree. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit never want to leave those who love them.

Even concerning those who love Jesus, He said, **"...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him"** (John 14:23). This is not talking about some time in the future. Jesus was talking about today, Christians everywhere will experience God dwelling in them here on earth. Yes, God will be with us in heaven, but even before we go to be with God in heaven, God comes down here on earth where we are and makes His dwelling place in us.

God loves us, and He wants us to love Him also. Whatsoever God wants us to do, He gives us the ability to do it. Therefore, the love of God is given to us when we become born again of the Word and the Spirit. It is not our love. It is the love of God in us. It is God's ability to love us, that He gives us to enable us to love Him.

Without the love of God abiding in us we cannot love God the way He loves us. How do we know the love of God is in us? We know because we also love God with the same love He first loved us.

Those who love God love His Word, for God and His Word are one (John 1:1). Love is a relationship, which brings fellowship. By the love of God within us we have relationship with God and desire at all times to have fellowship with God. By daily studying the Scriptures, we have

fellowship with God. We love God so much we do not want to stop studying the Scriptures.

In fellowship with the one we love, we want to praise and thank God for all that He has done, and is doing in our lives today. We love to pray to the Father and the Son, knowing how much they love us. We love praying in the Spirit (having communication with the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit dwells in us, therefore, in the spirit we pray and continue our fellowship with God.

It is sad to see Christians who no longer express their love for God. They go about life almost as though God does not exist. They do things the way the world does things. They believe in their own ability to accomplish what they desire for themselves.

What they do not understand is, that is a work of the Devil in their lives. He is taking them in his snare, at his will. They have neglected their time with God in the Word and in prayer, and the Devil has a place in their minds.

Satan is the Devil and he is **“the god of this world”** (1 Cor. 4:4). The Devil does have power over mankind, when people submit to him and obey him. The world is under his authority as a god, controlling everyone who permits him to operate in their lives.

Satan becomes “as a slave master” to those who do not understand his power and authority over them. Satan’s power “as a god” controls everyone who does not resist him, and come against his deception, whereby he takes them captive at his will (2 Tim. 2:25).

We were all under his power at one time in our lives. Ephesians 2:2,3 says, **“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”**

When Christians no longer love God the way God loves them, the Devil starts working in their minds. He takes Christians in his snare, using his devices of placing thoughts in the minds of those who no longer love God as they did when they were first born again into the family of God.

Satan gained control in the lives of people when sin entered into the human race. Jesus came to set us free of Satan’s control over us. To be free, and stay free, we must do what Jesus told us to do. Jesus gave us a commandment of love. There are two commandments in the commandment of love. These are listed in Mark 12:30,31, which says, **“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment...And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”**

When Christians stop obeying these two commandments, they give a place for the Devil to have control in their lives. In Romans 6:16 it says, **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”**

Christians should reconsider their ways when they are not flowing in the love of God. They need to come to the understanding of what happened? How did they let themselves get into a position where the love of God is not manifesting in their lives?

Too often, Christians get caught up in **“... the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things...”** (Mark 4:19). These are the beginnings of the works of the Devil. These things take our attention away from the plan and purpose of God in our lives.

God still loves us, but what happened to the love we had for God? In our first commandment,

Jesus said, **“...thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength...”** If we are still following this first commandment, then we should be walking in the love of God.

Satan uses the teachings of men to get Christians under his control. Many enter into the Churches and claim they have spiritual power and authority to control what other Christians do. They teach from the Bible, things pertaining to the Law of Moses, and claim they are teaching the will of God for His people. These teachings put Christians back under the Law of Moses, which Jesus fulfilled for all those who are in Christ.

The Law of Moses was only a schoolmaster given to the Children of Israel until Jesus came and fulfilled the Law for us (Gal. 3:24). When Jesus took the curse of the law upon Himself, He set us free of the law. The use of the law to control Christians is not of God, it is a work of men, not knowing the love of God for those who are Christians.

For those who have been listening to the teachings of men, they need to repent, turn back to listening to the Holy Spirit, whom God has sent to be our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Leader, and Teacher in all things. The Holy Spirit will bring us back to where we belong.

It was the love of God that sent Jesus into this world to set us free of the bondage of sin and death that came upon mankind in the garden of Eden. In Luke 4:17-19 it says, **“And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written... The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”**

When Jesus was teaching on the kingdom of God, in John 8:31,32, it says, **“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, 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.”** Jesus knew the Jews were not free. They were under bondage, trying to live by the Law of Moses rather than understanding the love of God.

It was the love of God that sent Jesus into this world. And Jesus read from the book of Isaiah, why He came. Christians should know that Jesus did what the Father sent Him to do. Christians should be free of all the doctrines and teachings of men that put them back into bondage to the law. In John 8:31,32, Jesus also revealed to Christians how to be free and stay free. It is the love of God that will set us free and keep us free of all the works of the Devil.

Already at the time of the Apostles, and the writing of the Scriptures of the New Testament, men had entered into the churches, teaching things that should not have been taught. Jude wrote of these things, on how that men “having not the Holy Spirit,” came into the churches and taught things which should not be among Christians.

Christians need to return to the teachings of the Holy Spirit, whereby He inspired men to write the New Testament for our understanding. The Love of God is still important in the lives of Christians. We should be careful that we do not let the love of God wax cold as Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24:12. We should not so love the world, that the love of God the Father is no longer in us (1 John 2:15-17). We should not leave our first love as it was mentioned concerning the Church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:4).

Eternity is still ahead of us. Spending eternity in the wrong place is not good for anyone. We

should do as we are told in Colossians 3:2, where it says, **“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”**

It is when Christians start looking at, **“... the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things...,”** that our focus is turned from the love of God to the love of other things.

If Christians find themselves drifting away from the love of God, which has been given to us in the new birth, we should repent and be cleansed from all unrighteousness. In 1 John 1:9 it tells us, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** It is not good to love the world and the things of this world more than we love God. Anything that is not of God is not good for us. God is righteous, and God is love. When we walk in the love of God which He has given us, we will also walk in righteousness.

True righteousness is of God. Righteousness is obtained by believing all that God says concerning His Children. As Children of God, we must be cleansed from all unrighteousness.

In 1 John 1:6,7 it says, **“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.”** As we walk in love and continue in fellowship with the Father and the Son, we are cleansed from all sin by the blood that Jesus shed for us (1 John 1:7).

God is love. God wants to be our God, and be the source of everything we have need of. In Matthew 11:28,29, Jesus said, **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”** Because that God is love and Jesus is the Son of God, He made it all possible for God to dwell in us and be our God. Now, more than ever God wants to be our God.

God wants to supply all our needs. Whatsoever we have need of, He wants to supply it. As we enter into the reign of God in our lives, God will give us peace and joy. For the kingdom of God is the reign of God in our lives. The kingdom of God is **“righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”** (Rom. 14:17). Wherever we go, and whatever we do, God wants us to have “peace and joy.” Jesus said in Matthew 6:10, that we should pray, **“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”** In talking about how things are in heaven, Revelation 21:4 says, **“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”** God loves us so much that He wants things to be done here on earth as they are in heaven.

God is well able to do what He has promised to do. He created all things, and is well able to take care of all who will come to Him and let Him be their God. We need to understand the love that God has for those who receive Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior.

There isn't any love greater than the love that God has for those who will come to Jesus and receive Him as their LORD and Savior. Once we receive Jesus as our LORD we should continue to love Him and serve Him. We should turn away from anything that will draw us away from the love of God that He has poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

The LORD used the Apostle John to give us a great revelation of the will of God the Father. As we study the Scriptures, we will see the importance of Walking in the Light.

Many Christians have not understood what it means to walk in the Light, and how important it is to walk in the Light. Satan has blinded the minds of many Christians by the teachings of men,

and the deceitfulness of the knowledge of good and evil. The knowledge of good and evil brings death. But the Truth of the Word of God brings Life.

If Christians continue to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they could easily go back into the death that Jesus brought them out of by His Blood, which He shed for the sins of all mankind.

The Blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Sin and death came by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Once we have been set free of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we must continue to walk in the Light to stay free.

In 2 Peter 2:15-22 it talks about those who have followed the way of Balaam. Of which 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”** (2 Peter 2:15). The Scriptures do not speak well of Balaam, or those who follow the ways of Balaam. In 2 Peter 2:20, it says, **“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”**

Once we have been cleansed by the Blood and born again into the Body of Christ, we must “walk in the Light” of the Word of God to stay cleansed by the Blood. The Apostle John wrote in Revelation 3:1-6, **“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead...Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God...Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee...Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy...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...He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”**

This is recorded in the Scriptures for our benefit. We must take heed to what was written to the Churches in Revelation, Chapters Two and Three. It is written for our benefit that we do not have our names taken out of the Book of Life.

Christians can have their names taken out of the Book of Life, if they continue to walk in darkness, and do not walk in the Light. The world is still walking in darkness, and the end for those who walk in darkness is eternity in hell.

Once we have been saved from sin and death, and cleansed by the Blood of Jesus Christ, we must walk in the Light and keep ourselves from the works of the devil. We have been washed by the Blood of the Lamb, now it is up to us to keep our garments clean by walking in the Light.

According to what the Apostle John wrote to the Church in Sardis, many Christians could have their names taken out of the Book of Life, and that means they will not inherit eternal life in heaven. That is worse than if they had never been born again. At least they could become born again and have eternal life in heaven, “if they walk in the Light,” after they have been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb.

Jesus paid the price for our redemption from sin and death. But that redemption is not “once

saved, always saved,” as some teach. We were saved from the sin and death that came upon mankind in the beginning, so that we can “walk in the Light” and inherit eternal life in heaven.

We are not saved from sin and death, so that can continue to walk according to the knowledge of good and evil. The knowledge of good and evil will still bring sin and death to those who continue to walk the way the world walks. Once we have been set free, we must learn how to stay free.

God is love and God does not desire that any should perish in hell. By grace, through faith, we have been saved from the sin and death that came upon mankind in the beginning. Through the new birth into the body of Christ, we have been cleansed by the Blood.

Now, we have the written Word of God, the new birth, and the Holy Spirit to help us in very area of our lives. Now we must choose “the Tree of Life,” and maintain our position in the Body of Christ. If Christians go back to eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they go back into sin and death a second time.

God is love and has offered to us the Holy Spirit, to help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us. By the help of the Holy Spirit, we can overcome the works of the devil. We can eat of the Tree of Life and maintain our eternal life which we received “by Grace.”

It is all by Grace through faith, that we have eternal life in Christ Jesus. Grace and Truth will keep us in Christ, “if we walk in the Light, as God is in the Light.” We must not let the Devil deceive us through the teachings of men, who are not walking in the Light.

We must not continue to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We must eat of the Tree of Life. Adam had a choice of the Tree of Life, or the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:9,16,17). Adam chose to obey the voice of the woman, and did eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil also. In Genesis 3:17 it says, **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.”** This is written for our benefit, and our understanding. Through the new birth, we have been delivered from the powers of Satan into the Body of Christ.

In John 1:17 it tells us, **“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”** We are still under Grace and Truth. It is not Grace alone, but Grace and Truth, that we can “walk in the Light,” and obtain all that is promised us in the New Covenant. We must understand the New Covenant, to walk in the Light. We are not under the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant was for those who were not born again, and still living by the knowledge of good and evil. The Old Covenant Law was a schoolmaster to help those who were still in the flesh, to keep them from the works of the devil. The Law could not justify anyone. It could only help them to know God and turn to God when in a time of need. God would deliver them from their enemies when they lived according to the Law.

The knowledge of good and evil operates according to the Law. The knowledge of good and evil justifies some while it condemns others. Many use the knowledge of good and evil, explained in the Law, to justify their actions and deeds, while condemning others.

This cannot be in the Body of Christ. No one can be justified by their actions and deeds. No one can walk in the Light by condemning others and justifying themselves.

Christians must learn to walk in the Light, by walking in love toward one another. To walk in love, we must prefer others before ourselves. We must become servants to others, not looking for

others to serve us. Those who seek positions in the body of Christ, seeking to reap the rewards of the labors of others are still “eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” These are not walking in the Light as God is in the Light.

It all starts with knowing God by His love. God is love (1 John 3:8). We know God by His love.

God the Father is the beginning of all things. Then out from the Father came the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Son of God is the express image of the Father (Heb. 1:3). God is love, therefore the express image of God is love.

The love of God the Father is seen in His Son, Jesus Christ. When we see the Son, we see the Father. When we see the Son we should also see the Body of Christ. The body of Christ should be the express image of the Head of the Body, which is Christ Jesus. This is the way the world should see the body of Christ. When the world sees the Father, the Son, and the Body of Christ, they will desire to become a part of the family of God.

The world is looking for the love of God that should be manifesting in the Body of Christ. It is the evidence of the love of God that will draw the world to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body of Christ.

Oh, how the world needs to see the love of God manifesting in the Body of Christ. The Love of God is the evidence of the new birth, and the maturity of Christians becoming “Sons of God” for all eternity. It is the Sons of God that will inherit eternity with Christ. It is the Sons of God that will reign with Christ in the heavens forever and ever.

The love of God must be the evidence of the Children of God here on earth. Without the love of God manifesting among Christians, how will the world know they are Christians? When Christians live like the world lives, they are only babes in Christ. Babes in Christ are those who walk in envy, strife, and divisions, which is evidence of a work of Satan (1 Cor. 3:3, James 3:16).

God cannot fulfill His promises to His Children if they do not walk in love. The promises of God began with “faith,” and **“faith working through love”** (Gal. 5:6 NKJV). God lives by faith, and therefore, the children of God must also live by faith. Without faith we cannot please God. This is made clear in Hebrew 10:38, where it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”**

If God is not pleased in the way we live, how will He be pleased when it comes to entering into eternity with Him? Our eternal life is dependent upon our fellowship with God. Is God pleased in His Children here on earth? Are we walking in love?

Is there envy, divisions, and strife among those who are Christians? If there is, we need to repent and get our lives right with God. When we are living right with God, the world will know we are Christians. When we are right with God, we will be walking in love one toward another. There should be no envy, strife, our divisions among those who are in Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 15:49 it says, **“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”** Jesus Christ is the express image of God the Father. Christians should be the express image of Jesus Christ.

God is love (1 John 4:8). Jesus is God with the Father, therefore Jesus is Love. Christians are the body of Christ, therefore, Christians must also bear the image of the Father and the Son. Without walking in love no one can please God.

From Here to Eternity

The New Birth in Christ Jesus does not give us “eternal security.” It gives us an opportunity to know the Truth, and serve God according to His plan and purpose.

“Once saved, always saved” is not a true teaching. Many have taught this doctrine, but it did not come from God, it came from men. In the new birth, all our past sins are washed away by the blood of the Lamb. This brings us to a position in Christ where we have a new beginning, a new life in the spirit. To continue on in the spirit with God, we must overcome the works of the Devil in our lives. Those who continue to live as the world lives could lose their salvation (Rev. 3:1-6, 14-22, 22:18,19).

There are many teachings within the body of Christ that are not according to the written Word of God. These are teachings of men, who lead others to follow them. Satan uses men to teach his doctrines, and keep Christians from following the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Many of these are building their own kingdoms, getting others to follow them so they can have in this life what they desire. Even among Spirit-filled Christians, there are many who are following another spirit, doing their own will to obtain for themselves what they desire. This is not good to say the least. Many of these could lose their inheritance in heaven. Anyone caught up in these teachings needs to repent, turn away from seeking their desires of this life, and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. If they will repent, they will be forgiven, and restored to a right position in the body of Christ.

Following our new birth, we must receive the Holy Spirit as our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Leader, and Teacher. Jesus made it clear in John 3:3, when He said, **“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** This is the beginning of our entrance into the family of God. The new birth gives us the ability to understand certain spiritual things, that we can then know God and His plan for our lives. But, the new birth is not all there is to God’s plan for each one individually.

Jesus then explained in John 3:5, **“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”** There is a difference between becoming a child of God and entering into the body of Christ, and doing the will of God in our lives. To do the will of God for our lives, we must **“enter into the kingdom of God,”** which is **“the reign of God,”** in our lives. God must reign in our lives according to His will and plan for us individually. God’s total plan for our lives is eternity, “in Christ,” doing the will of God forever and ever.

To do the will of God, is to put God in control of everything we do. To do this we must permit the fulness of the Godhead to have control in everything we do. This total control is first made possible when we receive the Holy Spirit as our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Leader, and Teacher in every area of our lives. This begins with receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as instructed by Jesus in Acts 1:4,5,8.

In Ephesians 1:10-14 it says, **“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him...In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will...That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ...In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye**

were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

When we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we receive **“...the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...”** (Eph. 1:14). The **“earnest of our inheritance”** is similar to a down payment upon a house. Once a down payment has been accepted on a house, you can move in and take possession of the house. You can live in the house just as though you already own it. But, you still do not completely own the house, and if you do not continue to make the payments on the house, you can lose the house and it will no longer be your house.

Our inheritance in eternal life is dependent upon the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, who have made us a new creation in Christ Jesus. That is, when we were born again into the family of God, we were born of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. 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.”** Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1-4, 14; 1 John 1:1). Jesus also said, **“...that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”** (John 3:6). The Spirit that caused the new birth is the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit confirming the Word of God that causes us to become born again in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead (1 John 5:7). The will of God the Father comes to pass in our lives when the **“Son of God, and the Holy Spirit,”** are completely in control of everything we do. The seal of our inheritance, which is **“the Holy Spirit”** is only until the day of redemption.

In Ephesians 4:30 it says, **“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”** The Holy Spirit will remain with us **“until the day of redemption,”** working in us and through us to do the perfect will of God (Phil. 2:13). Upon the day of redemption, we will be made accountable for the things we did not repent of. Therefore, it is important that we do repent of anything that is not pleasing to God. Judgment comes on the day of redemption. That is the day when the sheep will be separated from the goats. The sheep will enter into eternal life, but the goats will be cast out (Matt.25:31-46). For those who do not repent, they could be cast out with the goats into everlasting punishment.

Why has God given us **“the earnest of the Spirit?”** Mainly, so that we can do the perfect will of God while we are still here on earth. Man, of himself, does not have the ability to do the perfect will of God without the help of the Holy Spirit. If the perfect will of God is to be done in our lives, it must be God working through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Even Jesus, who was the Son of God, and the Son of Man at the same time, could not do any mighty works until after He received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit at about the age of thirty (Luke 3:21-23; 4:1). The first miracle that Jesus did was turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11).

Even though it says that Jesus did this miracle, it was not Jesus only, but the Holy Spirit working in and through Jesus that did the miracle. All manifestations of the Spirit are as the Spirit wills, not as man wills (1 Cor. 12:7-11).

Turning water into wine is a miracle, and all miracles are performed by the Holy Spirit working through people. Jesus, of Himself, could not do any miracles. The only time Jesus could do a miracle was when He permitted the Holy Spirit to work through Him. The Holy Spirit could not

do anything through Jesus, unless Jesus first set His will of the flesh aside, and permitted the Holy Spirit to manifest through Him.

We could examine every great work and every miracle that Jesus did (in light of the Scriptures), and we will find, it was not Jesus, Himself, doing the works without the Holy Spirit. In John 14:10, 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.”** Without the Holy Spirit, Jesus could do nothing. Of Himself, Jesus said, **“I can of mine own self do nothing...”** (John 5:30).

God is the Creator of all things. God can and will do His own good pleasure. Those who will yield themselves over to God and permit God to use them will benefit from what God does in their lives. Those who follow the rebellion of Lucifer (now called Satan, the Devil), and want to do their own will, will not inherit the kingdom of God (reign of God). Those who want the glory for what God does, are also following a wrong spirit.

God has a perfect plan for every individual who will permit God to do His will in their lives. God’s plans for man are eternal, not temporal. God is interested in man spending eternity with Him. To spend eternity with God, we must put God in control of everything we do. When we desire to do our own will, we hinder God from doing His will in our lives. If we hinder God from doing His will in our lives, we permit Satan to his will instead. That should not be that way in the life of a Christian.

Christians will never understand how God works in and through people until they understand God. They will not understand how God can use people whom they know still have sin in their lives, until they understand God. All Christians living on this earth still have sin in the flesh (Rom. 7:17-21). How can anyone do the will of God if they do not understand God?

First, we need to understand that God is omnipotent (all powerful), and omnipresent (present in all places at all times). God is the Creator, and all of creation is in His control, according to His will. God does things, knowing the end from the beginning. Therefore, God never makes a mistake in what He does.

When God reveals certain things, many times He does it from His point of view (considering the end from the beginning). God is always in the now, for there is no time in eternity. Therefore, many times, God speaks things that are not at this time as though they were already done.

We can only know the things of God, by the ability that God gives us to know Him. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, not naturally discerned. The natural man cannot know the things of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:9-14).

When God gives born again Christians **“the earnest of the Spirit,”** it is mainly so that Christians can do the same works that Jesus did before He died and arose again from the dead. We receive **“the earnest of the Spirit,”** when we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

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.”** God the Father had promised the Holy Spirit to those who follow Jesus. In John 14:15-17, Jesus said, **“If ye love me, keep my commandments...And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever...Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”**

After Jesus arose again from the dead, He appeared to many of His followers over a period of forty-days. Just before Jesus was taken up to be with the Father, it says in Acts 1:4,5,8, **“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me...For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence...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.”**

This Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the same anointing that Jesus received when He was baptized in the Holy Spirit following His baptism in water by John the Baptist. The anointing is so that Christians can be witnesses unto Jesus, doing the same works that Jesus did. Without the anointing Jesus could not do any mighty works. It was after that Jesus received the anointing of the Holy Spirit that He went about, “healing the sick, casting out devils, raising the dead, and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.”

Now that Jesus has gone to be with the Father, He sent to Holy Spirit to do the same works He did through those who believe. In Mark 16:16-18 Jesus said, **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned...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.”**

Jesus said in John 17:14-18, **“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.”**

Those who keep Jesus’ commandments, will receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is the anointing to do the same works that Jesus did. God the Father is greater than the Son. Jesus said in John 14:28, **“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”** Jesus is the Son of God (the second person in the Godhead). Therefore, the Father sent His Son into the world to destroy the works of the Devil. It says in 1 John 3:8, **“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”** Then when Jesus was about thirty years old, **“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”** (Acts 10:38).

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead. Now, that Jesus has gone to be with the Father, God is anointing the **“sons of God”** with the Holy Spirit to do the same works that Jesus did. The **“sons of God”** are those who **“are led by the Spirit of God”** (Rom. 8:14). To be led by the Spirit of God, one must be filled with the Holy Spirit (baptized in the Holy Spirit, which is the anointing of God that destroys the works of the Devil).

All of this will continue until the day of redemption. The day of redemption is the day that we receive our complete redemption from the works of the Devil. Following the day of redemption, Satan will have no power over us. We will be completely free of any works of the Devil. On the day

of redemption, we will appear before the LORD. Everyone will be judged according to what is written in the books (Rev. 20:11-15).

Between now and the day of redemption, those who are born again into the body of Christ have “the ability” to know the truth and walk in the truth. God is in them (in their spirit), working within them to do His good pleasure. In Philippians. 2:13 it says **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”**

God is love, and God never forces anyone to do anything. Each one individually must desire to do the will of God before God can manifest His will in their lives.

Being born again, we are responsible to do in our lives whatsoever we are commanded, according to the written Word and the witness of the Holy Spirit within us. To the degree of what we do or do not do, we will be accountable on the day of redemption. In James 4:17 it says, **“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”**

God is a personal God. God wants to be GOD in our lives. God has all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of all things. God knows what is best for us in every area of our lives. When we make God our GOD, and we do not have any other God, then God can do His good pleasure in our lives.

As an example of God’s love for those who make Him their God we can look at what it is like in heaven. In Revelation 21:4,5 it says, **“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away...And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”** In heaven where God is GOD, there will be no more **“tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain.”** All things will be new.

God works with each person individually (from their spirit). God makes known to each individual, His will for their lives. Those who ignore what God is revealing to them from their spirit will still be held accountable for what God revealed to them. Therefore, no one can blame anyone else for their situations in their lives where they did not do the will of God. Right from the beginning, Adam could not blame Eve for what he did. Eve could not blame the serpent for what she did (Gen. 3:12,13).

Romans 1:18-20 tells us, **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness...Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them...For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”** No one has any excuse for not knowing the will of God, for God has showed it to them.

The will of God for every born again Christian to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is evident in the New Covenant, by what Jesus commanded His followers in Acts 1;4,5,8, and a witness in our spirit. God knows that the anointing is necessary for anyone to do the will of God. Without the anointing, we do not have the power to destroy the works of the Devil. It is the anointing that destroys the works of the Devil.

Until the day of redemption, God will continue to work in the lives of Christians by the anointing of the Holy Spirit to reconcile the world unto Himself (2 Cor. 5:17-21). There is no place in the Scriptures where it tells us that God does not desire for Christians to receive the baptism in

the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

God knows that born again Christians do not have the power to destroy the works of the Devil without the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus did not have the power to destroy the works of the Devil until after He received the Holy Spirit at about the age of thirty. Jesus even commanded His disciples to not leave Jerusalem until they received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4,5).

There is a progression in God's plan for man from the foundation of the world. First, man needed to be created in the beginning. Secondly, man needed to be "born again," of the Word and the Spirit. (Eating of the Tree of Life enables man to become born again). Therefore, the Tree of Life was also in the garden of Eden when Adam was placed in the garden in Genesis 2:9. Adam was instructed that he could freely eat of every tree in the garden in Genesis 2:16. But, Adam was commanded not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in Genesis 2:17. The choice was up to Adam, which tree he would eat of.

Adam made a wrong choice and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:6,17). God, knowing the end from the beginning had already declared "**the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**" (Rev. 13:8). God is love. Therefore, the LORD God (who created man in the beginning), came into this world to redeem mankind back to God. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, He became the head of the Body of Christ.

The body of Christ is a "new creation" of mankind. All who are in Christ are "new creatures" in Christ. As new creatures in Christ, God has given us a new spirit in Christ. By this new spirit in Christ, we are truly a new creature.

Now, it is up to us, individually, to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and permit the anointing of God to work through us to destroy the works of the Devil. When we understand God and His plan for our lives, we can do His will. When we do His will, God will be in control of all that we do, by the anointing within us. It is the anointing what will enable us to do the works that Jesus did (John 14:12). It will not be us doing the works, but the anointing within us doing the works (just as it was in the life of Jesus Christ).

God is love. God never forces anyone to do anything. It is up to us, individually, to receive our instructions from the Holy Spirit from within us. From within our spirit we will know what is of God and what is not of God. From within our spirit, God will help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us all things.

We cannot do the will of God by our own ability, it must be God working in us and through us to do His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). When we deny ourselves and permit God to have total control in our lives, we will do the perfect will of God. Those who do the will of God the Father will enter into eternity with God forever and ever. Their names will be in the book of life when the books are opened. Those whose names are in the book of life will enter into heaven for all eternity (Rev. 20:11-15).

While we are here on earth, we must be "about our heavenly Father's business," doing the works that Jesus told us to do. Doing the works the same way Jesus did the works. Not doing our will of the flesh, but doing the will of God from our spirit, by the leading of the Holy Spirit within us.

Whatsoever, God has planned for the lives of those who are born again Christians, will be revealed to them from their spirit where the fullness of God dwells. Christians must continue to study

the Scriptures, and pray in the Spirit. This enables the Holy Spirit to reveal to them the perfect will of God for their lives. We need the revelation of spiritual things to be revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit knows what we need to know individually (1 Cor. 2:9-14). He will reveal it to us, as we continue to spend time in the Word and prayer.

God is love. God will not force any Christian to do anything. Everything is done by love. As God loves us we must return His love to Him. We must give God all the praise, honor and glory for all that He is doing and has done in our lives.

As we are faithful to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, He will enable us to do whatsoever He desires for us to do. It will be done by His power and His ability, not by our own works of the flesh.

It was prophesied in Zachariah 4:6, “**...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**” In Psalm 127:1 it says, “**Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.**” Unless that the LORD and the Holy Spirit are in control of our lives, we cannot do the will of God. When God is in total control, then we will see the salvation of the LORD in every area of our lives.

Jesus is our example of what to do and how to do the will of God the Father. Jesus is “**the Way, the Truth, and the Life**” (John 14:6). As we study the Gospels, we will know “the Way” to do the will of God. Jesus taught “the Way,” all throughout the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If we do what Jesus said in the Gospels, we will know the way to do the will of God.

Jesus is “the Truth.” 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.**” By continuing in the Words that Jesus taught, we will know the Truth, and the truth will set us free.

Jesus is “**the Life**” (zoe). The life Jesus was speaking of is not the life we had in the natural, when we were born into this world of the flesh. Jesus is talking about the very life of God (our eternal life). This is the life we should be living by, not by our natural life which we had before we were born again.

The life (zoe), which we now live is the same life that God the Father has in Himself. It is the same life that Jesus had in Himself. It is the “eternal life,” that we will have for all eternity. This is totally different than the life we had when we were born into this world. It is this life that makes us one with God in the Spirit. Being one with God in the Spirit, we must learn how to live according to the life of God within us.

Man was born into this world with soul (psuche) life. Soul life is “psychic” (life in the natural). Psychic life is the ability to receive information from the natural realm and the spiritual realm. Satan has the ability to control our “soul (psuche)” life by thoughts and other ways of injecting his will into our minds. When we understand the difference between soul life (psuche) and spirit life (zoe), we can then operate by the very life of God within us. When we operate by the very life of God within us, we will be doing the will of God.

In doing the will of God, it will be by God doing His will in our lives, according to His desire, His will, and His ability. Not by our desires, our will, or our ability. When God manifests His will in our lives, Satan will have no power over us. Satan has no power over the life (zoe) of God within us. Satan cannot control what we do, when we live and operate by the life (zoe) of God within us.

It is unfortunate that men have not translated the “inspired Word of God” into English in such a way that Christians could understand the difference between soul life (psuche) and spirit life (zoe).

There are no equivalent English words that express the true meaning of the difference between soul life and spirit life. The Greek word “psuche” does translate to the English word “psyche.” Which does give us the ability to know that the soul of man is “psychic.” But the Greek word “zoe” does not have an equivalent English word that makes it known to man, what the very life of God is, and how it operates.

We can only know what the Greek word “zoe” means by a revelation from the Holy Spirit within our spirit. Spiritual things can only be understood by a revelation from God. Spiritual things are not naturally discerned. This is all explained in 1 Corinthians 2:9-14, which says, **“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him...But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God...For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God...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...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.”**

Even the prophets and priests of the Old Testament did not understand spiritual things. They were still natural people, without the life of God in them. Therefore, they could not understand spiritual things. Only those who are born again of the Word and the Spirit can receive the truth of the knowledge of God which is revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Without the very life (zoe) of God within us, we cannot know the will of God, neither can we serve God according to His plans and purpose. It is the very life of God within us that enables us to know and understand spiritual things.

This very life (zoe) of God was in the Father from the beginning. The Father gave this very life to the Son (Jesus) right from the very beginning. Jesus came that we might have this very life (zoe) of God within us. This life (zoe) is in Christ, and all who are born again have this life “in Christ.” It is this life of God within us that makes us one spirit with the LORD (1 Cor. 6:17). Being one with God in the Spirit of Christ, we have the very life of God within us.

It is this very life of God within us that gives us the ability to destroy the works of the Devil in our lives and in the lives of others. That is the purpose for the LORD keeping us here on earth after we are born again of the Word and the Spirit. We are here to do the will of God. Without the very life of God within us we cannot destroy the works of the Devil.

Jesus is our example in everything we do. Jesus told us in the Gospels what to do. We must follow Jesus' example.

The day of Redemption

The Last Trump of the Trumpet

What is God telling us concerning the last trump of the trumpet? What does it mean when the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:51,52, **“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (koimao), but we shall all be changed...In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”**

This is speaking of the time in the life of a person who is in Christ, when they leave their mortal body and go to be with the LORD. The time will come when a person in Christ will be changed. Concerning this change it says, **“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality...So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory”** (1 Cor. 15:53,54).

What does it mean by **“...this corruptible must put on incorruption...?”** When sin entered into the human race, our souls became corrupted, and our mind and thoughts did not agree with God. Our thinking changed to that of this world, by the thoughts that came from the demonic spiritual realm. Mankind became a slave to Satan and his demons through the knowledge of good and evil. The fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil brought sin and death upon mankind.

Man began to operate according to the knowledge of good and evil. The minds of people were corrupted by the thoughts from the demonic realm. The spirits of this world began to control the thoughts of people. Man no longer thought the way God thinks. Man’s ways and man’s thoughts were no longer in agreement with God’s ways and God’s thoughts (Isa. 55:8,9).

In the garden of Eden, the LORD God started a process of restoration of man (bringing man back to a sinless state). The sin that came upon mankind needed to be destroyed, so that God and man could dwell together in perfect harmony. The image of God that man was created in needed to come into its fullness.

This could only come about by the death and resurrection of God’s only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Only those who are in Christ can be restored to perfect harmony with God. Only those who are in Christ can live forever with God in eternity.

Yet, God always lives in the now. God is always alive and living, and declares to us His foreknowledge, His power, and His glory. The difference between those who are asleep in Christ and those who are not asleep in Christ is **“the resurrection from the dead.”**

Those of the resurrection of the dead are not dead. Death has no power over them. Death has lost its victory over those who are alive in Christ. In the resurrection, this corruption will have put on incorruption. Those who have attained unto the resurrection from the dead, are alive. For God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Jesus made mention of this to the Sadducees in Matthew 22:31,32, saying, **“But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying...I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”** Jesus declared to those Sadducees that, Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob were not dead, they were still living.

Before we continue on the incorruption, let us see what it means in 1 Corinthians 15:53, where it says, “**...this mortal must put on immortality.**” The word mortal pertains to the physical body of man that has death resident in it from the day that Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When sin entered into the human race “two deaths” became resident in mankind. There was first, what is commonly called “spiritual death.” Whereby the soul of man took upon itself sin, and was condemned to eternity in hell with Satan and his demons. Spiritual death became resident in mankind, but it does not complete its course until a person is cast into the lake of fire, which is called the Second death. This does not take place until after mankind experiences the first death (that is, the death of the physical body). When a person becomes born again into the body of Christ, eternal death is overcome by eternal life in Christ (John 5:24).

Mortality is the condition of man’s physical body, which has death reigning in it, but does not complete its course until a person dies upon this earth. Upon death of the physical body of man, the spirit leaves the body, and the body turns to dust (Ecc. 12:7).

When physical death comes to those who are in Christ, “**this mortal puts on immortality,**” and they leave their natural body and go to be with the LORD in their spiritual body. For it says in 1 Corinthians 15:22, “**For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**” When a person who is “in Christ” leaves their physical body “for the last time,” they are resurrected from the dead, and go to be with Christ in eternity.

The last trump of the trumpet is when a person takes their last breath, or their heart beats its last beat. That is the day of “their resurrection.” That is the day of judgment for them, when they appear before the LORD and their whole life is displayed before them. They will see what was written in the books concerning their life here on earth. They may see things going all the way back until the day they were first born into this world, and continue until the day they took their last breath, or their last heart beat. In this judgement, each person will be reminded of all the things they have done which are not pleasing to God. All the things that are written in the books that are opened.

For those who are “in Christ” on that last day of their life here on earth, they will be reminded of all that was not “repented of,” therefore, it remained written in the book of Life. That which they repented of will not be found in the book of life, for what is repented of, God does not remember any more (1 John 1:9, Heb. 8:12; 10:17).

This is also done, so that no man can say, it is because of his good deeds, or good works that he is saved. No man can be justified by his works of righteousness. Only by what Jesus Christ did for them can anyone be saved. We cannot enter into eternal life in Christ Jesus because of our good works or good deeds. Only by the righteousness of Jesus Christ, can we enter into eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Our resurrection from the dead is dependent upon our being “in Christ” on that last day (when we leave this physical body here on earth the last time). All who are “in Christ” shall be made alive, and death will not have any power over them. On that day, they will enter into eternity with Christ. Their mortal body will be left behind and they will ascend into everlasting life in their spiritual body.

In 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 it says, “**So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption...It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power...It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There**

is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”

Born again Christians already have a spiritual body in Christ Jesus. This spiritual body enables them to go places in the spirit while still living in this world. This is not uncommon, but not too well known among many Christians.

But the spiritual body we have now is not our “resurrection body.” The resurrection body of a Christian is similar to the body of Jesus when He arose again from the dead. The resurrection body can go through walls and doors without opening them.

When Jesus appeared to His disciples the same evening that He arose from the dead, they were in a room with the door shut in fear of the Jews (John 20:19). Jesus came and stood among them and talked with them, and ate fish and honeycomb in front of them (Luke 24:36-43).

In the resurrection body, Christians can appear before others, and talk to them, and show themselves to others, just as many saints did on the same day that Jesus arose from the dead. It tells us in Matthew 27:52,53, **“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose...And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”** These saints most likely were in their resurrection bodies, when they appeared to many the same day that Jesus arose again from the dead.

Christians do not wait until the last day of this creation to receive their resurrection body. When they pass from this life here on earth for the last time, they receive their resurrection body, a body which is immortal, and lives forever in eternity.

The resurrection body is a “celestial body” like unto the angels. It can appear in a physical body of flesh and bones, and it can disappear in the twinkling of the eye. A celestial body does not need air to breathe. Our natural body that we received when we were born of the flesh is a “terrestrial body.” Our terrestrial body needs air to breathe, and cannot appear and disappear at anytime. Our terrestrial body cannot ascend into the heavens and return to earth at any time. Whereas, celestial bodies can go anywhere in God’s creation at any time. They can ascend into the third heavens and descend down to the earth at anytime God so desires.

There is no indication that our “Resurrection Body,” has any blood in it. In our mortal body, we have flesh, bones, and blood. The life of our flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). Without the blood our mortal body cannot live. Without air to breathe our mortal body cannot live. The blood carries all the elements throughout the body to replenish every cell. Therefore the life of the flesh is in the blood.

In the resurrection body, the life of the flesh is in the Word of God. The Word of God is our life. In the resurrection body we experience that which was began in our new birth. 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.”** The life of our resurrection body is the incorruptible seed, which is the Word of God. The life that was in the Father, which He gave to be in the Son, is the same life we will have in the resurrection body. Eternal life cannot die. Eternal life is the very life of God the Father that flows through the Son, and through all who are born again of the Spirit.

It seems we will live forever in the resurrected body, it will never grow old. This is the same “resurrection body,” that Jesus had when He arose again from the dead. We will be able to live in heaven on the new earth, and anywhere in God’s creation that He so desires. We will be able to go from one place to another in an instant. Time will be no more.

Many Christians have been confused by the teachings of men. Many have not understood

what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14, where it says, **“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope...For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”** It does not say, that those who are asleep in Jesus are waiting until the second coming of the LORD before they receive their resurrection body. They already have their resurrection body. It says, when the LORD comes on the last day, **“God will bring them with Him.”** They are already with Him in their resurrected body. They received their resurrected body when they took their last breath, when their heart beat for the last time here on earth.

In Mark 13:24-27, Jesus said, **“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light...And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken...And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory...And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.”** Notice that Jesus said, He shall **“...send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.”** This indicates that some of the elect who are already “asleep in Christ” are already in heaven. They are not waiting until the final day of this earth before they enter into heaven. They are already there in heaven, when Jesus returns in His second coming.

Then in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 it says, **“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep...For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first...Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”**

The words **“...and the dead in Christ shall rise first...”** does not mean, they will arise from the dead at that time. The Greek word “anistemi,” translated “rise,” means “stand up.” Those who are asleep in Christ are already with the LORD. They will return with the LORD, and those who are still alive on this earth will meet them in the air and be forever with the LORD.

The saints that walked around Jerusalem the same day that Jesus arose again from the dead most likely appeared in their resurrection bodies. They had physical bodies and showed themselves to many.

We do not wait until that last day of this earth, which some call “the white throne judgment day” mentioned in Revelation 20:11-15, to receive our resurrection body. We receive our resurrection body the day that we leave this earth for “the last time.” When we take our last breath, or our heart beats its last beat. That is the day we are changed. **“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”** (1 Cor. 15:52). Therefore, we can say along with 1 Thessalonians 4:18. **“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”**

Time or Eternity ?

God is eternal. With God, in eternity there is no time. Time is only used concerning this earth, and the things of this earth. Many times when time is mentioned it is only speaking of this earthly time. Beyond this earthly realm, there is no time.

There are many times in the Scriptures that things are mentioned concerning time. When these things are mentioned, we must see it in light of God's point of view. God sees the end from the beginning. It takes the whole Bible from Genesis through Revelation to understand time in the Scriptures.

Concerning mankind, and life and death, we need to see this from God's point of view, not man's point of view. The Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit when they were written. What the Holy Spirit inspired came from God, not from man.

(Some men have changed what was inspired to bring things into their natural understanding. This is not good, for it then no longer says what God inspired. We need to stay with what God inspired, not what man changed).

In John 1:1, Genesis 1:1 and Proverbs 8:22-30 it is speaking of before this world was created. Genesis 1:2 through 2:25 speaks of the creation of this world we now live in. Everything in Genesis 1:2 through 2:25 happened during the first seven days of creation of this world.

Many places in the Scriptures, it makes mention of this creation, being created by the Son of God, whom we know as Jesus Christ. All things were created by Him and for Him (John 1:2,3 Col. 1:16-18).

Yet, there are many places in the Scriptures that speak of things in view of eternity, not always earthly time. This is important to understand. For God speaks things in the now, without respect to time. For God, all things were finished from the foundation of the world. God speaks to us in the Scriptures from His foreknowledge of things before they happen in the natural.

In Revelation 13:8 it is revealed that **“the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.”** That means, the sins of mankind were already paid for before Adam was created. That included that the resurrection of the dead was already declared as done before the foundation of the world. That also declared that the Sons of God were already established before the foundation of this world. From God's point of view, it was already finished.

When we see things, the way God sees things, we can understand the Scriptures much better. When Abel was slain by Cain, his blood cried out to God from the ground (Gen. 4:10,11). At that same time, Abel was already in heaven, for he had passed from this life unto eternal life.

When Enoch was taken, he did not see death, for God took him (Gen. 5:23,24). That is when Enoch received his eternal life and has been with the LORD from that day forth. When Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob gave up the ghost, they entered into eternal life in heaven (Gen. 25:8, 35:9, 49:33).

Therefore, Jesus said to the Sadducees, **“But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying...I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living”** (Matt. 22:31,32). Jesus was making it clear that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had already received their resurrection of the dead. These were already in heaven with the Father when Jesus spoke to the Sadducees in Matthew 22:31,32. Moses and Elijah had also already received their resurrection bodies before they appeared to Jesus on the mount of transfiguration (Mark 9:1-8).

When Jesus went to the cross and died for our redemption, He said to one of the thieves on the cross **“To day shalt thou be with me in paradise”** (Luke 23:43). Jesus was speaking of that day, which was the last day on earth for that thief on the cross. There will never be another day for that thief. When that thief died on the cross, he passed from this life unto eternal life with the LORD.

Whenever someone who believes the Word of God and the LORD Jesus Christ, dies upon this earth, they pass into heaven. This includes Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Elijah, etc. Every one of them lived and did not experience eternal death. They passed from physical death unto eternal life with God the day they left this earth for the last time. With Enoch and Elijah, they did not leave their bodies here on earth. They were translated and received their resurrected bodies when they left this earth.

Just as Jesus said to the thief “dying” on the cross, **“To day shalt thou be with me in paradise,”** those who are in Christ, when they leave this earth, they will be with Jesus. **“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,”** they will be changed. **“This corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality,”** and they will be with the LORD.

In earthly time, Jesus became “Christ,” the head of the body of Christ, following His resurrection from the dead. In earthly time, Jesus is the firstborn from the dead. In eternity, it was already finished in God’s view before Adam was created. Just as **“the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world,”** so was Christ raised from the dead from the foundation of the world.

It goes back to what Jesus said, **“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”** The Scriptures cannot be broken, what is written is written and it will stand forever. What men believe cannot change what God has already declared as done.

Jesus said in Revelation 1:8, **“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”** Without Jesus there would never have been a beginning. He was from the beginning and will continue forever.

Christians need to understand the Scriptures from God’s point of view. In heaven there is no time. Time is only counted on earth. And when this earth is gone, time will be no more. For those who leave this earth to be with the LORD, time will be no more. But for those who do not receive the Word of God, and Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior, they will continue to experience death and torment forever in hell.

The teachings of men (trying to figure out spiritual things in their natural minds), have led many to believe many things which are not according to the inspired written Word of God. Therefore, it is important that Christians be **“taught by God”** (1 John 2:27). What God reveals to us is truth, and it will stand forever.

Sons of God

In Job 1:6 it says, **“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.”** Who are the “Sons of God”? In Romans 8:14 it says, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”**

Some have taught man’s idea of who are **“the Sons of God?”** What they have not seen is God’s plan for all of creation. God knew the end from the beginning. God has an eternal plan for man, whom the LORD God created in the beginning. Those who will follow God’s plan in this life will reign with Christ for all eternity. It goes back to what Jesus said, **“He that hath ears to hear,**

let him hear.”

When the “Sons of God” came before the LORD in the book of Job, it is very likely that Abel and Enoch were among them. For all things were finished from the foundation of the world. What God planned for all eternity was already being fulfilled from the beginning. The number of “Sons of God” that will reign with Christ are dependent upon how many will deny themselves and be led by the Holy Spirit in this life?

In this life here on earth we are given an opportunity to become “sons of God.” Those who are truly **“Sons of God,”** will continue to reign with Christ forever. These are those who are **“led by the Spirit of God,”** and are serving the LORD here on earth.

In Revelation 22:3, it says, **“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.”** Then in Revelation 22:5 it says, **“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”** By this we see that those who are led by the Holy Spirit and serve the LORD in this life, will reign with Christ forever and ever. This is a position that has been reserved for those who are “Sons of God,” “led by the Spirit of God.”

The Scriptures do not say that the “Children of God” will reign with Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15:22 it says, **“...even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** Therefore, all of those who are in Christ when they leave this earth will be in heaven.

There are “babes in Christ,” “Children of God,” and “Sons of God” within the body of Christ. These all have the very life of God within them. These are all born again in Christ Jesus. But God is looking for those who are “Sons of God,” to reign with Christ for all eternity.

All who are in Christ when they leave this earth will enter into heaven. In heaven there will be a new heavens and a new earth. God does not tell us who will be on the new earth. God does not tell us what the “Babes in Christ” and “Children of God” will be doing in heaven. God is looking for those who will become “Sons of God,” for all eternity.

It is God’s desire that everyone who is born again into the body of Christ will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in this life and in eternity. God wants many “Sons of God,” in Christ Jesus to reign with Christ in all eternity. This is the perfect will of God for everyone who is born again.

This position is available to every born again Christian. It is up to each one individually, if they will become a “Son of God,” and reign with Christ. God never asks anyone to do anything without supplying all that is needed to do what God asks. The Holy Spirit is God with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the anointing that we need to do the will of God.

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.”** As Christians abide in the Holy Spirit, they will be taught by the Holy Spirit everything they need to know to do the perfect will of God.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us to help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us all things. It is, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, that God’s will can be done in our lives here on earth. When Jesus said in John 6:45, **“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God,”** we must believe that Jesus is telling the truth. We must commit our lives to being taught by the Holy Spirit. Then also be led by the Holy Spirit in everything we do. With the help of the Holy Spirit in

our lives we can do the perfect will of God.

Hands for Jesus, Inc, has many free books available on our Web sites to help Christians know the Truth and walk in the Truth every day of their lives. We can overcome the works of the Devil in our lives. We can do the perfect will of God in our lives. God is for us, not against us. God will keep His Word. We must become doers of the Word and not hearers only.

Eternity is forever and ever. There is no end to eternity. Those who will deny themselves in this life and be led by the Holy Spirit in this life, they will become “Sons of God,” and will reign with Christ forever.

In this life here on earth, God has set before us “life and death,” “heaven and hell,” the choice is ours. In Deuteronomy 30:19 it says, **“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”** This was not spoken just for the Children of Israel. It was spoken for Christians as well as the Children of Israel.

Heaven and Hell are before us. We must choose which way we will go? Will we deny ourselves and follow Jesus? Will we become “Sons of God” and “be led by the Holy Spirit?” Will we seek those things that are above over the things of this earth (Col. 3:1,2; 1 John 2:15-17)?

If we will do God’s will, then we will receive our inheritance with the saints in heaven. It is sad that there will be some who will go back to living like the world lives. Their garments of white will be defiled with **“...the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things...”** (Mark 4:19). These are spoken of many times in the Scriptures. They have forsaken the right way, and have gone the way of **“the god of this world.”** They loved the world and the things of this world more than the loved God (1 John 2:15-17). Many times it is written in the Scriptures, **“...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”**

It is important that we all understand the Scriptures in John 1:17, which says, **“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”** If anyone finds themselves going the wrong way, they can repent and their sins and iniquities will be forgiven and forgotten. God will not remember them anymore. They must not let their names be blotted out of the Book of Life, just for the pleasures of this world. God is love, and does not desire that any should perish. Therefore, if they repent, by Grace, they will be saved.

Therefore, just before Jesus was taken up to be with the Father, He said, **“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem”** (Luke 24:47).

Whatsoever you do in this life, it will determine where you will spend eternity. It is very important that we understand the things revealed to us in the Scriptures.

For more information, get the following books by Merle E. Koepke: “What is Man, Taught by God, Life in the Spirit, From My Spirit, The Call to Ministry.” Also, get some of the following Mini-books by Merle E. Koepke: “Doing His Will, Follow Jesus, God is Love, Like Angels, The Anointing, Tongues of Fire, Walk in the Light, Led by the Spirit, A New Creature.” There are many other books also, available free.

All books are free by downloading from our Web sites. go to our Web sites at:

www.handsforjesus.cc

www.handsforjesus.org