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# **Between Heaven and Hell**

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## Introduction

In this book, I may use some of my own personal experiences to help others understand why we are here on this earth. This will help them understand, and know, certain things that they can do to better their life here on earth and also obtain eternal life in heaven. By my own life experiences, I can relate to things to help others understand why our life is what it is, and how to make it even better. I hope to show from the Bible, that the answers to life are in the Word of God.

Before we talk about our lives personally, we must understand certain things about heaven, hell, and this earth where we live today. This earth was created for a very specific purpose. God is using this earth to obtain His purpose in our life. So get to know the basics of this creation from the Bible and it will help you in your everyday life.

If you take an average Bible today and look at the very first verse it could read something like this, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”** (Gen.1:1 NKJV). Now this is a very broad statement, without too many details. Yet enough to know who it was that created the heavens and the earth. Why are there three heavens and one earth? In the Bible there are more detailed answers than just that which is found in Genesis 1:1.

In the gospel of John, Chapter One, it gives us more details about the creation of the heavens and the earth. It says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”** (John 1:1). God and His Word are One. They cannot be separated, neither can they operate individually alone. In 1 John 5:7 it says, **“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”** When we understand that these three are one God, but also, three separate individuals within the Godhead, then we can get to know God’s will, and understand why we are here on earth today.

If you haven’t understood it yet, you should when you read the following verses. In John 1:2 it is speaking about **“the Word of God,”** and it says, **“He was in the beginning with God”**(NKJV). The Word of God spoken of here is a Person, One of the three persons that make up the totality of the Godhead. This individual person of the Godhead has many names and titles. The one name we should get to know Him by is “Jesus.” This “Jesus” who is the only begotten Son of God is also called the Word of God and was with God from the beginning. Jesus is called **“the Word of God.”** This is not His name, but a title. Jesus is called “the Word of God” because He is **“the express image of his person”** (Heb. 1:3). Jesus is **“the Word of God manifest in the flesh”** (John 1:14). People receive titles according to what they due or have done. Jesus received the title **“the Word of God,”** according to what He did, when He became the manifestation of the Word of God.

Now let us go further and see what it says about Jesus, who is, and always was the Word of God. It says in John 1:3, **“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”** In Colossians 1:16,17 it says, **“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him....And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”**

By **“the Word of God,”** all things were created and all things exist. This same Person of the Godhead, who we know as Jesus, was called “the Word of God” in the beginning, and by the Word of God all things were created. This includes the heavens above the earth, and all the created beings

in the heavens above the earth. That is to say, that by “the Word of God” the angels were also created in the beginning. The Word of God came before the angels, and by the Word of God, they were created.

We must not eliminate any of the Scriptures, when we speak about the beginning. The word **“beginning,”** in John 1:1 does not mean before Genesis 1:1. The word “beginning,” in Genesis 1:1 means, before the heavens and the earth were created, (God (elohiym) (which is three person in one), created the heavens and the earth). This is all explained in Proverbs 8:22-30.

The word **“beginning” (arche)** used in John 1:1 is speaking of all things that exist at this time, beginning in Genesis 1:2. Many times God gives us information based upon His knowledge of things, past, present, and future. God has foreknowledge of all things. God operates in the now from the heavens above.

To help Christians understand the word “beginning,” used in John 1:1, it is the exact same Greek word (arche) used in John 8:44, where Jesus said, **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning (arche), and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”** This Greek word means the beginning of what is now.

In understanding John 8:44, we must also understand Ezekiel 28:12-20. In Ezekiel 28:15 the LORD God is speaking of Lucifer, who was the anointed Cherub before the throne of God, leading praise and worship. At that time it says, **“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”**

When Lucifer was cast down to the earth, he had a new “beginning.” He was no longer the anointed Cherub that led praise and worship before the throne of God in the third heavens. Lucifer had a new “beginning,” (all old things concerning his position in heaven are passed away). They no longer exist. Lucifer became Satan, the Devil (Rev. 20:2). Lucifer, now the Devil had “a new beginning,” and he can never return to his old position of leading praise and worship before the throne of God in the third heavens.

When Jesus spoke of the devil in John 8:44, saying **“He was a murderer from the beginning (arche),”** He was speaking of who the Devil is now and will always be. Jesus is not speaking of who the Devil was before he was cast out of the third heavens.

It is very important the Christians learn to know what the Word of God is speaking of and not get messed up in worldly thinking. God tells us the Truth. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). We need to understand what the Word of God actually says, not what men think it says.

In Genesis, Chapter One, starting from verse two, it is not speaking of creating the earth. Genesis 1:2 says, **“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”** The earth and the water were already there before the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. The solid elements of the earth and the water were already there. They had been created long before Genesis 1:2.

For those who desire to know the truth, they should study carefully 2 Peter 3:5-7, which says, **“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water... Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished... But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of**

**ungodly men.”** The word **“perished,”** used in verse six means **“became worthless,”** **“without form, and void”** (see Genesis 1:2). This was not the condition of the world following the flood at the time of Noah. At the time of Noah, only flesh was destroyed, everything else remained. Christians need to study the whole Bible, (the complete Bible from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 to know the truth.

From Genesis 1:2 on, the creation that is spoken of is a “re-creation” of things according to what we have now. The LORD, whom we know as Jesus Christ, “re-created” upon the earth all things mentioned in Genesis, Chapter One beginning with verse Two. The water was already there from the first time when the earth was created in the beginning (Gen. 1:1, Prov. 8:22-30).

The word “earth” in the Hebrew is “erets.” This is the same Hebrew word used for “ground.” It includes all the solid elements that make up the earth. The water is not a part of the earth, it is a separate element that was created before Genesis 1:2.

Jesus, who is the Son of God, called the Word of God in John 1:1 also created the sun, the moon and the stars that are mentioned in Genesis 1:16. Jesus is also “the Light” that appeared in Genesis 1:3. There was no light from the sun until the fourth day of creation. O’ how important it is that Christians understand the Word of God, and not be misled by the teachings of men.

Before man was created God had already created the heavens and the earth and all the heavenly hosts of angels. The Bible mentions three individual angels by name. First is Gabriel (Dan. 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19,1:26). Second is Michael, the archangel (Dan. 10:13, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7). Third is Lucifer, (Isa. 14:12) now called Satan (1 Chron. 21:1, Job 1:6,7,8,9,12, 2:1,2,3,4,6,7, Matt. 4:10, 12:26, 16:23, Mark 1:13, 3:23, 26, 4:15, 8:33, Luke 4:8,10:18, 11:18, etc. the list goes on and on including Revelation 12:9, 20:2, where Lucifer is called **“the old serpent, which is the devil”**).

The Bible reveals that Gabriel and Michael remained faithful to their calling. They were created to be what they were and are. They know why they were created and the purpose God has for them in all eternity. They are faithful to the LORD, who is the Word of God that created them for His purpose.

The Bible reveals that Lucifer was not obedient to his calling. In fact, Lucifer rebelled against God. In Ezekiel 28:12-20 it gives us details of Lucifer’s rebellion, calling him **“the king of Tyrus”** (a spiritual ruler over the city of Tyrus). Ezekiel 28:14,15 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.”**

Lucifer was an **“anointed cherub.”** He was perfect in the day that the LORD created him (Ezek. 28:15). Ezekiel 28:16 says, **“By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”** By a choice that Lucifer himself made, of his own free will, he sinned against God. In Ezekiel 28:16 through 18, it tells us that Lucifer was warned of his violence and rebellion. If he continued to rebel, he would be cast down to the earth. Lucifer did not repent, and continued his rebellion against God.

Then in Isaiah 14:12-20 we see that Lucifer was cast down to the earth. Yet he still continued his rebellion and making his claims to exalt himself. In Isaiah 14:13,14, Lucifer said, **“I will ascend**

**into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north....I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”**

Even today, Satan, the devil, still continues to exalt himself, claiming to be like God. Satan goes into the churches and manifests his supernatural powers to deceive and lead Christians away from God. He is the god of this world and will continue to be the god of this world, until he is bound for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3).

Satan was cast down to this earth before Adam was created (Gen. 2:7). He was already in the garden of Eden when the LORD God placed man in the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:9). Satan deceived the serpent in the garden of Eden, and the serpent deceived Eve. The serpent was punished for his permitting Satan to use him. His physical form was changed to that of a snake. Genesis 3:14 says, **“And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.”**

Satan operates from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The LORD operates from the Tree of Life. Everyone has a choice between the Tree of Life or the tree of knowledge of good and evil. That is, we must choose the LORD, or Satan will control our lives. The choice is ours, will we choose the LORD?

Now, this is the sum of this creation. The heavens are above the earth. There are three heavens, and the third heavens is where God has His throne (2 Cor. 12:2-4). Hell is in the center of the earth (below the surface of the earth). Speaking of hell, Jesus said in Matthew 10:28, **“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”** Hell is described as a place of fire, as Jesus said in Mark 9:44 **“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”** Hell is called a **“lake of fire and brimstone”** in Revelation 20:10.

In view of what God sees (which is, the end from the beginning), Lucifer was created as an angel for the purpose of praise and worship in the third heavens, before the throne of God. He was created by the LORD God to be and remain forever before the throne of God. He was perfect in the day that he was created. From the first day that he was created, he was before the throne of God.

Lucifer rebelled against God, knowing the purpose for which God created him. It says in Ezekiel 28:12, **“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.”** Lucifer knew the plan of God for his life. But he refused to follow God’s plan for his life (He sealed it up, and refused to follow it). Therefore, he was cast out of the third heavens and from before the throne of God (Luke 10:18).

Lucifer was cast down to this earth, and became Satan, the god of this world. Because of his continual rebellion, he will end up in hell, which is now in the center of this earth. There isn’t any way for Satan to change his final end, in the lake of fire. He made his choice. Now it is too late to change. Many angels also followed Lucifer, who is now called Satan. In 2 Peter 2:4 it says, **“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”**

By this we see that Lucifer and his angels are no longer before the throne of God, praising and worshipping God and the Lamb. By this, there was left an opening in the third heavens for someone to fill that place. In Revelation, Chapters 4 and 5 it speaks of “that position of praising and

worshiping before the throne.” God is replacing Lucifer and his angels with people from this earth, who have chosen to praise and worship God and the Lamb, which is Jesus Christ, God’s Son.

The Apostle John was given a revelation of what is happening in the third heaven. He describes it by writing, **“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come....And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,...The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,...Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.** (Rev. 4:8-11).

YOU can become one among the many who are worshiping the Father and the Son before the throne of God in heaven. There is room for YOU in heaven if you choose to obey the LORD God and praise and worship Him for all eternity. If we do not choose to serve the LORD our God, we will not get into the third heavens.

Here we are, on this earth. Heaven is up above us. Hell is down below us. Here we stand **“BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL,”** to choose which way will we go? Will we choose to receive the LORD Jesus Christ and go up to heaven for all eternity? Or will we choose to love this world and the works of the devil here on earth? If we don’t choose to forsake this world and go up, we automatically go down. There is no other place to go. We cannot stay here on the earth forever. The time is coming, and very soon, when all who are on this earth will leave and either go up or go down.

The sum of it all is, which will you choose? Will you follow God’s plan for your life and serve the LORD God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength? Or, will you ignore making the choice until it is too late to choose? The LORD God said in Deuteronomy 30:19 **“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.”** The choice is yours in your life. Each individual must choose for themselves.

We are all here on this earth to make a choice between the LORD and the devil, **BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL.** God will not force us to choose heaven. Satan will do all he can to prevent us from choosing heaven. When Satan is cast into the lake of fire, those who follow him will be cast in with him.

It is not just a choice we make once, and then wait until we go to heaven. It is a choice we must make every day of our lives. Every day we must choose to follow God’s plan for our lives, and every day we must endure until the end. Jesus said in Matthew 24:11-13, **“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many....And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold....But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”**

Peter, quoting from Isaiah 65:17 & 66:22, said in 2 Peter, Chapter Three, this earth will pass away, but we also look for a new heavens and a new earth wherein righteousness dwells. In the new heavens and new earth Satan cannot tempt and hinder us. Satan will remain in the lake of fire which burns forever and ever.

Let us therefore, make the right choices every day of our lives. Don’t be deceived by great signs and wonders in these last days (Matt. 24:24). Be aware of the false prophets, who come in sheep’s clothing (Matt. 7:15). Don’t love the world and the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).

They are only temporal, and will be lost forever. In Colossians 3:1,2 it says, **“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God....Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”**

In 1 John 2:15-17 it tells us, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him....For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world....And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”**

Keep your eyes upon Jesus, don't let the love of God grow cold (Matt. 24:12). Love the LORD our God with all your heart and never turn away from Him.

## The Plan of God

What is the plan of God? God's plan is revealed throughout the complete Bible. But, for us living today, we need to pay close attention to the New Testament. We are not under the Old Testament. We have a New and better covenant, made with better promises. Speaking of Jesus, who is the mediator of the New Covenant, Hebrews 8:6 says, **"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."** Therefore, it is very important that we understand the New Testament. One very important part of the New Covenant is in Hebrew 8:10 where it says, **"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."**

God wants to be our God and we are to be His people. There are two gods in this world. Satan is "the god of this world," but our God is the God over all creation. Yet, we are in this world where Satan is ruling in the lives of those who submit to him. Romans 6:16 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?"** This is written to Christians. Christians have a choice, who they will submit to, Satan or the LORD? Every day we face the same choices, Satan or the LORD?

Satan wants to be our god. But the LORD paid the price for all our sins that He could be LORD in our lives. Also that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit would be our God, and we should not serve any other god.

What is God saying when He says, **"I will be their God and they shall be my people"**? The word "God" in the Greek is "Theos," The word "theos" means "a deity." The English word "deity" means "divinity." The English word "divinity" means "deity, a godhead, higher power, sacredness." God, who has higher power than man, wants to be our God (our Higher Power).

God wants us to look to Him for all our needs. He wants to supply all our needs (Matt. 6:25-33). God wants to work in our lives "supernaturally, by His miraculous creative power." Acts 2:21 says, **"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."** If we will call, He will answer. Jesus said in Matthew 11:29,30, **"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.... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

Jesus said in Matthew 6:7,8, **"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking....Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."**

God knows everything. There is nothing hidden from God. In Matthew 6:25 Jesus said, **"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"** Now, do not let the devil get you over into his territory whereby you don't work. That is not what Jesus was talking about. But, what you need to see is what Jesus said in Matthew 6:32,33, **"(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things....But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

God knows how to supply all our needs. God is Theos, Deity, Divinity. God can make a way where there is no way. He can create new parts for your body. He can cause all things to work together for your good (Rom. 8:28). He is God, and there is none other like Him.

No one has power over God, or the LORD. All power in heaven and on earth was given to the LORD when He arose again from the dead (Matt. 28:18). When we submit to God, and none other, He will be our God and we will be His people.

Even Christians, whose sins were paid for by the blood of the Lamb, still have a choice as to whom they will submit to, God or the devil? The choice is ours and God will not force us to submit to Him. God will not stop us from submitting to the devil. We choose whom we will submit to. God is for us, He wants to be our God and we should be His people.

For God to be our God, we must come apart from those who will not submit unto Him as their God. In 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 it says, **“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?...And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?...And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people....Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,...And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”**

We must walk in the light as He is in the light. In 1 John 1:5-9 it says, **“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all....If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:...But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin....If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us....If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

We must learn to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. Roman 8:1-7 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....For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:...hat the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit....For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit....For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace....Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”**

We must study the New Testament that we know the conditions of our Covenant with God. We must not let the devil have any place in our lives. We must learn to be “led by the Spirit,” for it says in Romans 8:14, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”** Do not be led by any other than the Holy Spirit, Who is sent by the Father and the Son to be our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Teacher, and Leader.

Always look up, for heaven is up above, hell is down beneath. Which way we go will be for all eternity. Let us choose to go up and not down.

## The Gospel

The gospel is the good news of what God has done for those who love Him. The true gospel is only for those who love God. It is not for those who love the world and the things of this world. It is not for those who follow the spirits of this world and the works of the enemy.

The main point of the gospel is “JESUS CHRIST, AND HIMSELF CRUCIFIED.” The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:2, “**For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**” Then in 1 Corinthians, Chapter Fifteen the apostle Paul wrote, “**Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;...By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain....For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;...And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**” (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

The complete Fifteenth Chapter of 1 Corinthians is the sum of the gospel that Paul preached. Those who do not preach the gospel that Paul preached, which is the same gospel that Jesus Himself preached, are preaching another gospel. In Galatians 1:3-8 the apostle Paul wrote, “**Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,...Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:...To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen....I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:...Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ....But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**”

The complete message of the gospel is all the way from Matthew through Revelation. It is revealed in its entirety, both, that which is of God and that which is of the devil. We must not be ignorant of the devices of the devil.

Christians who do not have understanding of the Gospel will easily be deceived by the enemy. It would take the whole New Testament to reveal the fullness of the gospel. But there are certain things about the gospel that should be understood.

- 1). We are not saved by our works of the flesh, “**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God**” (Eph. 2:8).
- 2). If we walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit, we can bring condemnation upon ourselves. For by walking after the flesh no man can please God (Rom. 8:1-7).
- 3). Therefore, salvation is not by what we do in the flesh. But it is what God does in us through the Spirit. Those who teach another gospel are not hearing from God, but from another spirit.
- 4). Jesus Christ did not come to condemn us. He came to save us. He did not come to put us in bondage, He came to set us free of the bondage that Satan held us in from our birth into this world.
- 5). The freedom Jesus came to give us is not so that we can do our will of flesh, but that we can have fellowship with the Father and the Son. And this fellowship is by the help of Holy Spirit abiding in us as our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Teacher, and Leader.
- 6). We have not been given freedom to do our own will of the flesh. We have been set free to serve the one and only True God, and our LORD Jesus Christ.

7). We are not to go back into bondage to any other man or spirit or any of the works of the devil.

Jesus said in John 6:45, **“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”** Everyone who is called of God must be taught by God. The teachings of men will destroy our freedom we have in Christ. 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.”** It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that makes it possible for us to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that works all things together for our good (Rom. 8:26-31). Without the anointing, we cannot do the will of God.

Jesus said, **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”** (John 8:36). Those who are in Christ are free, not to do the will of the flesh, but to do the will of God from their heart, and their spirit, where God dwells in His fulness. 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.”**

Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:15, saying, **“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.”** Jesus did not leave us in this world to do our own will of the flesh. Jesus said, **“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world”** (John 17:18).

The good news is what we could not do, God did for us in Christ Jesus. By Jesus’ death and resurrection from the dead, He has set us free from the works of the devil. Now that we are free, we must remain free until the coming of the LORD!

We must become servants to the LORD Jesus Christ, and do not follow any other spirit, or any other gospel.

## The Kingdom of God

In this book I will only explain briefly the Kingdom of God. In other books which are free (by downloading on the Internet) at [www.handsforjesus.org](http://www.handsforjesus.org) and [www.handsforjesus.cc](http://www.handsforjesus.cc) there is much greater detail on the kingdom of God.

The word “kingdom” in the English versions of the Bible is not a good translation. The Greek word “basileia,” is more correctly translated “reign.” The kingdom of God here on earth is the reign of the Holy Spirit carrying out the will of God. The Holy Spirit is God on this earth, doing the will of the Father and the Son, who are seated on the throne in the third heavens.

In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is given two titles in particular, the Spirit of God (in some translations Holy Spirit), and simply “God.” The Holy Spirit is “God” on this earth. The Holy Spirit is in control of all operations of the Godhead here on earth. Even Jesus could do nothing of Himself, without the help of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus cast out devils, He did it by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 12:28, Jesus said, **“But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.”**

The Holy Spirit is the one that brings about the new birth into the family of God, therefore it says, **“Except a man be born of water (Word) and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”** The words, **“and of the Spirit,”** refers to the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus, when He was born into this world as the Son of Man, was born of the Holy Spirit. Mary’s conception was by the Holy Spirit. In Luke 1:36 the angel said to Mary, **“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.”** No one becomes a Christian unless they are born again of the Holy Spirit. John 1:13 says, **“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”** Man cannot cause a person to become born again, only God, the Holy Spirit can cause a new birth.

The temples of the Holy Spirit here on earth are the bodies of those who are born again into the family of God (1 Cor. 6:19). In the new birth, we receive a new spirit, which comes down from heaven, wherein the fulness of the Godhead dwells (Ezek. 11:19, 36:26).

Once Jesus ascended to be at the right hand of the Father the Holy Spirit was sent to work all things together here on earth (Acts 1:2). The Holy Spirit anoints those who He chooses with the anointing and gifts needed to do the work of the ministry. It was the Holy Spirit that called Barnabas and Saul to do the work of apostles in Acts 13:2. It was the Holy Spirit that forbid Paul and the others to preach the Word in Asia in Acts 16:6,7. It says, **“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,...After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.”**

The apostle Paul needed to listen to the Holy Spirit and not go about doing his own will. The Holy Spirit does not confirm the will of man, only the will of God.

When we understand the Holy Spirit, then we can much better understand God and what God is doing on this earth today. The Holy Spirit is only one person. He is not divided, and He does not deceive anyone. Whenever two or more persons are involved in anything concerning the kingdom of God the Holy Spirit is there to work all things together that there is no confusion. Before the Holy

Spirit has anyone tell someone something concerning the ministry work here on earth, He prepares those involved to receive His instructions.

I have personally seen the Holy Spirit work between two or more people many times. There is always agreement when the Holy Spirit is involved. He always works things together that there are no deceptions. The Holy Spirit will never deceive anyone. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of **“righteousness, peace, and joy”** (Rom. 14:17). Don’t be misled by other spirits. Be led by the Holy Spirit in everything you do.

Among those who are born again of the Spirit and the Word, God works from within their spirit, to perfect that which pertains to Him (Phil. 1:6, 2:13) The Holy Spirit within us is only One Person. He is in all of God’s children at all times everywhere and anywhere they may be. The Holy Spirit knows the end from the beginning. He knows the past, the present, and the future of every born again Christian at all times. Being, He is God, with all power and ability He never causes confusion, strife, divisions, etc. for they are works of the devil (James 3:14-16).

When God works in a persons life, it is God and not man. God works by His power, and He does not need any other power to work by. God is for us, and not against us (Rom. 8:31). God the Holy Spirit, being one Person, never causes any question as to what He is doing. When God is working we do not question what He is doing. Sometimes we marvel, or cannot believe in our natural mind what is happening, but God is always in control.

Now let me give you an example of God working in my life first, then it will be easier to understand. There was a woman in our Sunday School classes who had a situation with finances. Her teen-age daughter normally did babysitting on a regular basis. Her daughter also made a lot of long distance telephone calls. She always paid them from her babysitting money. But, during the month of December, the grandmother of the child came to stay for a whole month, so she did not have any income for that month. Yet, she still made a lot of long distance telephone calls.

After I mentioned how faith works a number of times in Sunday School, this woman put her faith to work. The telephone company had given her notice, if her bill was not paid by Tuesday, the phone would be shut off. On Monday morning she told her daughter, “before you go to school, call the phone company and tell them I will be in on Tuesday and pay the bill in full.” Her daughter asked her, “where are you going to get the money from”? She answered, “Merle is going to loan me the money.” Her daughter said, “did you ask him”? She said, “No, I prayed and God is going to answer my prayer.”

That day she called me at work and asked, “would you loan me some money”? Before I could think in my mind the words came out of my mouth “Yes, I will.” Now that was God, it wasn’t me, I didn’t have time to think before I answered her question. Then I asked her, “where are you at”? She said, “I’m at work.” I said, “ What time do you get out of work”? She said, “At 5:00pm.” I said to her, “I’ll be here until 6:00pm, stop by and I will loan you the money.” I didn’t think about what I was saying. The words just came out of my mouth. After we got off the phone, my mind started to think about what I said, but from within me came a positive response to my mind “don’t worry, God knows what He is doing.” At one time during the day the thought came to me, “What if she wants to borrow \$1,000, I don’t have that much money.” But, immediately, from within me came the response, “Don’t worry about it.” God never gives us anything to worry about, He always has everything under control.

When she stopped in after her work, she said to me, “You will loan me the money, won’t

you”? Without thinking I said, “Sure.” Then she said, “But you don’t know why I need the money.” Without thinking I said, “It doesn’t matter why you need it.” Then she said, “You don’t ever know how much I need.” Without thinking I said, “It doesn’t matter.”

Then she told me; she had this telephone bill that had to be paid by the next day. I asked her “How much money do you need,” and she said she was short by \$135.00. Then I asked her, “How long before your next payday?” She said, “Thursday.” I said, “Then let me give you \$150.00 so you will have some money for food until Thursday.”

When God is working, all things work together for the good of them that love God, who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). God will do things His way, not always according to our understanding. Why is it that God could get me to respond to her without me even thinking about what I was saying? When I was born again, I prayed to the LORD, “LORD, You come into my life, and be the LORD of my life.” At that time I authorized the LORD to use me whenever and wherever He so desired. He is still LORD of my life, and He still has me do things without thinking. Words came out of my mouth without me knowing what I am going to say, until after I hear myself say them. That’s how God works through His children to help others within the body of Christ.

Satan works the opposite. Satan puts thoughts in peoples minds first, then tries to get them to speak them out of their mouth for his purpose. With God, the words come first, and the thoughts come last. With Satan, the thoughts come first and the words come last. When it’s Satan, you end up speaking the thoughts that come to your mind, after you receive the thoughts, not before.

Satan works from our mind, where God works from our spirit. That is why, God can have us speak before we think, where Satan must get us to think before we speak. Satan always puts thoughts in peoples minds, trying to get them to do what he wants them to do. He tries to be like God, but cannot be God.

It is wonderful to understand how God works, and how we can yield over to God and let Him do His will in our lives. Many times, we get real religious, thinking we are doing God some great service, while it is only the flesh wanting attention.

One important thing about the kingdom of God is that God cannot reign in our lives without our willingness to let Him reign. We must be born again Children of God for God to reign in our lives. Secondly, and just as important is “the baptism in the Holy Spirit.” The major reason that Satan is able to manifest his power and authority in the lives of Christians, is their unwillingness to receive “the baptism of the Holy Spirit,” and secondly, their unwillingness to yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Those who only read their Bibles and do not study them overlook some very important information. In Acts 1:4,5, Jesus commanded His disciples to wait until they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, before they went out to do any ministry work. Then in Acts 1:8 Jesus explained why. He said, “**ye shall receive power (dunamis), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...**” This statement is separate from the other half of this verse. This statement is the important message from the LORD concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “you shall receive “dunamis” power.” Dunamis power is “miraculous power,” the power to do “miracles.” This is the same power that Jesus received when the Holy Spirit came upon Him following His baptism in water by John the Baptist. This is the power of the Holy Spirit taking up residence in the spirits of all who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. This “miraculous power,” remains resident within those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is released by “speaking the Word of God,” and “by laying on of hands.”

This “dunamis” miraculous power is greater than the “dunamis,” miraculous power that Satan has (Luke 10:19). Every Christian needs this power to defeat the devil, and destroy all the works of the devil. Those who do not have this power will easily be defeated by the enemy.

This “dunamis” miraculous power is what gives us the ability to do the same works that Jesus did (John 14:12). With this power, we **“shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”** (Acts 1:8). What makes us witnesses of Jesus is the doing the same works the same way Jesus did the works He did.

Even with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit does not force anyone to operate in any of the gifts, anointings, or powers they have resident in them. The Holy Spirit only leads, guides, comforts, helps and teaches us. We must respond to the Holy Spirit for these gifts and anointings to operate. We cannot operate them of our own free will. They only operate as the Holy Spirit leads, guides, and helps us.

Therefore, to be a witness to Jesus, and to operate in any of the anointings or gifts of the Spirit we must be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit within our spirit. We must be willing to lay our lives down and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. His will must come before our will.

The kingdom of God operates by the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who obey Him. The Holy Spirit is God on this earth, carrying out the will of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the source of all operations of God in the Body of Christ. He is in total control of all that God does in and through the Body of Christ here on earth.

## KNOW YOUR ENEMY

In 2 Corinthians 4:4 Satan is called **“the god of this world.”** The Greek word “theos” translated “god” is the exact same word used all throughout the New Testament for our God. In Word definitions, they are the same. The word “theos” means “a deity.” The English word “deity” means “divinity, god, goddess, idol.” The English word “divinity” means “deity, a godhead, higher power, sacredness.”

Satan is a god, and he has higher powers than that of man. He has creative powers, similar to that of God, yet limited by God. Satan is a created being, and is subject to God, Who is the Creator of all beings. Satan has the power to inflict sickness, disease, or infirmities in the bodies of people and other creatures. In Job 2:7 it tells us, **“So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.”** In Luke 13:16, Jesus said, **“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?”**

Satan has the power to inject thoughts directly into the minds of people and other creatures. In 1 Chronicles 21:1 it says, **“And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.”** Satan has the power to blind the minds of people who do not believe the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4). Satan has power to cause storms, tornados, hurricanes, etc. Anyone who does not believe Satan has this power is blinded by the devil.

In Luke 10:19, it tells us that Satan has “dunamis,” power, meaning “force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power.” In Acts 26:18 it tells us that Satan also has “exousia,” power, meaning “authority, power.” When Christians teach that Satan does not have these two powers, they are not teaching the truth from the Scriptures. Many Christians are actually helping Satan do what he is doing without opposition.

Many preachers say they believe the Bible. Then, when you show them in the Bible where Satan used his powers, they don’t believe what it says. For instance in Luke 4:5, it says, **“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.”** To do that, Satan would need “dunamis” (miraculous power). First of all, there is no mountain high enough to see all the kingdoms of the world from at one time in the natural. That had to be “supernatural miraculous power” that the devil used to tempt Jesus. Let me add this about Luke 4:5. In the next verse it says, **“And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it”** (Luke 4:6). That statement the devil made was an outright lie. Jesus said of the devil in John 8:44, **“He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”** The Bible is very clear that all the kingdoms of this world were always in the control of the LORD. It specifically says a number of times throughout the Bible that the LORD gives the kingdoms of this world to whomsoever He wills. See 2nd Kings 19:15, 2nd Chronicles 20:6, Job 36:7-12, Psalm 103:19, Daniel 2:37,38, 4:17,25, Romans 13:1.

Many Christians say they believe the Bible, but at the same time they don’t believe Satan actually did what it says in Matthew 4:3-10 and Luke 4:3-10. Look at Luke 4:9,10, which says, **“And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:...For it is written, He shall give his**

**angels charge over thee, to keep thee.”** Did Satan actually do that? If you say he didn’t, then you do not believe the Bible. If you say he did do that, then you must also agree that Satan has the power to do that. How come preachers believe part of the Bible, but only the part they want to believe? Satan does have the power to blind the minds of those who do not believe what the Bible says.

Satan, the devil, also has the power of death (1 Cor. 15:26, Heb. 2:14). The death angel is under his control. Jesus defeated death and delivered us from the power of death on the Cross of Calvary. Yet this is only effective for those who believe. Satan is still working to deceive those who do not know his devices. Jesus took **“the keys of hell and death”** from the devil when He defeated Satan on the Cross (Rev. 1:18). What does it mean by Jesus having the keys of hell and death? It means that Jesus is able to release the captives whom Satan tries to hold in captivity. But, when Jesus took the keys from the devil, Jesus did not lock Satan up, the devil is still on the loose doing all he can to deceive people and turn them away from following the LORD.

Satan is the god of this world and controls all “false prophecies.” False prophets have submitted themselves to Satan’s devices. These false prophets speak lies. In Jeremiah 29:8,9 it says, **“For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed....For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.”**

In Jeremiah 14:14,15 it says, **“Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart (mind)....Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.”**

The word “heart” in Jeremiah 14:14 could have been translated “mind.” In Jeremiah 23:16 it says, **“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart (mind), and not out of the mouth of the LORD.”** Again in this verse the word “heart” could have been translated “mind.”

A true prophecy does not come from a persons mind or intellect. A true prophecy always comes from a persons spirit by the unction of the Holy Spirit within them. Job 32:8 says, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”** The true meaning of the word prophesy is “speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.” That inspiration must come from your spirit, not from your mind. The LORD is against those who prophesy from their mind. That is Satan’s way of prophesying. That is false prophesy, and it comes from the devil.

True prophesy must always come to pass. Deuteronomy 18:22 says, **“When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”** Jeremiah 28:9 says, **“The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him.”** Numbers 23:19 says, **“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”** The greatest deception in these last days will come through false prophets.

Satan uses people, including Christians, who do not understand the first principals and oracles of God. Hebrews 5:12,13 says, **“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat....For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.”**

Prophecy, and a word of knowledge, are not the same thing. This is a trick of the enemy, lumping these two together and calling them the same thing. Prophecy comes by an unction of the Holy Spirit from your spirit without you knowing what you are going to say until you hear yourself saying it. It is a total operation of the Holy Spirit, working from your spirit.

A word of knowledge comes from your spirit, through your intellect. You can receive a word of knowledge in different forms, by vision, by dream, by words, by voice, etc. A prophecy needs no direct response to cause it to accomplish whatsoever is prophesied. A prophecy is the foreknowledge of God being made known to man at a certain time. The Old Testament is full of prophecies of the coming of Jesus at the time of John the Baptist. Every prophecy concerning the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus came to pass. Not one person had to do anything to cause these prophecies to come to pass. Even Satan could not cause the prophecies of Jesus birth, life, death, and resurrection to fail.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, following when the wise men came to worship Him, Satan used Herod to try to kill Jesus. The angel of the LORD appeared to Joseph and told him to take Jesus and his mother and to flee to Egypt (Matt. 2:13). Herod killed all the male children of two years old and under, but he was not able to kill Jesus.

A number of times they tried to take Jesus, but they failed every time. In Luke 4:28-30 it says, **“And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,...And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong....But he passing through the midst of them went his way.”**

They tried to kill Jesus, but they couldn't. What was prophesied of Jesus came to pass, exactly as it was prophesied.

When a word of knowledge is given, usually someone must respond to it for it to come to pass. It can be given as a warning, whereby there needs to be a response.

In 2 Kings 20:1, had King Hezekiah not responded he would have surely died. His repentance allowed him to live another fifteen years. First there came “a word of knowledge” from Isaiah the prophet. **“The prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live”** (2 Kings 20:1). Then Isaiah came back with “a word of wisdom,” as to what Hezekiah should do. **“And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ...Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD....And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake”** (2 Kings 20:2-6).

When Hezekiah did what was told him, he was healed, and lived another fifteen years. Isaiah was a prophet, but Isaiah was not prophesying to King Hezekiah at that time. The first one was “a

word of knowledge,” the second one was “a word of wisdom.” In both of these cases Isaiah knew in advance what he was to say to King Hezekiah.

In a prophecy, the person prophesying does not know in advance what they will say. It comes from their spirit by an unction of the Holy Spirit. In Numbers 22:38 it says, **“Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.”** True prophecy is the same as “the LORD putting the words in the prophets mouth.” They hear it themselves the first time while they are speaking. True prophecy must always come to pass. In Acts 11:28, it says, **“And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.”** This was a prophecy, there was nothing anyone could do to change it. It did come to pass.

Satan, the devil, teaches that “prophecy, a word of knowledge, or a word of wisdom,” are all the same thing. That is a lie of the devil and Christians should not believe the devils lies. Prophecy is prophecy. A word of knowledge is a word of knowledge. A word of wisdom is a word of wisdom. They are not the same thing. Each one is different from the others. The devil uses those who do not know the difference, to prophesy falsely. When their prophecies do not come to pass they say, some Christians must have been praying against that prophecy. They look for excuses and reasons why their prophecies didn’t come to pass. Satan is a liar, and his prophecies are lies.

If you have been caught up in this deception of the devil it would wise to repent, and receive forgiveness of sins. Before Jesus was taken up to be at the right hand of the Father, it says in Luke 24:46,47 **“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:...And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”**

This is written in the Bible for anyone who has been deceived by the devil. If they will repent, they can receive forgiveness of sins. Repentance must come before forgiveness of sins. Therefore, if anyone has been deceived by the enemy, repent, and be cleansed from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Satan is our enemy, not people. Satan uses people to work through. But the people are not our enemies. What needs to be understood is our position in this world. For those who are not born again, the Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:2,3, **“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.”**

This tells us that before we are born again, our lives were totally under the control of the god of this world. Then also, Ephesians 2:12 tells us, **“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”**

Without being born again into the family of God people are without hope in this world. The **“prince of the power of the air”** does have control of peoples lives by the thoughts he puts in their minds.

Even after we are born again into the family of God, Satan does not stop trying to control our lives. We must not be ignorant of his devices. Multitudes of born again Spirit-filled Christians do

not know how Satan works among Christians to defeat them, and bring them back under his control.

We must not be ignorant of how Satan works within the Churches today. Jesus warned us in Matthew 7:15,16, saying, **“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves....Ye shall know them by their fruits.”** There are many “false prophets” in the Churches today. Again in Matthew 24:11, Jesus said, **“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”** Again in Matthew 24:24, Jesus said, **“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”**

We cannot close our eyes and think that just because we are Christians, Satan cannot deceive us. We must know Satan’s devices. One of Satan’s greatest devices is the minds of people. Satan puts thoughts in the minds of people, including Spirit-filled Christians, and tries to get them to do his will. We are told 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.”**

We must bring our thoughts into obedience to the Spirit of Christ that dwells in us. We cannot operate according to the thoughts of our minds. We must be led by the Holy Spirit from our spirit. We must not walk after the flesh, but we must walk after the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-8).

Christians who walk after the thoughts in their minds and not after the Holy Spirit guiding them from their spirit are open for spiritual operations from the enemy. They are open to Satan’s devices and don’t know it. All spiritual operations are not from God. Satan operates in false operations of the Spirit with great signs and wonders.

Job 1:6 tells us, **“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.”** When Christians gather together to worship the LORD, Satan comes also. In Ephesians 6:12 it tells us, **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”** Spiritual wickedness in high places is referring to “places of worship.” In the Old Testament, the words **“high places”** usually meant places of worship, and many times referred to false gods. See 1 Kings 12:31,32, 13:33, 14:23, 15:14, 22:43, 2 Kings 12:3, 14:4, 15:4, etc.

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Ephesians, is telling all Christians that our enemy is “false operations in the places we go to worship.” Therefore we must put on the whole armor of God, and stand against the works of the enemy. We are not to accept “spiritual wickedness in the places where we worship the LORD our God.”

Putting on the whole armor of God consists of knowing who you are in Christ. Knowing you are no longer in the flesh but in the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

It is important that you know who you are in Christ, and the authority you have as a member of His body here on earth. The whole armor of God is for your protection when you face the enemy. There are defensive protections against the fiery darts of the enemy. Ephesians 6:14 through the first

half of verse seventeen are for your defense. You need your defensive armor on when you face the enemy. Therefore, defend your position, **“with your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;...And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;...Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked....And take the helmet of salvation...”**(Eph. 6:14-17).

Once you have your defensive armor on, then take up your offensive weapons, **“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:...Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”**(Eph. 6:17,18). Christians need to be in a position of having their defensive armor on at all times. They also must have their offensive weapons in working order at all times.

Christians are in this world, but they are not of this world (John 17:16). Christians are in enemy territory at all times. We are never outside of enemy territory as long as we are in this world. Satan is the god of this world and this is his territory.

Christians are not in this world to please the enemy. We are here in this world to **“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called...”**(1 Tim. 6:12). We are not in this world to please the world, neither are we in the world to please the enemy. Faith in God, must be our motivation to continue the battle against the works of the devil. For it is written, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him”** (Heb. 10:38).

Christians need to be pleasing to God at all times. The only way to please God is by **“Having faith in God.”** We cannot please God by having faith in ourselves. We cannot please God by having faith in what we can do. We cannot please God by having faith in what we can get others to help us do. There is only one type of faith that will please God, that is, **“Have faith in God”** (Mark 11:22).

Just because a person is a born again, Spirit-filled Christian, that does not mean the devil will leave them alone. Satan is out to destroy every Spirit-filled Christian he can. If he cannot kill them with sickness and disease, he will do all he can to get them to turn away from serving the LORD.

In Mark 4:13-19 Jesus tells us how that Satan comes to turn Christians away from serving the LORD and becoming productive in the body of Christ. It says, **“Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?...The sower soweth the word....And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts....And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;...And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended....And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,...And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”**

If Satan cannot steal the Word from their heart, he then will come at them before they get grounded in the Word. Satan comes with **“affliction or persecution...for the word's sake,”** and gets them offended, that they turn away for continuing on in faith. If Satan cannot get them to stop serving the LORD, then he comes with **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.”** These things **“choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”** When the Word is no longer fruitful in the life of a Christian, Satan has them in his control.

This area of Satan's devices is most often overlooked by Christians (the area of the world and the things of this world). In 1 John 2:15-17 it tells us, "**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him....For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world....And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**"

Satan uses the natural senses to attract Christians to this world, and get their eyes and minds off of the will of God for their lives. In Revelation Chapter Three, it says, "**to...the church of the Laodiceans....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:...I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see....As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent**" (Rev. 3:14-19).

Very few Christians understand what the LORD is talking about in these verses. They have no idea that Satan is making the world and the things of this world more important to them than the will of God for their lives. They love the world and the things of this world and boast about their material blessings. Yet, the LORD is saying, "*They don't know it, but they are going in the wrong direction.*" They should be looking up, where God sits upon His throne and the LORD sits there also with His Father. The things in heaven should be much more important to Christians, then the things of this world (Col. 3:1,2).

When Satan is in control of a Spirit-filled Christian, he gets them to serve him, rather than the LORD. Romans 6:16 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?"** When Satan can get Spirit-filled Christians to become unfruitful through "**the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things,**" they will depart from "**Faith in God.**" Hebrews 10:38 tells us, "**Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**"

There is another area where Satan gets Spirit-filled Christians to become unfruitful. That is in the area of family relationships. Jesus said in Matthew 10:34-39. "**Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword....For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law....And a man's foes shall be they of his own household....He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me....And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me....He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.**"

Satan is a devil and he will do everything he can to stop Christians. If Satan can get Christians to put their families before the LORD, he has them right where he wants them.

When Christians put their families first, before the LORD, they are in fact trying to save their families by their own abilities. They think, if they put their family first they will gain their respect,

and maintain good family relationships. That is only temporal, sometimes they do gain good family relationships, but what they do in the natural is only temporal. This operation is of the natural man, the flesh, and does not assure them of their families spending eternity with God.

What looks good in the natural is not always good for the people involved. No one can save their children, only God can save their children. 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.”** If anyone wants their children and families to enjoy eternal life in heaven, the way to do it is to serve God with all your heart, and pray for your families. Your prayers will be answered when you pray in faith. But, if you try to bring them to Jesus yourself, you will more then likely fail. For only God can save them, you cannot save them yourself.

The devil is a devil. He has many ways to get Christians to try to do what God promised to do by their own ability. Whereas, only God can save their children and their families. We must do things the way God said to do it in His Word, not according to our own thinking.

Noah was a righteous man, and believed the LORD. When the flood came, God saved Noah, his wife, his sons and his sons wives. They were all saved, because Noah did what the LORD asked him to do. The Bible only says that Noah was a righteous man, not his wife, his sons, or his sons wives. But God is faithful, if we are faithful. If we do what God has called us to do, and pray for our families, God will save our families for us.

## Prayer & It's importance

Things to understand about prayer:

The Bible has a lot to say about Prayer. Yet, it never specifically says “if you pray.” In Luke 18:1 it tells us that Jesus taught that **“men ought to always pray.”** In Matthew 6:7 Jesus said **“when you pray...”** In Ephesians 6:18 says, **“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”**

Things to consider when you pray:

- 1). God does not answer prayer because we are faithful. God answers prayer because He is faithful.
- 2). God does not answer prayer because we are perfect. God answers prayer because He is perfect.
- 3). God does not answer prayer because of our good works. God answers prayer because of what Jesus did.
- 4). God does not answer prayer because we want Him to. God answers prayer because of His Word.
- 5). God does not answer prayers of begging and pleading. God answers prayer because of our believing and faith.
- 6). God is not a respecter of persons. You cannot force God to answer your prayer.
- 7). God does all things because of His Love, Grace, and Mercy, not because we deserve it.
- 8). God does not answer prayer according to your will. God answers prayer according to His will.

Jesus said in Mark 11:22, **“Have faith in God.”** Any time our faith is in anything other than God and His Word we are not living by faith. Faith in God is not the same as faith in man (what people can do). The Bible tells us, **“The just shall live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38). Hebrews 10:38 even goes further than Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11 by saying, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”** Therefore, if we do not live by faith in God and His Word, God will have no pleasure in us.

Hebrews 11:6 says, **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** God is only pleased when we believe He is God and He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Faith never focuses upon the circumstances. Faith always focuses upon the Word of God. Abraham was a man of faith. Romans, Chapter four speaks of the faith of Abraham. Romans 4:17 explains faith, by saying, **“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.”** Faith always calls those things which are not as though they were.

About Abraham, it says, **“Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.”** Against all natural hope, Abraham believed God **“according to that which was spoken.”** What God has spoken is recorded in the Bible, which is God's Word to us today. We must go by the written Word

of God, not the circumstances, not what we see with our eyes, or hear with our ears. We must **“have faith in God”** (Mark 11:22).

Speaking of Abraham, Romans 4:19,20 says, **“And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:...He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.”**

We must not stagger at the promises of God, nor let unbelief control what we believe. We must be strong in faith.

Then in Romans 4:21, speaking of Abraham, it says, **“And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”** Abraham was **“fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”** When we are “fully persuaded” we will see the manifestation of God’s Word on our behalf. We need to continue in God’s Word until we are fully persuaded that His Word is true, and He will reward those who come to Him, knowing He will reward them for their diligence.

Proverbs 3:5 says, **“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”** Don’t get over into mind operations, trying to figure out what to do and how to do it. Trust in the LORD, and give Him opportunity to work for your good according to His ability. He is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is faithful, and will cause the Word of God to work for your good, not only your good, but for the good of all who will trust in Him.

The LORD is in control of all things upon this earth. The Father put all things in His hands (Matt. 11:27, Luke 10:22, John 3:35). He did not come to judge His children (John 12:47). He came to set those who love Him free of all the works of the enemy.

When we pray, pray according to His Word. In 1 John 5:14,15 it says, **“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:...And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”**

God’s will is revealed in His Word. If we pray according to His Word, we know that He hears us. When we know that He hears us, we know also that we have whatsoever we prayed for.

Jesus said in Mark 11:24, **“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”** We must believe we already have them, when we pray. If we hold fast to our confidence, and not waver, we shall see the manifestation of that which we prayed for (Heb. 10:38).

By God’s Word, all things that exist were created. Jesus is the Word of God, and by Him all things exist. We must submit ourselves unto Jesus and unto the Word of God, and nothing the enemy tries to do will stop us. It is not what we can do, it is what God can do through us if we walk by faith in the Word of God.

For those who walk by faith, Jesus said in John 14:13,14, **“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son....If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”**

God is for us, not against us (Rom. 8:31). God’s Word cannot fail to accomplish that which He has spoken.

Our part is to keep our heart right before God and be doers of the Word, not just hearers only. James 1:19 tells us, **“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to**

**speak, slow to wrath.”** Don’t be in a hurry to speak, but wait on the LORD. Don’t be pressured into trying to come against those who come against you. God is faithful, and will not allow us to be tempted beyond our endurance.

Look at Paul and Silas in Philippi. They were beaten and put into jail. The enemy was coming at them strongly. But they were swift to hear and slow to speak against those who accused them. It tells us in Acts 16:25,26, **“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them....And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.”**

At a time when things in the natural looked bad, the circumstances were not looking good for Paul and Silas. Yet, they did not look at the circumstances. They kept their minds and hearts on God, Who was well able to deliver them.

We are not fighting an enemy in the natural. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. Our battle is against spiritual wickedness in high places. We must be led by the Spirit of God according to the Written Word of God to overcome the enemy.

Therefore, **“Have faith in God,”** and **“lean not unto your own understanding.”** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and He will deliver you and set you free of all the works of the enemy.

The circumstances cannot prevail against the Word of God. The Word of God controls everything that happens on this earth. Get to know the Word of God, and you will know God. For God and His Word are One. Stay with the written Word of God and you will overcome everything the enemy comes against you with. Put God first in your everyday life. And He will set His angels over you to protect you. Study and put into your everyday life Psalm 91, and God will fulfill His promise to you.

Have no fear, for fear is of the enemy. Don’t cast away your confidence, but keep your eyes upon Jesus. He is our all in all. Everything we have and everything we will ever be is dependent upon Jesus and our relationship to Him.

## **The Prayer of Authority**

The following is only a sample way to pray. It is not a pre-written prayer. You must pray from your spirit, not your mind. You must know what you are praying for before you pray. What is written is only a guide to praying in authority. It is not a prayer that you can read out loud and expect God to answer. You must pray from your spirit, out of your heart, by the help of the Holy Spirit. What man does in the natural of his own ability is not effective against the spirits of this world.

Before we pray the “prayer of authority,” we must understand certain things. Number One: We do not pray against people, we only pray against the spirits that are using the people. We pray for the deliverance of the people whom the spirits are using. Jesus, while on the Cross prayed, **“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”** (Luke 23:34). In Acts 7:6, Stephen, when he was stoned to death, cried out **“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”** We are not battling flesh and blood (human beings). Our battle is not against people. It is against spirits, demonic forces, operating in the spiritual realm.

Number Two: We do not need to use the names of people, we call out the names of demons, such as “spirit of infirmity, spirit of adultery, spirit of diabetes, spirit of cancer, lying spirits, etc.” We are not battling people. We are battling demonic spirits.

Our battle is not effective unless it is empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows what you are going to pray, even before you begin to pray. Isaiah 65:24 says, “**And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.**” In Daniel, the angel said to Daniel “**Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words**” (Dan. 10:12).

When we pray according to the Word of God, our answer is already on its way before we even begin to pray. God knows our thoughts and answers according to His Word. Our prayer must be in confidence. We cannot waver like a branch in the wind. James 1:6 says, “**But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.**”

## **Praying the Prayer of Authority**

First go to the LORD in prayer for yourself:

LORD, I come to You as it is written in the Word, “**Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.**” (Psa. 26:2). “**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts**” (Psa. 139:23). If there is any sin in me O’ LORD, reveal it to me that I may confess my sins and be cleansed from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Once you have confessed all your known sins I take your place among the brethren. Use the Word of God as your bases for your prayer. Put the Blood of Jesus over yourself and those you are praying for. Remind Satan of the Blood that cleanses us from all sin. Then Pray:

LORD, it is written in the Word that, “**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.**” (1 John 1:7).

We are also told in the written Word, “**if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.**” (1 Cor. 11:31).

LORD You used the example of when You spoke to the fig tree, and You said we must speak to the mountain. (Mark 11:23)

You told us, You have given us power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt us. (Luke 10:19).

LORD, You said, In Your name we shall cast out devils; and we shall speak with new tongues, we shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17,18).

LORD, You said, I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in

heaven. (Matt. 16:19).

Taking authority:

Now, I come against the works of darkness in the name of Jesus:

I now stand before You, O' LORD and I command Satan and his demons to leave my body and the bodies of those of my family. I command all sickness and disease to be gone in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. I command every spirit of infirmity to leave, and never return. I command healing to every part of my body and every part of the bodies of others in which I am praying the prayer of faith for. I command total and complete restoration of every organ, every tissue, every ligament, every bone and muscle. As I call out the names of sickness and diseases and I command them to go in the name of Jesus.

I stand before the LORD Jesus Christ in the power and authority given to me, and command all Satanic activities to cease. I bind your operations here on earth and release the power of the Holy Spirit to minister to those who have been tormented.

I declare the LORD Jesus Christ reigns in my life and in the lives of those who belong to Him. Satan, your power is broken in the lives of those who belong to Christ.

I submit myself, and those I pray for unto God, and I resist the devil and all his demons in the name of Jesus Christ.

Satan, I belong to the LORD Jesus Christ, I am a member of His body here on earth, I resist you and command you leave my mind and my body, and the minds and bodies of those for whom I pray. Your power is broken in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

I am in this world, but I am not of this world, you have no rights to my mind or my body, and I command you to leave my mind and my body in the name of Jesus Christ.

Continue to command the spirits to leave in the name of Jesus. Continue to rebuke the devil and his demons. Continue to pray in the Spirit as well as in the natural.

If it is sickness or disease you are praying against, James 5:15 says, **“the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”**

## Spiritual Wickedness in High Places

It is our responsibility to try “all the spirits” to know if they are of God or not? The apostle John wrote in 1 John 4:1, **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”** We are to try every spirit, not just the spirit of antichrist. How do we try the spirits? In 1 John 4:2 it says, **“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.”** We know them by the words that come out of a persons mouth. By what a person says, we know what spirit is speaking through them.

Without going into detail, we must understand, if they are a true prophet then they are walking in the likeness of Jesus Christ when He walked this earth. They must be a follower of Jesus Himself, by their lifestyle and example. We do not go by what their lifestyle was years ago. We only go by their present lifestyle. If they have repented of their past lifestyle, they are forgiven. God has forgotten their past. God works in the “now,” not in the past.

The first qualification of being a disciple of Jesus is “self-denial.” Jesus said in Luke 9:23, **“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”** In John 12:25 Jesus said, **“He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”**

By the words they speak, you can know if they are speaking to gain for themselves things of this world or a position in the body of Christ? Are they following the example of Jesus Christ? When they are constantly using the words “God told me,” you know there is another spirit working through them.

You, yourself, hardly ever need to tell another Spirit-filled Christians that God told you to tell them something. If it is truly God speaking through you, they will have a witness in their spirit by the Holy Spirit. God is not out to deceive any of His children. God is for us, not against us. God works from the spirits of every one of His truly born again Children.

Sometimes, God will have someone use the words “God told me,” but in the case where a person is constantly using those words, it is an indication that, that person “has no security in themselves” or “in the Word of God.” Therefore, to keep your attention and persuade you to follow them, they constantly use the words “God told me.” This is a bad spirit working through an individual. Ask yourself this question, how many times did Jesus use the words “God told me”? How many times did the apostles use the words “God told me”?

Satan works through the minds of people, especially Spirit-filled Christians who have not laid their lives down for Jesus and the Gospel that Jesus, Paul, and the others taught. Satan uses Christians, who use their minds to change the meaning of the Written Word of God to make it say what they want it to say. When they read the Bible, they look for Bibles that say what they want them to say. They do not study the Word and search the Scriptures to see what God is saying to His people.

There are many reading their own Bibles, then trying to reason out the Word of God to fit their own understanding in their natural mind. These are sometimes called theologians. Theological operations will destroy faith. Stay away from theological operations in the minds of those who try to reason out the Bible.

To serve God we must operate by faith. Hebrews 10:38 says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”** Hebrews 11:6 says, **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”**

When Jesus taught faith to His disciples He did not teach them to “have faith in what they could do.” He did not teach them to “have faith in what man can do.” He did not teach them to “have faith in what they could get others to do for them.”

In Mark 11:22 Jesus made it clear about His teaching on faith when He said, **“Have faith in God.”** Romans 4:17-21 also makes it clear that the faith of Abraham was not in what man could do, but in the Word of God spoken to him. Abraham’s faith was in God, not in man.

## THE GREAT DECEPTION

In Matthew 24:3 it says, **“...the disciples came unto him (Jesus) privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”** Throughout the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus was answering their questions.

Jesus said, in the last days, before His second coming **“...many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many”** ( Mt 24:5). We must be careful how we read the Scriptures. We must study the Scriptures to know the truth of what the Holy Spirit is telling us. Look closely at what Jesus said. He said, **“...many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ...”** Notice this, if they are coming in Jesus’ name, then they are not saying they are Jesus. Jesus did not come in someone else’s name and say He was Jesus. Jesus came in His own name and said who He was.

The word “Christ” in this verse and many times in the New Testament means “anointed.” Those who come in Jesus name are not saying they are Jesus, “the anointed one.” They are coming in Jesus’s name saying, “they are anointed by God,” therefore everyone should listen to what they have to say. Many will come saying, “God told me.” They use these words to get peoples attention, and to deceive them into thinking what they say is truly from God.

Many of these who come in Jesus name, saying God told them, are teaching that there is coming “one person,” whom they call “the antichrist.” They are saying, he will show himself, as though he was “Christ” himself coming the second time. Jesus did not teach this. Jesus said there will be “many” coming in His name saying they are “Christ” (Matt. 24:5).

In Matthew 24:24, Jesus said **“there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”** The word “Christs” means more then one, not only one, but many false prophets and false Christs.

Jesus was telling His disciples of what would be happening in the last days, before His return. Are we living in the last days before Jesus comes back? If we are, we should be aware of the great deception that will be among the Christians. There are many areas where Christians are being deceived today. The major reason Christians are being deceived is because they are not doing what the Scripture tells them to do. In 2 Timothy 2:15 it says, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto**

**God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”**

Very few Christians today are studying the Scriptures. For the most part, they may be reading their Bibles, but not studying them. Reading and studying are two different things. Many read their Bibles, but do not check and see if their Bibles agree with the original inspired Scriptures. When the Bible was first written, the writing of it was inspired by the Holy Spirit. In 2 Timothy 3:16 it says, **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”** In 2 Peter 1:20,21 it says, **“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation....For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”**

The original writing of the Scripture was inspired by the Holy Spirit, but the translations of the Scriptures were done by men. In the translation of the Scriptures there were many mistakes made. Therefore, if Christians only read their Bibles, and do not study the Scriptures, comparing their translations with the original Hebrew and Greek writings, they can easily be deceived.

Back in the early 1990's there came a word from the LORD, saying, *“Those who have taught what they heard other men teach and have not received it from My Spirit, if they will repent, My grace will cover them!”* It is not good to teach what other men teach if we do not receive what we teach from the Holy Spirit, Who inspired the writing of the original Scriptures.

Jesus said in John 6:45, **“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”** It is a known fact, that those who are taught by God will follow God. But those who are taught by men will follow men. We see this all over the world, everywhere we look. Nations have followed men, and nations were destroyed because they were following men, not God.

Among many who are called Christians, we have the same thing happening. Some call themselves Christians, but they do not believe the truth concerning the virgin birth of Jesus into this world. Others do not believe the truth concerning the New Birth. Others do not believe the truth concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Many do not believe the truth concerning the antichrist spirits. Many do not believe the truth concerning the son of perdition. All throughout the Churches there are many who claim to be following the LORD, and still teaching doctrines of men.

Deception in these last days is growing and growing, simply because Christians are follow others within the Churches and not receiving their teaching from the Holy Spirit. They believe what people say, but not what the Scriptures say. The Scripture is very clear as to what is happening today, and how it will increase in these last days.

In 1 John 2:27 it tells us, **“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.”** God teaches us from our spirit, not from our mind. Many do not understand this, because they have always operated from their mind. They were taught in the world how to use their mind to understand, and live according to what they know and believe and experience in this world. They reason out in their mind, what they believe. If it does not agree with their reasoning, they will not believe it.

The Scriptures make it clear, we cannot do that. We must not reason out the Word of God. In 2 Corinthians 10:5 it says, **“Casting down imaginations (reasoning), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the**

**obedience of Christ.”** When Christians reason out the Word of God, they are doing the opposite of what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches, **“the just shall live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38). Faith and reasoning will not agree, they are contrary to each other. What Christians do not understand is that “faith” operates from our “spirit,” and “reasoning” operates from our “mind.” Our minds operate from our head, our spirit operates from our belly.

If we listen to our mind in our head, we will easily be deceived, but if we listen to our spirit in our belly, we will know the truth and the truth will set us free. To help many who do not understand the difference between their mind and their spirit, let me tell you how to know the difference.

Your conscience is in your spirit, not in your mind. Everyone is born with a conscience, and it is a part of your spirit. Your spirit knows right from wrong, good from bad. If in your mind you want to do something that is wrong or bad you will get a sick feeling in your belly, where your spirit is. That sick feeling is never in your head, it is always in your spirit, which is in your belly. What’s happening when you get that sick feeling in your belly is that God, who loves you, is warning you, don’t do what you want to do in your mind. God is using your spirit to cause confusion in your mind, questioning, should you continue to do what you want to do, or should you not do what you want to do?

When you get a sick feeling in your belly, you should know that it is God warning you. Therefore, don’t do what your mind wants to do. Stop, before you get yourself in a situation that will cause problems in the future.

Many times in my life, even before I was born again I got that sick feeling in my belly, and I stopped doing what I had intended to do. Later, I found out that, if I had done what I had intended to do, I could have been killed, or at the least injured.

There were times when I got that sick feeling in my belly and I did what I should not have done, and I paid a great price for my disobeying the Holy Spirit within me. When we disobey the LORD, we will suffer the results of our disobedience.

In my teens and early twenties, I had many automobile accidents, simply because I disobeyed the sick feeling I had in my belly. I went where I should not have gone. I did not do what I knew I should not do, and I got into many accidents because of it. God loves us, even before we are born again, and tries to warn us if we are going in the wrong direction, or doing something we should not do.

God works from our spirit as it says in Job 32:8, **“...there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”** The Word of God was written by men of God as they received it by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16). That inspiration came from within their spirit, not their mind. It came by **“inspiration of the Almighty.”**

God teaches us from our spirit, men teach us from our minds. Therefore, it is important to understand how God teaches us from our spirit. What Jesus said in John 6:45, and what the Apostle John wrote in 1 John 2:27 is truth, and it is not a lie. If we will learn to listen to our spirit, we will get to know the truth from the Scriptures and from our spirit, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit within us.

Many Christians read their Bibles, but they do not study them. Many have never even looked up in the Hebrew and Greek to see if what is written in their Bible agrees with what was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In these last days, deception is increasing as more Christians teach what they have heard others teach, and have not listened to their spirit. They have not paid any attention to that sick feeling, or indication from their spirit when they hear others teach. They do not study the Scriptures to see if what is being taught is truth or not.

There are many errors in our Bibles today, that Christians have not checked out to see if what they are reading is truth or man's ideas. Let's take one example from 1 John 4:1-4. It says, "**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world....Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:...And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world....Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**"

Those who "read" their Bibles, but do not "study" them, may not notice the words **is come in the flesh**, and **he that is in you...** Both of these statements are speaking of the same subject, the antichrist spirits. The spirits of antichrist will not confess that Jesus Christ "**is come**" in the flesh... "**Is come**," is present tense, not past tense. That means, that Jesus Christ dwells in your spirit at this time. You are in Christ, and He is in you. In 1 John 5:10 it says, "**He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself..**" Those who are born again of the Word and the Spirit have a witness in themselves. They know in their spirit that they are in Christ and Christ is in them. This is all "present tense," not "past tense." Notice also in 1 John 4:4, it says, "**...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**" Notice that it says "**is in you**," that is present tense, meaning, "at this time."

The Apostle John is telling us that when we are born again, we have a witness in our spirit that Christ is in us and we are in Him. But, for those who do not study their Bible, but only read them, many will not notice that many translations have changed what the original Greek writings said to "**has come in the flesh**" in 1 John 4:2,3. Has come is "past tense," not "present tense." This changes the whole meaning of the Scriptures from what the Holy Spirit inspired, to what men say and believe. Notice also in the newer translations, they missed changing 1 John 4:4, and still leave that verse in the "present tense." The Apostle did not stop writing about the antichrist spirits in these chapters. He started writing about the antichrist spirit in 1 John 2:18 and continued on into 2 John 1:7.

Because many have taught what they have heard others teach, and have not received it from the Holy Spirit, error has come into the churches concerning the antichrist spirits. The Apostle John explained what the antichrist spirit is and where it comes from. In 1 John 2:18 he writes, "**Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.**" The antichrist spirit is not just one spirit, it is many spirits. Those who teach there is one antichrist spirit could be getting into great error.

In 1 John 2:19, the Apostle John explains these antichrists spirits by saying, "**They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.**" John did not say, "he" went out from us, he said "**They went out from us...**" They is plural,

meaning more than one. John also explained that even though they went out from us, **“they were not of us.”** That means, they were among us, as though they were one of us, but they were not truly one of us. In 1 John 2:22, he explains who these antichrist spirits are. It says, **“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”** By this we know that the antichrist spirits are those who claim to be Christians, “but deny that Jesus is the Christ.” Their teachings do not agree with the inspired Scriptures. They are teaching another Jesus, so to say. Yet, they claim to be Christians.

Now, there is more than just one antichrist spirit. Therefore, there are also more teachings that do not agree with the inspired Word of God, then just the teaching that denies that Jesus is the Christ. There is also the teaching that Jesus did come in the flesh about two-thousand years ago. They acknowledge the truth of His death and resurrection. But they are not born again. They have a lot of head knowledge from the Scriptures concerning Jesus Christ. They do not deny the head knowledge they have, but they do not confess that Jesus Christ **“is come”** in their flesh and they are truly born again. They do not teach that everyone who is truly born again has a witness in their spirit, a knowing that they are truly born again. They have many doctrines concerning the new birth that do not agree with the written Word of God.

Some say, you cannot be born again without water baptism. That is not true. Some say, that no one is truly born again except Jesus, He is the firstborn from the dead. Therefore they say you cannot be born again until you first die, and then are raised again from the dead. That is false, no truth in it. The antichrist spirits do not teach that Jesus Christ dwells in you and you dwell in Him at this present time. We are reminded of this again in 2 John 1:7, which says, **“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”** Again, it is talking about Jesus Christ dwelling in you at this present time. “Is come” is present tense, not future tense and not past tense.

This doctrine of “the antichrist” is then carried over into 2 Thessalonians, Chapter Two. Many are teaching “the antichrist spirit” doctrine in a place where the Scriptures are not speaking of the antichrist spirit. Neither is the message in 2 Thessalonians speaking of a spirit “that is not within the body of Christ,” or “not one of us.” Therefore, 2 Thessalonians, Chapter Two, it is not speaking of the antichrist spirit that John said **“was not of us, but came out from among us”** (1 John 2:19).

When you hear Christians teaching this doctrine of the antichrist, using the Scriptures of 2 Thessalonians, Chapter Two to teach from, you know they did not get that information from the Holy Spirit. They got that information from those who teach from their minds, not listening to the Holy Spirit and not led by the Holy Spirit. This is a work of men, not of God...

The spirit that is spoken of in 2 Thessalonians, Chapter Two is “one that came from within the body of Christ.” That spirit was one who “departed from the faith.” He was one of us, and then departed from us. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 it says, **“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”** The words, “son of perdition” identifies the same spirit that deceived Judas Iscariot. In Luke 22:3, it says, **“Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.”**

How do we identify the spirit of “the son of perdition”? God is progressive, and His Word is progressive. That means, what God reveals in His Word in the beginning continues unto the end,

it does not change its original meaning. This is also true of the Hebrew language and the Greek language. These languages have what is called “the stem” or “the root” of a word. That is a word, that other words come out of. Yet, the stem of root word never lose their meaning, but other words come from them by adding to them. (The word “stem” or “root” identify the main source the word. You cannot always see the “root” of a word when you look only at the word. You must go backward to see the root of the word, which never changes). The reason they are called a stem or root is because that is where they have their beginning. It is like a tree. You cannot always tell the true nature of a tree without sometimes seeing the branches or the fruit. The branches come out of the “the stem,” and the stem come out from “the root.” So it is with words, and the revelation of the Scriptures.

This same principal applies to the written Word of God also. The first time something is mention in the Scriptures is the root, or stem of what is said later. For example, a covenant was made with Abraham before the law. The law could not change the covenant that was already made with Abraham (Gal. 3:17).

Therefore, the first mention of “the son of perdition” is in John 17:12, which came before 2 Thessalonians, 2:3. Jesus identified Judas Iscariot as “the son of perdition.” The word “perdition” means “ruin or loss; damnation.” Those who follow the spirit of the son of perdition are following a spirit that could lead them into “damnation, or eternity in hell.”

This is why it is important to understand “the son of perdition” and 2 Thessalonians, Chapter Two. To understand “the son of perdition” we must understand certain things about Judas Iscariot.

- (1) Judas was a thief (John 12:6).
- (2) Judas did not care about the poor (John 12:6)
- (3) Judas was a traitor (Luke 6:16).
- (4) Judas was one of the twelve disciples (John 6:71).
- (5) Judas handled the money for the disciples (John 13:29).
- (6) Only Jesus knew that Judas was a thief. The other disciples did not know it was Judas who would betray Jesus (Mark 14:19).

Only Jesus was hearing directly from the Holy Spirit at that time. The other disciples had power given to them, and they did great works (Matt. 10:1, Luke 9:1). But, they did not have the Holy Spirit operating from within them at that time.

It is only by the revelation of the Holy Spirit, that a person can know who among us have submitted themselves to serve the devil, while still being considered as one of us. When we know the identifying marks of “the son of perdition” we can receive revelation knowledge concerning those who have departed from the faith, and given themselves over to the following of another spirit.

In 2 Thessalonians, Chapter Two, it is speaking of a spirit that entered into someone who was a disciple of Jesus. One who departed from the faith...

This is not an “antichrist spirit,” it is another spirit sent from Satan into someone who was a follower of Jesus, and then departed from following Jesus. We know that Judas Iscariot was one of Jesus’ disciples. We also know that Judas Iscariot was deceived by Satan himself. Judas gave place for the devil, and Satan entered into Judas.

Christians must learn how to be taught by God, not by men. Christians must learn to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit from within their belly, and not from their mind. God works from the spirits of men, Satan works from the minds of men.

In 2 Thessalonians, chapter two, the complete chapter is in the plural form in the Greek. Men have translated it into the singular form in verses three and four. Yet, in the remainder of the chapter they left in the original plural form. This chapter is not speaking of one person, called “the son of perdition.” It is speaking of many people, in the Churches today, claiming to be anointed, claiming to be above others. They come “in the name of Jesus” and are claiming that “they are anointed” (Christ). This is exactly what Jesus was speaking of in Matthew 24:4,5,11,24. Taking a closer look at 2 Thessalonians 2:3, it says in the King James Version, **“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition”** Many Bibles have made an error in this translation. This is not talking about one person called **“the son of perdition.”** The Greek word “huios” translated “son” in this verse is also translated “sons” eighty-five times in the King James Version. The correct translation should have been “sons of perdition.”

Judas Iscariot is “the son of perdition.” Jesus made this clear in John 17:12. Judas was a disciple of Jesus. He was one of the twelve. Judas was listening to the devil, and following Satan. In his end, Satan entered into Judas and he betrayed Jesus. When we understand the temptations that Judas faced, and did not overcome, we can understand how easily we could be taken in by the same spirit “the spirit of the son of perdition.”

Notice something else about Judas Iscariot, his motive was money, he was a thief (John 12:6). In 1 Timothy 6:10 it tells us, **“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”** By this we see that **“the love of money is the root of all evil...”** Therefore, we must be careful of how we view money. If we covet money, it will cause us to error from the faith. This is not good for any Christian to error from the faith because of the love of money. Jesus told us in Matthew 6:24, we cannot serve God and money.

There are many in the places of worship today, who have betrayed the LORD for money. They have raised themselves up as though they are God, using the name of God to obtain their desire for money, saying “God told them.”

The second error made by many in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, is where it says, **“except there come a falling away first.”** This falling away is speaking of Christians departing from the **“true faith in God.”** In 1 Timothy 4:1 the apostle Paul makes mention of this saying, **“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”** Many faith teachings today are not **“Have faith in God,”** as Jesus taught (Mark 11:22). But rather “have faith in what you can do, and who you can get to follow you.”

There are many “sons of perdition” today, in the churches, and being deceived. In 2 Thessalonians 2:4, it says, **“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”** In the Greek text this is in the plural form, meaning more than one person. Yet it is also referring to what was spoken in Isaiah 14:13,14, where it says, **“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”**

Satan is using Christians in the places of worship to exalt themselves as though they are God. They operate from their minds, not from their spirit where God works from. They speak words as

though it is God, but it is not from God. It is from their own imagination and intellect. They are raising themselves up, to be like God.

Study the complete chapter of 2 Thessalonians Chapter Two, and see what it truly says. Look at verses 9 through 12, which says, **“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,...And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved....And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:...That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”**

This is not speaking of one person. It is in the plural form, speaking of many Christians standing in the office of a ministry while being deceived by Satan himself. Be aware of what their end could be. Revelation 20:10 tells us that **“false prophets will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.”** Be careful of those who teach about the antichrist spirit from 2 Thessalonians, Chapter Two. That chapter is not speaking of the antichrist spirit.

In my own life, since I was born again into the family of God, I had many Christians come to me and tell me, “God told them to tell me what I should do.” I always knew in my spirit it was not God telling them to tell me what they said. Many times, I waited, and what they said showed up to be totally false. Sometimes I told them they did not hear from God. Sometimes I didn’t say anything.

Understand, when someone comes to you saying “God told them to tell you something,” they are placing themselves between you and God. They are, in fact, implying that they are a mediator between you and God. In 1 Timothy 2:5 it says, **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”**

One person told me that if I didn’t do what they said “God told them to tell me,” that God was going to kill me. That was about sixteen years ago. I didn’t do what they said, and I am still here today. Many people, who say they are anointed, and called of God, have told me that God told them to tell me something. In my spirit, I knew it was not from God.

Christians must learn to hear from God from within their spirit, and not go according to their mind. Satan will deceive them in their mind, but the Holy Spirit will lead them in all truth from their spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, He will not deceive you.

Don’t be misled by those who say they are anointed. Listen to the Holy Spirit within your belly, and you will know what is of God and what is not of God.

Don’t follow men, follow the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not deceive you, but men will deceive you.

Christians must **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Tim. 2:15). Christians are deceived by not studying the Scriptures for themselves. They rely upon those who say they are anointed, and believe whatsoever they say. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, working from within our spirit, we will easily be misled and deceived.

Heaven is above the earth. Hell is in the center of the earth. If you want to go up when you leave, stay with what the Holy Spirit inspired in the Bible, not the teachings of men. Learn to listen to your spirit, not your mind.

## The Anointing for Ministry

In Ephesians 4:8 it tells us that when Jesus **“ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”** Then in Ephesians 4:11, it mentions these gifts, saying, **“he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”** There is a special anointing for each of these five ministry gifts. The anointing is different in each case. The purpose for the anointing is that the Holy Spirit can manifest through each anointing to destroy the works of the enemy within the body of Christ. And to do the work of the ministry for which they have been anointed.

It is very important to understand that men cannot do the work of the ministry without the anointing for the work to which they have been called. In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked His disciples, **“But whom say ye that I am?”** Then Peter answered, **“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”** (Matt. 16:16). Then in Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, **“upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”** Upon what rock? It is upon the truth that Jesus is **“Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Notice also, Jesus Christ said, He, was going to build His Church, Himself. Jesus did not give authority to anyone else to build His Church. He is building His Church Himself. How is He building His Church? By anointing individuals with the proper anointing to do the work of the ministry.

Anyone who enters the position of the five-fold ministry without the anointing for that position was not called by the LORD. The LORD does not put a novice in an office of a ministry (1 Tim. 3:6). Let us look at what Jesus said about shepherds (pastors), in John, Chapter Ten.

In John 10:1, Jesus said, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”** Then in John 10:7 it says, **“Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.”** When someone enters through the door, which is Jesus Christ Himself, they enter with the anointing to do what they are called to do. The LORD does not put people into the five-fold ministry without the anointing to do the work for which they are called. Then in John 10:8, Jesus said, **“All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.”** The Pharisees and Sadducees of the priesthood at the time of Jesus were nothing but thieves and robbers. They were not true shepherds. They put their own version of the Law before, true judgment, mercy, and faith. In Matthew 23:23, Jesus said, **“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”**

In John 10:11, Jesus said, **“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”** The qualifications of someone called into the ministry and entered through the Door, which is Jesus Christ is **“the must lay their lives down for the sheep.”** A shepherd will always go before the sheep, and the sheep will always follow the shepherd. The shepherd is the example for the sheep. The sheep follow the example set by the shepherd. The good shepherd has an anointing from the LORD to minister to the sheep of his fold. If there is any sick among them, the anointing is there to heal the sick. If there are those who are feeble the shepherd will carry them to the owner of the flock, which is Jesus Christ Himself. By the power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit the feeble will be made strong.

Self-denial is the first fruit of the true anointing of a shepherd. Pride can have no place in the lives of those anointed into the ministry. James 4:6 says, **“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”** A good shepherd never forces or compels anyone to do anything. Everything is done by Love and through Love. A good shepherd lives a life of faith, and that faith is in God, not in man.

When the LORD calls someone into the ministry, He equips them with the necessary gifts of the Spirit to do the work of the ministry. All the work of the ministry is to be done by the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the individual called. That does not mean that everyone called into the ministry will operate in all nine gifts of the Spirit. But, the Holy Spirit will distribute the nine gifts to whosoever He wills within that congregation. The gifts are as the Spirit wills, not as man wills. The shepherd has the leading of the Holy Spirit operating in his life at all times. The Holy Spirit will guide, comfort, teach, lead, and help those who are following His leading, that goes for everyone who is following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

A shepherd (pastor) does not have to prophesy, work miracles, receive words of wisdom, words of knowledge, etc. The Holy Spirit will anoint whosoever He will within the sheepfold to operate in the gifts of the Spirit. A shepherd must walk in love, for Love is the first fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). The shepherd must live by faith, for it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him”** (Heb. 10:32). Faith works by Love (Gal. 5:6).

The twenty-third Psalm is a true description of a good shepherd. **“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want....He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters....He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake....Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me....Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”**

A good shepherd never tries to solve a sheep's problems by his own ability. It is not his responsibility to supply all the needs of the sheep. A good shepherd always takes the sheep to the owner of the flock to supply all their needs. Jesus Christ, Himself is the owner of the sheep. He is well able to take care of any situation that should arise in the life of any one of His sheep. The ability to take another persons situation before the throne of God and get answers is the evidence of a good shepherd.

A good shepherd should never walk away from any sheep that is in need. Although, many sheep will leave the sheepfold because of their own selfish desires of the flesh. Pride, a self-will, self-motives, selfishness, etc. are all indications that a person is yielding to the wrong spirits. These who are taken by Satan at his own will, need to be brought back into the fold by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, not by the self-willed intentions of those who think they are someone important. God is not a respecter of persons, the shepherd is not above the sheep and neither are the sheep above the shepherd. We are all a part of the body of Christ, and everyone is important. One member cannot say they are more important than the other (1 Cor. 12:12-26). In 1 Corinthians 12:25 it says, **“there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.”** When a pastor raises himself above his people, he opens the door for the devil to enter

into the congregation and steal, kill, and destroy.

If you are one that has been deceived by the teachings of men, or the deception of the devil, repent and be forgiven. Those who repent and are forgiven will be received by the LORD unto everlasting habitations in heaven. Our names were written in the book of life, but we must not do things that could cause our names to be taken out of the book of life. Don't let pride or position stop you from repenting. It is better to die to self now, than to continue being deceived by the enemy. God loves you, don't go contrary to God.

## **Hirelings and Wolves in Sheep's Clothing**

In John 10:12,13, Jesus said, **“But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep....The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.”**

A hireling is always someone who has their eyes upon money. They go where they can get the most money. They do not care about the sheep. They are not a good shepherd.

Jesus also said in Matthew 7:15, **“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”** These are not hard to know when you follow the leading of the Spirit from your spirit. The Holy Spirit knows who are His own and who they are that are following the devil. You will know them by their fruit.

Many times, Jesus taught in parables. Have you ever considered this? A good shepherd always carries a staff and walks in front of the sheep. The sheep follow a good shepherd for they know their shepherd and he knows his sheep. A good shepherd never drives his sheep, he always leads them. He goes before them and prepares for them places of food, shelter, and whatsoever they need. In some of the Churches we have good shepherds, but not in all the churches.

What about the hirelings and wolves in sheep's clothing? They are not shepherds. They do not lead the sheep in the right way to the owner of the flock. They are like cattle ranchers. They ride on horseback above the cattle. They use a rope to lasso the cattle and force them into the position they want them. They lock the cattle in stalls and milk them until they are dry. They lasso the young, tie their legs, and brand them, that they cannot go where there is a good shepherd, without their permission. They completely control everything the cattle do. They never lead them, they always drive them.

Look what it says in Ezekiel 34:1-6, **“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,...Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?...Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock....The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them...And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered....My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.”**

Even though, when Jesus said in John 10:7, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep,”** He was not talking only about the Churches, He was speaking of everyone in the body of Christ. When we talk about the sheepfold, we must keep in mind that the individual churches are a part of the sheepfold. If there were no pastors, there would be no churches.

When a person enters into the position of a Pastor, they should come through the Door, and receive the anointing for a Pastor. There are many Christians calling themselves “pastors,” today. Many of these do not have the anointing necessary to be a pastor. They took the title of pastor, but

have not received the anointing from the LORD to be a pastor. This is a very sad situation indeed, for those who are members of their churches do not get the proper teaching on how to receive healing. Therefore, when they get sick, their pastor sometimes tells them to go and see a doctor. The Bible does not teach that.

The Bible teaches that a Pastor is to take them to the LORD, Who is the healer, according to the Word of God written in our New Testament (Covenant) and get them healed. This is the duty of a Pastor.

I have seen Pastors who go and visit people in the hospitals, thinking they are obeying James 1:27, which says, **“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”** When they visit those who are sick, instead of praying according the Word of God for their healing, they try to comfort them in their pain and suffering. They become like Job’s comforters, not helping those who need healing at all. But instead helping Satan destroy their bodies with sickness and disease. When the person dies, they say they were doing their duty, by preparing them to meet the LORD in heaven when they get there. Satan sure has their minds blinded to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Remember, part of Job’s problem was his three friends, which some call “Job’s comforters.” Had Job listened to Elihu, the young prophet sent by the LORD, his situation could have been turned around much earlier in his struggle with the boils that Satan smote him with.

When Christians are sick, “they don’t need those Pastors,” that don’t know how to take a persons sickness and diseases to the LORD and get them healed. Look at what it says about Elihu, in Job 32:2, **“Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God.”**

This is many times the reason why Christians who are sick and need healing don’t get healed. They don’t need someone to comfort them in their sickness. They need someone to lead them in repentance from their sin of self-justification. Once they have repented of their self-righteousness and self-justification, it is easy to get them healed.

I have been at funeral services of Pastors, where they had many other Pastors praying for them and visiting them all the time while they were sick, at home and in the hospital. They were not helping the sick, they were only helping the devil destroy them and take the sick persons life.

Satan has the power of death, not Jesus. Jesus has the power of life, not the power of death. We believe that Jesus will receive those who are His when they die. But, the LORD’s way of receiving someone when they leave this earth is that they just simply “give up the ghost, and go to be with Jesus.” Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jesus all “gave up the ghost,” when they died. Satan did not take their lives from them. Christians do not need to be sick to die. Death by sickness or disease is a work of the devil.

O’ how important it is to understand our covenant, and the way the LORD works, that we do not help the devil do his destroying among Christians. We don’t need Pastors who are “Job’s comforters.” We need Pastors who have the anointing that is necessary to do the work of a Pastor.

## Spiritual Witchcraft in the Churches

In some of the Churches today, there are those in authority that received their authority by witchcraft. Sometimes the pastor himself or herself did not come through the Door of the Sheepfold. They came in another way (John 10:1). The true anointing of the LORD for the position of a pastor is not there. This is not only in the position of the pastor, but also in other positions in the Churches.

In many instances, a pastor may have a calling from the LORD, but his wife does not have that calling. There are churches today where the wives of pastors have demanded that they also bear the title of pastor. These pastors, under pressure from their wives agreed to give that title to them. This is spiritual witchcraft in the office of a pastor. Anyone in the office of a pastor that God has not called and anointed is not equipt to do the work required of a pastor.

There are some organizations issuing certificates of pastoral offices to both the husband and the wife. They refuse to ordain a woman without also ordaining the husband. If the husband does not have the calling and the anointing, he should not be given the title of pastor (Heb. 5:4). Some pastors have placed their children in the position of assistant pastor but the anointing is not there. This is disrespect for the Holy Spirit who places each one in the proper office Himself. In 1 Corinthians 12:28 says, **“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”** Only the Holy Spirit has the authority to place a person in an office in the body of Christ. No man has that authority. Look at what it says in Acts 13:1,2, **“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul....As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”**

Paul and Barnabas were called and sent by the Holy Spirit, not by others in the church at Antioch.

Many have gone to Bible Schools and theological seminaries and received certificates for the position of a pastor, yet the anointing is not there. They become pastors of churches, without the anointing, and the members suffer greatly. Many of these pastors operate from their mind, not from their spirit. The churches become like the world's system of a manufacturing plant. Each one is assigned a position, in which they must fulfill to the desires of the pastor. There is no anointing in these churches, and the Holy Spirit does not have freedom to move. Their church services start at 10:30 and must be out by 12:00. Everything is on a time bases, only so many minutes for each phase. They have strict rules and regulations as to what can be done and what is not permitted.

That which is laid out in 1 Corinthians 14, cannot be followed in these churches. There is no allowance for the Holy Spirit to minister to the people. They limit the gifts of the spirit to the pastor only, and many of the pastors are not anointed to flow in the gifts of the Spirit.

Speaking of positions in the body of Christ, Hebrews 5:4 says, **“And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.”** Only those whom God has called will have the anointing to fill the office. Anyone who comes into the office another way, is nothing but a thief and a robber (John 10:1).

There are many Christians going from church to church operating under witchcraft. They even put curses upon individuals in the churches. They speak lies from their mind, trying to control

what happens in certain churches. Sometimes, even the pastors are taken in by their witchcraft. They receive their information from the wrong source. Some of their words of knowledge came from “familiar spirits.” These familiar spirits know the past and present situations in the lives of many Christians. They use this information to gain access into positions in the churches.

Without the help of the Holy Spirit, these are not always easily to identify. But the anointing of the Holy Spirit will identify the false if the Holy Spirit is given freedom to minister to the congregation.

When the leaders of the churches permit false operations to minister in their midst, the Holy Spirit will not operate to their benefit. I have been in meetings where the person in charge was not operating in the anointing for which he claimed to be. Prophecies were given which were false. Words of knowledge were given which were false. This person was operating from his mind, his intellect, and even giving prophecies to benefit himself. He prophesied great wealth was coming to one individual. Within a year or so that individual passed away, with no money to pay his hospital bills. Is God a liar? Certainly not.

In one meeting there was a word given to me, personally. This is what was spoken, *My son, sayest the LORD, you have been faithful in the call on your life. Yea, My hand is upon this school and it's My pleasure, yea, even to bless it. And there has been a restriction of the blessing upon it, but yea, no longer. Yea, I'm going to bless this school financially, but I'm going to bless you as an individual. For your heart is right, you have desired even to have funds to distribute; give, for you are, have been a giver. I'm going to bless thee and increase thee financially in a way that you do not even think will happen. For it's My desire to bless thee, O man of God and to promote thee. I am well pleased in your efforts, And I say unto thee, you are hearing My voice and you are being directed by Me. And don't think for a minute, sayest the LORD, that you have missed Me. You have not missed Me. You are on track. Yea, I even touch thee and bless thee concerning . . . I will bless, yea even about thine heart, And I minister, yea even health unto thee. And I will prosper thee. And this Christmas shall be one of the happiest Christmas's that you have ever had in your life. Sayest the LORD!*

The Bible says, we must try the spirits if they are of God. In trying the spirits, we do not come against the person, but we do check out what is said, to see if it lines up with the Written Word (1 John 4:1-3). Every spiritual operation is to be judged by those who are prophets (1 Cor. 14:26-29). If you do not know if it is of God or not, and there is an indication that it is spoken as prophecy and not a word of knowledge or word of wisdom, then watch and see if it does come to pass? Deuteronomy 18:22 says, **“When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”**

None of this which was spoken came to pass, not any of it. This was not of the LORD. That person spoke this from his own self. Secondly, what is spoken here does not agree with the Word of God. It does not agree with the New Testament. It does not agree with Colossians 3:1,2, and 1 John 2:15-17.

God does not “exalt people,” especially in front of others. God is not promoting individuals, one above another. God is not a respecter of persons. The Spirit of God only glorifies the LORD. The

Spirit of the LORD does not promote worldly blessings, nor the desires of the flesh. Search the Scriptures and see if you can find any prophecies where God promoted and exalted someone in front of others?

Jesus had twelve disciples, plus seventy others. Jesus never said to any of His disciples, *“I’m going to bless you as an individual. For your heart is right, you have desired even to have funds to distribute; give, for you are, have been a giver. I’m going to bless thee and increase thee financially in a way that you do not even think will happen. For it’s My desire to bless thee, O man of God and to promote thee. I am well pleased in your efforts.”* You will not find any of this kind of prophecy in the New Testament. God does not glorify those who are His servants. God does not promise worldly pleasures, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes or the pride of life to any of His servants.

God exhorts Christians to continue on, even in the times of hardships. This you will find in the New Testament, such as Jesus said to the Apostle Paul in Acts 23:11. It says, **“And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”** Christians should listen to the voice of the Spirit within themselves and know what is of God and what is not of God?

There are many Christians going around calling themselves prophets, or prophetess, exalting and glorifying each other. This is not of God. It is of the flesh to say the least. The flesh wants to glory in the presence of others.

I was at another meeting where the person ministering came to me, laid his hand on my shoulder and spoke these words,

*“From the temptations and the lusts of this world, O they walk after My Spirit, they walk after Me. For I’ve revealed things by My Spirit from My Word says the Spirit, that have caused you to live godly and overcome temptation; that will establish you on the Rock of My Word. So listen diligently to those things, don’t let them slip, the things that you have heard. For time of adversity of problems are at hand and only those that I equip in those days will be able to stand. So minister in My presence when things are well with thee, in the day of tribulation, I, your LORD God, will strengthen you and see you through.”*

There is no question this was a word from the LORD. When it is from the LORD, you will know it in your spirit. The Spirit bears witness with our spirit and we know it is of God.

In many of the churches they permit the flesh to manifest, and even encourage it. In Galatians 5:17 it says, **“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.”**

In many of the churches the praise and worship is a demonstration of the flesh. They act like the world, and do not glorify the LORD! They are not “leading praise and worship” they are showing off their worldly talents. True praise and worship is unto the Father and the LORD, not unto men. True praise and worship is found in Revelation, Chapters Four and Five. Revelation 4:8-11 says, **“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come....And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,...The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,...Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power:**

**for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”**

Revelation 5:11-14 says, **“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;...Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing....And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever....And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”**

True praise and worship glorifies the Father and the Son, for they only are worthy of praise and glory and honor. True praise and worship must come from the spirit, not from the flesh. Jesus said in John 4:24, **"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."** (NKJV) Worshiping God in the flesh is not acceptable to the LORD.

I was in one church one Sunday when the praise and worship team led the congregation, singing “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus” over and over for almost an half hour. Many testified that, during praise and worship they receive healing in their bodies. When we praise and worship Jesus, the power to heal is present.

In many churches today, they are preaching another gospel, not the Blood of Jesus, not the Cross and Resurrection from the dead, not Faith in God. The preach worldly prosperity, and how you can become rich and be wealthy, in worldly possessions. This is not New Testament Gospel. It is not taught in the New Testament.

In Genesis 22:17 the angel of the LORD said to Abraham, **“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.”** Abraham’s seed according to the sand on the sea shore are the children of Israel during the Old Testament. These are the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. These must also come under the New Covenant, whereby Jesus is “the mediator” of the New Covenant.

Christians and Jews alike, need to understand why there is a New Testament and an Old Testament in our Bibles. The word “Testament” and the word “Covenant” are the same thing.

For the Jews, they had “a Covenant of the Law,” given to them by Moses (which is written in the Old Testament). When the New Covenant came by Jesus Christ (their Messiah), it replaced the Old Covenant of the Law for the Jews. In John 1:17, it explains it this way, by saying, **“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”**

Therefore, to the Jews, the New Covenant replaces the Old Covenant of the Law. For the Christians, the New Covenant is the same Covenant that the LORD God made with Abraham. It also, is not actually a “New Covenant,” but a “Renewed Covenant” that already existed from the time of Abraham.

Back in Jeremiah 31:31-34, it was prophesied that God would **“renew”** the covenant that He already made with Abraham, which included “all the seed of Abraham” (those after the sand of the sea shore and those after the stars of heaven).

Jeremiah 31:31 says, **“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.”** The word **“new”** in this verse

comes from the Hebrew word “chadash,” (pronounced ‘*khaw-dawsh*’) which also comes from the Hebrew (root) word “chadash” (pronounced ‘*khaw-dash*’), meaning “to rebuild, repair, renew.”

The only place in the New Testament where it makes mention of this is in Hebrews 8:6-13. The reason it is mentioned there is because “the Epistle to the Hebrews” was written to the Jews, that they would understand, they must also come under the same Covenant as the Gentiles. Both Covenants were already established when the LORD God made a Covenant with Abraham.

Abraham’s seed, according to the stars of the heaven are those who are in Christ. They are now born again Christians, in Christ, under the New Covenant, sealed by the blood of Jesus. Look at Galatians 3:16, which says, **“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”** Galatians 3:29 says, **“And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”** Galatians 3:14 says, **“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”** The blessing of Abraham is not worldly possessions, but rather the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament does not promise us worldly possessions, but rather spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3 says, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”** The New Covenant includes “power over all the works of the devil” (Luke 10:19). The New Testament saints are not of this world. Jesus said in John 17:16, **“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”** The New Testament saints are those who are born again of the Word and the Spirit (1 Peter 1:23, John 3:6,7). They are “in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17). They are **“ambassadors for Christ”** (2 Cor. 5:20). We are not here to possess the world, but to destroy the works of the devil.

We are not here to do our will, but to be vessels for the Holy Spirit to use to do the will of God the Father. The church is here on earth to preach “Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.” We are to preach salvation from all the works of the enemy. We are to set the captives free. We are to do the works that Jesus did, and preach the same gospel that Jesus preached.

Many have betrayed the LORD for money, and preached another gospel. They have put more emphases on money than on the power of God to set the captives free. Here in the United States many of the churches put more emphases on raising money than they do on preaching the gospel. If you say to them, “why don’t we believe God for the money,” they look at you as if you must be nuts. They don’t know what you are talking about. They think the only way to get money is use some sort of gimmick or program where they can get people to give to their cause. The world does that all the time.

God is not against Christians receiving money through tithes and offerings. God set it up that way. But, God can supply all our needs without using gimmicks and programs. The late Rees Howells and his wife believed God for the money they needed. When they believed God would supply the money they needed God did supply the money. Sometimes God would have someone, even people who they did not know, send them the money they needed. The late John G. Lake believed God for money many times. When he believed God, God supplied the money he needed. The late Smith Wigglesworth also believed God for money and got it. Many times these three and many others never told anyone they needed money. The only one they talked to about the money they needed was God. They talked to God, and God supplied the money they needed.

Sometimes, God even supplied money “supernaturally,” to those who would believe. The

money would come to them with no natural explanation of how it got there. The late Charles W. Doss, while in Bible School, needed money to pay his tuition. He laid his Bible on the seat of a chair, knelt on the floor with his chest on his Bible and prayed. When he got up from praying, he picked up his Bible and the money he needed fell from under it. God can confirm His Word and supply our needs “supernaturally” when it is necessary. God does not need to do things the way the world does them.

God loves to work in the “supernatural,” He began working in the supernatural and hasn’t stopped yet. It could be His favorite way of doing things. When parts of our bodies are in need of repair, instead of repairing the old part, God just gives us a new part. God loves doing it that way. God loves to answer prayer, that is why, in His Word He told us to pray.

Some Christians seem to have replaced **“I am the LORD that healeth thee”** with “go to the doctor.” Many pastors have “more faith in the doctors” than they have in the LORD. The Bible does not teach this. No where does the Bible tell Christians to go to the doctor. The LORD is not condemning Christians for going to a doctor. But His will is that they come to Him for healing, and that they believe His Word and receive healing according to His Word.

The Bible says, **“be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** (Rom. 12:2). God’s ways and the world’s ways are not the same. We should do things God’s way, not the way the world does them.

What happened to the LORD that said to Abraham, **“Is any thing too hard for the LORD?”** (Gen. 18:14). In many churches they have brought the LORD down to the level of man, as though His ability is no greater than man’s.

The LORD’s will, is that we come to Him in every circumstance, and let God work out all our situations. It’s God and man working together. Not man doing it on his own. Not waiting for God to do it for us.

The angel said to Mary, **“For with God nothing shall be impossible”** (Luke 1:37). “With God,” means “God and man working together.” God could not bring Jesus into this world, “born of a virgin” without a woman who was a virgin to agree with God to have a child. Mary could not become the mother of Jesus without the Holy Spirit causing the conception.

It takes God and man working together to accomplish all that God desires in the lives of those who receive Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior. God is not going to do it alone. And man cannot do it alone. It must be **“with God.”** If Christians do not believe God and His Word, God cannot help them. God can only help those who believe. Jesus said to the man with a son who was possessed with a deaf and dumb spirit, **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark 9:27). When we believe the Word of God, then God can do His will in our lives. His will is that we are set free of all the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

## Put Away the False, and Get Back to the True

God is love, and His greatest desire is that we love Him the same as He loves us. God is merciful, and long suffering, not willing that any should perish. If we repent, and turn again to Him, He will deliver us from the false and bring us into His Holy presence.

We are here on this earth. Heaven is above, and hell is beneath. Which way will we go? If we follow the spirits of this world, those sent by Satan, we will be deceived. If we continue in the Word and in prayer, seeking only to do the will of God, God will help us and keep us until we leave this earth for heaven. We cannot give the devil a place in our lives whereby he gets control. We must be taught by God and led by the Holy Spirit. Heaven is forever, and so is Hell. Choose heaven! Choose the LORD Jesus Christ and follow Him all the days of your life.

The Scripture says, **“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”** (1 Peter 4:17 ).

Before judgment comes **“the chastening of the Lord...”** Hebrews 12:6-8 says, **“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth....If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?...But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”**

When we are chastened by the LORD, if we do not judge ourselves, we will be judged.

It also says in Hebrews 12:25-27 **“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:...Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven....And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”**

The only thing that cannot be shaken is that which is of God. That which is of the flesh shall be shaken. Let us judge ourselves, that we are not judged, and be not shaken in the days to come.

God knows everything. There isn't anything that God does not know. God knows eternity from the beginning to the end. God is the beginning of everything. Genesis 1:1 says, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”** (NKJV).

John 1:1-3 says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....The same was in the beginning with God....All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”**

The above verses are talking about Jesus, who was the Son of God from the beginning. 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.”**

God knows everyone that ever existed in all of creation. God is always now! Therefore, God also has foreknowledge of what is going to happen in the future. God knows the complete past, and God knows the complete future to the end of eternity.

God knows every detail about everyone's life. In Matthew 10:30 Jesus said, **“the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”** In Jeremiah 1:5, the LORD God said to Jeremiah, **“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified**

**thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”** Every person born into this world was formed in their mother’s womb by God.

God knows everything and everyone ever born into this world. That means God knows you also. He knew you before you were formed in your mother’s womb.

Now the Question is, do you know God? If you say you do, how well do you know Him? We should desire to know God the same as He knows us. We should desire to know every detail there is to know about God.

God loves us. Therefore, He has given us an opportunity to choose heaven and not hell. We are here **BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL**, choose heaven.