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WHO TOLD YOU? Part 1

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Introduction

Have you ever wondered why there are so many Churches today teaching things that do not agree with each other? Have you ever wondered why things in your own life do not work out the way you wanted them to?

If you are looking for answers to these and many other questions in your life, there is one place where you can find the answers you are looking for. That place is in the inspired written Word of God (known as the Scriptures), which many call the Bible. Within the Scriptures you will find out why things are like they are today? You can also find out how you can live and enjoy life.

It is all in understanding why the LORD God created this earth and why things on this earth are happening the way they are? God reveals things to us in the Scriptures that we need to know and understand (1 Cor. 2:10-14). We need to get our information from God, not from man.

What man knows, is limited by his knowledge and understanding of what he has learned. God's wisdom and knowledge are unlimited. God has all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding were created by God. All things are created by God, and there is nothing that exists that was not first created by God.

What is more important than that is that, God wants us to know what He knows about this world, and our life. God wants to reveal things to us that will help us obtain all that God has planned for us. It is all up to us. What do we want to know and what do we want to do once we know?

In this book, let us examine the Scriptures to find the answers that we need to know "what God wants us to do?" Let us consider all that God has revealed to us in His Word that concerns our lives here on earth. Let us also find out how to obtain that which God has planned for us even beyond this life here on earth.

It is important that we understand God and this creation in which we live today. What is it that we should know, and how can we know what God has planned for us today?

Let us start with some basic information. What is revealed to us in the Scriptures is given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures. In 2 Timothy 3:16 it says, **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."** 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 Scriptures were written over a period of thousands of years. Yet, everything in the original writings of the Scriptures agrees from Genesis through Revelation. The Scriptures were written that we can understand what happened before we came into this world? Where did this world we live in today come from? Also, why are we in this world today?

In Genesis 1:1 it says, **"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."** If you will notice, this is written in the beginning of the Bible, in the very first verse. If you will look all throughout the Bible, it will reveal to us that the word **"beginning"** in Genesis 1:1 is referring to before there was what is called the heavens and the earth.

Also, the Hebrew word translated **"God"** in Genesis 1:1 is a plural word, meaning "more than one person" (1 John 5:7). Therefore, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit created the heavens and the earth in the very beginning.

In John 1:1-3 it 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."** Who is this "Word of God" that

created the earth we live on today?

In John 1:2,3, it tells us that the Word, which was God and was with God from the beginning made all things. That is talking about JESUS, who was the Word of God before He was born as a Man, of the Holy Spirit and Mary, a virgin woman. In Colossians 1:16,17, it is talking about Jesus. 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.”**

Note: This word “God,” in the Greek is “theos,” meaning “a deity.” In the English, the word “God” means “a deity; any of various beings conceived of as supernatural, immortal, and having special powers over the lives and affairs of people and the course of nature.” By this, in the Greek the word “God” would mean, “a supreme divine being, having the power to create in the supernatural realm (things seen and things not seen).”

There are some places in the Scriptures that the word “God” is speaking of one individual person and in other places more than one individual person. Therefore, we cannot always think of the word God as just one individual person but sometimes three in one (1 John 5:7).

The word **“beginning”** used in John 1:1, does not necessarily mean the very beginning, the same as it means in Genesis 1:1. We must understand how God uses words to tell us what He wants us to know. If we study the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation, we will find many times when God uses the same word to mean something different from other times.

Let us see one example from the Scriptures, where Jesus said to certain Jews in John 8:44, **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. 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.”** In this verse, Jesus said, *“the devil was a murderer from the beginning.”*

Was the devil a murderer from “the very beginning of time?” No. The Scriptures tell us that the Devil was called Lucifer in the beginning. In Isaiah 14:12 it says, **“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”** The Scriptures tell us that Lucifer sinned against God, and was cast out of the third heavens, and by that he became Satan, the Devil (Isa. 14:12-20; Ezek. 28:12-20). The Scriptures tell us that the Devil was created perfect in the very beginning. In Ezekiel 28:14,15, it is speaking of the Devil, saying **“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire...Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”** God created the Devil as an anointed cherub, and gave him supernatural powers to lead other angels in worship before the throne of God. The Devil was perfect in the day that God created him.

We must not let ourselves be deceived by not understanding the written Word of God. God uses literal language at times. God also uses symbolic and fugitive speaking at times. God also teaches us by types and shadows at times. If we do not know what type of language God is using, we could get into error in what we believe. God does not go by everything we read in English translations of the Bible. God only goes by what He had inspired to be written in the original manuscripts in Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek.

God has “all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.” God created wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

All created beings are limited by God as to what they are able to know and understand. God can withhold anything from anyone at any time He desires. One example of that is in Luke 24:13-16,

where it says, **“And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs...And they talked together of all these things which had happened...And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them...But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.”** These were Jesus’ disciples that God withheld from them the ability to know that it was Jesus Himself that was walking with them at that time.

Is God unfair, or unjust in what He does? No. In Job 34:12 it says, **“Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.”** God, being the Creator has all authority and all power to do whatsoever He desires. Yet, God has limited Himself to be “Holy and Righteous in everything He does.” God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

Therefore, we must never blame God for anything. We must never say that God is unfair or unjust in anything God does. Instead, we must search the Scriptures to know the Truth, and walk and live in the truth all the days of our lives.

WHO TOLD YOU?

Are we doing what God has planned for our lives? If not, why not? Somewhere, someone told us something that we may have thought was true. We believed what we were told, and therefore we were living and doing what we were doing. What does that mean to us today?

If we are doing something that is contrary to the written Word of God, we are limiting ourselves to the ability of the one who told us to do it. Satan, the Devil, is a “god,” having the power to operate in the supernatural realm beyond that of man. Satan, has the power to blind the minds of people that they do not believe the Word of God. In 2 Corinthians 4:3,4, it says, **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost...In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”** This blinding of the minds of people is not limited to only those who are not born again. It includes born again, Spirit-filled Christians, who teach things that do not agree with the inspired written Word of God.

It seems that many Christians today have believed the teachings of man, and teach that 2 Corinthians 4:4, is talking about someone who is not born again when it says, **“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...”** (2 Cor. 4:4). Many are teaching that the words, **“...them which believe not...”** pertain to those who are not truly born again. Do not be deceived by the teachings of men. Anyone who does not believe “the complete gospel of Christ,” in every part, has been blinded by the god of this world in the part that they do not believe. We need to understand what happened in the garden of Eden, when sin and death came upon mankind.

Let us see what is happening in our lives, and the lives of others? In Genesis, Chapters one and two, we are told of the creation of this world that we live in today. When people were created in the beginning, there was first Adam and then Eve. Adam was first formed and then Eve was taken out of Adam and formed to be Adam’s helper (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 21-23).

What many have not understood about these verses, is that the word **“man”** and the word **“Adam”** do not always mean the same thing. Many times, the Hebrew word “adam” means “mankind in general (male and female).” Look at what it says in Genesis 1:26,27. It says, **“And God said, Let us make man (adam) in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth...So God created man (adam) in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”** When God created “man” meaning “mankind,” He created them “male and female.”

If we will notice in Genesis 2:4 it says, **“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.”** This means that what happened in Genesis 2:5 through Genesis 2:25 is the sequence in which God created certain things on the sixth day of creation. Everything listed in Genesis 2:5-25 happened on the sixth day. Actually, that would mean that mankind was created before **“...the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air”** (Gen. 2:19,20).

What many Christians do not understand is that everyone born into this world (except Jesus) was in Adam from the beginning. If you look in Hebrews 7:9,10, it says, **“And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham...For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.”** How could Levi pay tithes in Abraham, when Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec? Levi was not even born at the time Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec. When

Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec, Isaac and Jacob were not even born yet.

When we understand things according to the Word of God, we understand that everyone born into this world (except Jesus) was in Adam before Eve was taken out of Adam. Look also at 1 Corinthians 15:22, where it says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** No one was “in Christ” until after that Jesus arose again from the dead and became **“the firstborn among many brethren.”** (Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:15,16). Yet everyone who came into this world, born of the flesh of Adam were in Adam right from the beginning.

There are two creations of mankind recorded in the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:45-49). Those who “are not” born again are still in Adam. Those who are born again are “in Christ.” Those who are not born again are still in the flesh of Adam. Those who are born again are in the Spirit of Christ. Therefore, Adam was not spiritual, but Jesus Christ is spiritual.

Those who teach that Adam was spiritual and died spiritually the same day he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil are mistaken, their minds have been blinded by the god of this world concerning what it says in 1 Corinthians 15:45-49. They may be correct in many other areas, but in the area of who was spiritual in the beginning, their minds have been blinded by the god of this world. It is sad that they did not read what it says in 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.

In Genesis 2:7 it says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”** Notice that it says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground...”** The physical earthly body of man was not created. It was formed of the dust of the ground. It was by the LORD God breathing the breath of life into the nostrils of man’s earthly body that man became “a living soul.” In the Hebrew, it does not totally explain man as being a living soul. That is why we need the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Hebrew the word for soul is “nephesh.” The same word translated “soul” in Genesis 2:7, it translated “creature” in Genesis 1:21,24, 2:19, where it is speaking of whales, beasts of the field, and fowl of the air. All living creatures upon the earth have a soul, and a body. The Greek New Testament explains the soul of man. In 1 Corinthians 15:45 it uses the Greek word “psuche.” The correct translation of the Greek word “psuche” to English is “psyche.” The natural body and the soul together in the Greek is “psychikos,” In the English the natural body and the soul together is “psychic.”

All living creatures upon the earth need air to breathe to continue to live on this earth. Adam was not created with a body and soul to live in heaven. Adam was earthly, of this earth. Adam’s body was formed of the dust of the ground, and limited to live where there is air to breathe. The soul of man is the one part of man that identifies who man is. The soul of man is the part of man that is translated from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ, making a new creation of man (Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 5:17).

All throughout the Scriptures, it speaks of saving “souls.” When it speaks of God “saving people” it is not always speaking of “saving bodies,” or “saving spirits.” The word “saved” in the Hebrew and the Greek means, “delivered and/or protected.” The physical body of man is delivered and/or protected by God for a purpose. As an example, Noah and his family were saved during the flood. In 1 Peter 3:20, it says, **“Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”** The Word of God in the Hebrew and the Greek never disagrees. Noah and his family were “saved,” but they were not born again. No one was born again until after Jesus became the firstborn from the dead.

Christians are not completely new, meaning “never existing before.” Christians are “a living soul,” whereby, “the soul of man” is adopted by God in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3-5). In this adoption,

Christians receive a new spiritual body of spirit. (Ezek. 36:26; 1 Cor. 15:44). In this new spiritual body, which is in Christ Jesus, God declares that we are “a new creature.” When those who are in Christ leave this earth for the last time, their old physical earthly body will remain on this earth and they will be with the LORD forever in eternity (1 Cor. 15:51-53). Will we believe God, or man?

Why is this important to understand? Because the body of the first creation of man, was a physical body formed of the dust of the earth. The spirit of man was not in Christ Jesus. In the second creation of man, man’s body is spiritual. The first body of man is natural, earthly, of this earth. The second body of man is spiritual, heavenly (of spiritual substance). The first body of the first Adam was dependant upon air to breathe, in order to live. The body of the second man (Adam) does not need air to breathe.

Isn’t it sad that so many Christians are deceived by the enemy in thinking that the first Adam was spiritual, and died spiritually the same day he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? That teaching does not agree with the written Word of God. Therefore, those believing that teaching have their minds blinded by the god of this world in the area of which was first, the natural body or the spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:45-47).

In Genesis 2:8,9, it says, **“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed...And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”**

Do not be deceived by the way Genesis 2:9 is written in the English Bibles. In the Hebrew, it does not say that the LORD God “planted” the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden. The truth is revealed by what is written in the complete Bible from Genesis through Revelation. The truth is that the tree of life was not a physical tree. Neither was the tree of knowledge of good and evil a physical tree. How sad it is that many Spirit-filled Christians today are talking about Adam and Eve eating the fruit of a tree like an apple tree, and receiving the knowledge of good and evil from the fruit they ate.

In Matthew 7:17-20, Jesus said, **“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit...A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit...Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire...Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”** What was Jesus talking about, apple trees or people?

In Genesis 2:9, what was the LORD God talking about when He said, **“...the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil?”** If we study the Scriptures carefully, we will notice the fruit of the tree of life brings eternal spiritual life. Therefore, the tree of life was not a physical tree but a spiritual tree. When we study the Scriptures carefully, we will notice the tree of knowledge of good and evil brings forth both physical death of the physical body and eternal death of the living soul. Therefore, the tree of knowledge of good and evil was not a physical tree, but rather a spiritual tree.

There are many, including Spirit-filled Christians that believe when the LORD God called the tree of knowledge of good and evil “a tree,” He had to be speaking of a fruit tree, like an apple tree with apples upon it. God does not always use literal words, the same as the world does. Sometimes God uses words, symbolically. Let us look at another place where God used words symbolically in speaking of eating. In John 6:53,57, it says, **“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you...Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day...For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed...He that**

eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him...As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.”

It seems that this is the only way for anyone to receive eternal life. They must “...eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood...” How many Christians today have eaten the flesh of Jesus like you eat a beef stake? How many have drunk Jesus’ blood, like you drink a glass of milk? Either the Scriptures are not true, or what many people believe they did not get their information from the Holy Spirit.

When in Genesis 2:9, it says these two trees were in the midst of the garden, the Hebrew word translated to “midst” means, “in and among all the trees of the garden.” No matter where Adam and Eve went, the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil were not far from them at any time.

In Acts 17:26,27, speaking of the creation of man, it says, “**And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation...That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.”**

If we look at John 1:4, speaking of Jesus, it says, “**In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**” The word “life” in John 1:4 is speaking of eternal life. Therefore, if we study the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation, we will know that the fruit of the tree of life is “eternal life.” to receive eternal life, the Holy Spirit must translate our living soul from the flesh of Adam into the spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9; John 3:6).

When we study the Scriptures, we need the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the Word of God that is made available to us by the anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-14; 1 John 2:27).

Then in Genesis 2:16,17, it tells us, “**And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat...But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely (muwth) die (muwth).**” The words “surely die,” are speaking of two deaths (physical death of the physical body, and eternal death of the living soul).

What happened in the Garden of Eden in Genesis, Chapter three, affected everyone who was born into this world of the flesh. That does not include JESUS, for He was not born of the flesh, but of the Spirit (Luke 1:35). The life of the flesh that was in JESUS did not come from Adam. It came from God.

One of the greatest deceptions of all time took place in the garden of Eden. By not understanding what happened in the garden of Eden as it is recorded in Genesis, Chapter three, multitudes of people could spend eternity in hell forever.

Adam knew that he could freely eat of the tree of life. Eating of the tree of life would have given Adam eternal life (Gen. 3:22). Eating of the tree of life would also give Adam the same power over the Devil as Jesus had when He came into this world (Luke 10:19; John 14:12). Adam would have become “like God,” in many ways. The wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of spiritual things would have been available to Adam, had he eaten of the tree of life.

The serpent evidently knew what would happen if Adam ate of the tree of life. Therefore, in Genesis 3:1-5, it says, “**Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?...And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden...But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die...And the serpent said unto**

the woman, Ye shall not surely die...For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

The serpent said to Eve, **“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil?”** (Gen. 3:5). The serpent knew what would happen if Eve ate of the tree of life. Therefore, he deceived Eve into eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil instead.

Question: Did Satan become the god of this world when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil as some teach? There is not any place in the Scriptures where it says “that is when Satan became the god of this world.” In 2 Corinthians 4:4, where it calls Satan the god of this world, the word “world” means, “for an appointed time.” It does not mean this physical world. If you will study the Scriptures closely, you will find that Satan was already “the god of this world” before Adam and Eve were created. He was cast down to the earth when he refused to repent (Ezek. 28:12-20; Isa. 14:12-20).

Many times when the LORD God speaks, He is declaring the end from the beginning (Isa. 44:6,7, 46:9,10, 48:12,13). The Scriptures are called prophecy, meaning, “they came by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20,21). Satan was in the garden of Eden when he used the serpent to speak to Eve. Thoughts came into Eve’s mind and she disobeyed the command of the LORD God, which she knew she should not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:1,2). Was Eve’s mind blinded by “the god of this world” when she considered what she was told by the serpent? Eve evidently thought she could become **“...as gods, knowing good and evil?”**

In Genesis 3:6 it says, **“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”** First, Eve considered what was said to her, then she did eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. After Eve ate of the tree, it says she, **“...gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”**

Notice: In these verses it is revealed that words were spoken to Eve by the serpent. Eve heard the words that were spoken to her. Eve also knew that she was not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:2,3). Eve thought about what was said to her by the serpent. Therefore, the serpent was used by the Devil to deceive Eve. Today the Devil uses people to speak his lies, and deceive many, including Christians.

This whole creation operates by thoughts received and words that are spoken. That is why the serpent spoke to Eve “to speak words” to Eve, “things that would deceive her into doing the will of the Devil.”

From that point on, we see what the LORD God said concerning the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In Genesis 3:9-12 it says, **“And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?”** (Gen. 3:9). **“And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself”** (Gen. 3:10). **“And he said, WHO TOLD THEE THAT THOU WAST NAKED? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”** (Gen. 3:11). **“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat”** (Gen. 3:12).

Then in Genesis 3:17-19 it says, **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life...Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field... In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”**

Because of what Adam did in eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, sin and death came upon all who are born into this world of the flesh. In Romans 5:12 it says, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”**

Notice in Genesis 3:17, the LORD God said to Adam, **“...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life...Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field... In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”**

The LORD God did not say that “He” cursed the ground. The curse came upon the ground because of what Adam did. When Adam disobeyed the LORD God and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the whole human race of people born of the bloodline of Adam was under the curse that came because of Adam’s sin. Not only the whole human race, but also every creature that lived upon the earth.

In Romans 8:18-23 says, **“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us...For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God...For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope...Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God...For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now...And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”**

When the curse came upon the ground (earth), all of the living creatures came under the curse. Have you ever wondered why some animals kill and eat the flesh of other animals? It is because of what happened in the garden of Eden when Adam disobeyed the LORD God and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Romans 8:18-23 tells us that, it is not always going to be that way. The time is coming when even the creature will be set free of the corruption that came because of Adam’s disobedience. In Isaiah 11:6-9, it says, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them...And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox...And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den...They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”**

When Adam sinned in the garden of Eden, corruption entered the minds of all creatures. People began to live in rebellion to God, and served the Devil and his demons. Satan became “like a slave-master” over mankind and all living creatures. The demons became “as slave-drivers” over mankind, and all the creatures of the earth. Satan and his demons gained entrance into the minds of people and all living creatures. People and all living creatures received thoughts in their minds to do evil and sin against God.

Just as it was with Eve. Eve spoke words to Adam which she should not have said. Adam harkened unto Eve’s voice (words spoken by Eve) and did as Eve said. People all over the world today receive thoughts from the demonic realm, and obey those thoughts, speaking words that should not be spoken. People kill and destroy others, which should not be among those who were created

in the likeness and image of God (Gen. 1:26-28).

In Genesis 3:14,15, it 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...I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”** Who was the LORD God speaking too in Genesis 3:14,15? If people think the LORD God was only speaking to a serpent, which today is sometimes called a snake, they could be mistaken.

Even though the LORD God was speaking to the serpent, at the same time the LORD God was also speaking to the Devil. The seed of the serpent came from the Devil. The seed of the woman is “the Word of God” who became JESUS, born of the Holy Spirit and a virgin woman by the name of Mary. Therefore, the Word of God is Jesus Christ, who came into this world as **“the seed of the woman.”** The battle in this world is between those who will live by **“the Word of God”** and those who live by **“the knowledge of good and evil.”**

The LORD God gave mankind His Word, when He said, **“Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat...But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”** (Gen. 2:16,17). That has never changed from the beginning of Genesis though Revelation. Those who live by the Word of God will continue to live forever. Those who live by the knowledge of good and evil will die. Everyone must decide for themselves, do they want to live or die?

Just as Eve was deceived by what the serpent said to her, multitudes of people are being deceived today, by what someone else told them. Many believe what they hear other people say? Much of what is spoken by people is not in agreement with the written Word of God.

When we learn who is telling us things that are not true, we will identify the source of all deception in the world today. God has given us His Word, and those who will obey His Word will not be deceived. But, those who listen to the words of another, will easily be deceived.

Before we believe what someone tells us, it would be wisdom to check and see if it truly agrees with the written Word of God. Do not wait until the LORD asks, “Who told you?”

Once Eve believed the serpent and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, she was used by the Devil to get Adam to sin. Eve was deceived, but Adam was not deceived. In 1 Timothy 2:13,14, it says, **“For Adam was first formed, then Eve...And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”**

How to Live and not Die

There are two types of death mentioned throughout the Scriptures. There are also two types of lives mentioned throughout the Scriptures. We need to understand which death and which life God has planned for mankind. From the beginning of Genesis, God had a plan for man. Without understanding the plan of God for man, many have been deceived by the enemy.

The first thing that will help us is to study the complete Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation. We must study, and not just read the Scriptures. In studying the Scriptures, we need to find out why God created this world? Then find out why God created man (male and female)? Then, find out why we are here in this world at this time?

God did not create man to die, but to live. Therefore, we need to find out what happened in the beginning that death came upon all mankind? In Romans 5:12 it says, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** We know this is talking about Adam, the first man formed of the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7). As we study the Scriptures, we will find that the LORD God spoke to man in Genesis 2:16,17, and informed man that in the day man would eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil two deaths would come upon man.

These two deaths come upon mankind because of sin. Adam disobeyed the LORD God and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Being that the life of the flesh travels through the bloodline from one person to another, everyone born of the flesh, was born with sin and death resident within them.

We see in Acts 17:26, it says, **“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”** In Leviticus 17:11, it says, **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”**

From the life of the flesh that was in the blood of the first man “Adam,” all who are born of the flesh received physical life here on earth. The life of all who were born of the flesh was in the blood (which came from Adam). The “life of the flesh” (which is in the blood), did not come from Eve, it came from Adam. Therefore, the first man was called “Adam,” meaning “mankind in the flesh.”

Adam could not have lived forever in the flesh. God did not plan for this world to exist forever (Isa. 65:17, 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1). God already planned for a new heavens and a new earth, wherein righteousness dwells. God knew the end from the beginning, and man’s time on this earth was determined before Adam was created (Acts 17:26). To receive eternal life in heaven, man must be born again into the Spirit of Christ. Only “in Christ Jesus” do we have eternal life. Those who are not “born again in Christ Jesus” do not have eternal life.

To live and not die, a person must be born again of the Word of God and the Spirit of God (John 1:11-13; 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:23). To live forever we must have the very life of God in us. Adam did not have the life of God in him. Adam did not have eternal life. Adam was not spiritual. Adam was earthly, of this earth (1 Cor. 15:45-48).

Jesus came into this world, born of the Holy Spirit and Mary, a virgin woman. Jesus did not have any sin in Him. The “life of Jesus’ flesh” (which was in His blood), did not come from man, it came from God. Jesus was the Word of God in the beginning and He became a man in the flesh (John 1:14). Jesus was the beginning of “a new creation of mankind.” Jesus Christ is called “the last Adam or Second man” in 1 Corinthians 15:45,47. For the first time in all of God’s creation there was

a Man, who was “one with God” living in the flesh.

This new creation of man, was the beginning of man and God joined together in one Spirit. This creation of man was born of the Spirit and the Word of God. This one Man, born of the Holy Spirit and a woman, died in the flesh of man on the Cross of Calvary for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Jesus was put to death “in the flesh” for the sins of the whole world (1 Peter 3:18).

Jesus did not die spiritually as some teach. Jesus died as a Man in the flesh to redeem man in the flesh from the sin that came upon all mankind in Genesis 3:6. Jesus was the Word of God, that came into this world to take away the sin of the world.

In Luke 1:26-28, it says, **“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth...To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary...And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”**

Notice, here we see it again, this time a woman is talking to an angel by the name of Gabriel. Remember, Eve talked to the serpent, and we know what happened following that. Now we have a woman talking to an angel sent by God. Look at what happened this time?

In Luke 1:30-33, it says, **“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God...And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS...He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David...And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”**

In Luke 1:34,35, it says, **“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?...And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”**

In Luke 1:38 it says, **“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”**

Words were spoken to Mary by an angel. Mary talked with the angel, and did as the angel told her. That is similar to what Eve did also. Eve listened to the serpent as he talked with her. Eve did as the serpent told her and she was deceived. Then Eve spoke to Adam, who was with her and Adam ate of the tree that the LORD God had told him not to eat of.

In Matthew 1:20,21, it says, an angel spoke to Joseph in a dream and said, **“Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost...And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”**

Following in Matthew 1:22,23 it says, **“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying...Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”**

Therefore, years later in John 1:29, it says, **“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”** Jesus came in the flesh to take away the sin of the world.

God was with us in His Son, Who was the Word of God that came in the flesh of man, born of a virgin woman by the name of Mary. All the time Jesus was in the flesh, He remained the Son of God, one with the Father. Jesus never stopped being the Son of God, the living Word of God, that He was from the beginning.

In Jesus' last days, He defeated sin and death for us. As a Man, born of the Holy Spirit and a virgin woman, Jesus was, **"...Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us"** (Matt. 1:22). As a Man, "in the flesh," Jesus defeated the Devil, and therefore, the name of JESUS is exalted above every name, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth (Phil. 2:5-11).

Following the death of Jesus of Nazareth, Christ Jesus arose again from the dead to become **"the firstborn from the dead."** It was the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus that raised Christ from the dead (Rom. 8:11).

Since Christ became **"the firstborn from the dead,"** multitudes of people also became born again in Christ Jesus. Being born again, they partook of the nature of God (being in Christ Jesus). In Christ Jesus, those who are born again have eternal life "in Christ Jesus." Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and became a Man, born of a woman. All who are born again receive eternal life by a new birth, born of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Christians, being born again, must learn how to live in the Spirit and overcome the works of the flesh. Romans 8:6-8 says, **"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...So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."**

In Romans 12:2 it says, **"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."** It is our mind (which is a part of our living soul), that needs to be renewed. We have been taught by people how to live in this world according to "the knowledge of good and evil" which came upon mankind in the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:6).

Now, we must become renewed in our mind to live by the Word of God, not by the world's system. The world lives by the five senses. Christians are to live by the Word of God. Those of the world still live by the knowledge of good and evil. Christians are to live by the Word of God, not by the knowledge of good and evil.

Live by the Word of God

Christians are born again of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. We still have our physical bodies that we were born into this world with. We are the same living soul we were from the beginning. Our mind is in our living soul. Now we must renew our mind on the written Word of God, so that we can live like God lives in the Spirit.

Jesus was “the Word of God” before He became “the Son of Man,” born of the Holy Spirit and Mary, a virgin woman. When Jesus became the Son of Man, He did not stop being the Word of God. The Word of God was God with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning. The Word of God took upon Himself the likeness of man, and became a Man in the flesh (John 1:14).

When the Word of God became flesh, in the likeness of man in the flesh, He did not stop being one with God in the Spirit. Jesus lived as a Man in the flesh, united with God in the Spirit all the time He was alive in this world as JESUS, the Son of God. In John 14:10, Jesus said, **“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”** When Jesus did the works that He did, it was the Father in Him that did the works.

It is sad that so many Christians have been blinded by “the god of this world” through the teachings of men that very few Christians know who they are in Christ Jesus. They have a lot of intellectual knowledge of whom they are, but they have not been renewed in their mind by the teaching of the Holy Spirit. We must be taught by God (the Holy Spirit), if we are to know the truth of who we are in Christ Jesus (John 6:45; 1 John 2:27).

We must be taught to “live by faith,” and not by the five senses as the world lives. Being born again of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, we are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17). Being joint-heirs with Christ, we have the same ability to do the same things that Jesus Christ did (John 14:12).

Christ is the heir of Jesus, who died in the flesh and arose again from the dead as the victor over all the works of the Devil. All who are in Christ are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17). Jesus defeated the Devil and all his demons through His death and resurrection from the dead. Jesus took the keys of hell and death from the Devil and gave the keys to the body of Christ here on earth (Rev. 1:18; Matt. 16:18,19). We have the keys to the kingdom of God, which Jesus paid the price for in His death and resurrection from the dead. In Christ Jesus, we became the righteousness of God, by what Jesus did for us (2 Cor. 5:21). We were also justified by the grace of God (Rom. 3:24).

Therefore, Christians are told many things in the written Word of God that we are to do. Christians are told in the written Word of God how to live in the Spirit. Being justified by grace, and not by the works of the law, we are to live by faith. Christians are told, **“The just shall live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). Faith does not operate by the five senses. Faith operates by the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the written Word of God.

Jesus did not live according to His five senses. Jesus lived by the Written Word of God. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said to the Devil, **“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** When Christians understand this and do as Jesus did, they will have victory in their lives also. We do have a physical body that does live by the food it eats. But, when we live by the written Word of God, the Word of God can supply everything that we need to live.

God lives by his Word which is written in the Scriptures. Jesus was quoting the Scriptures to the Devil when He said, **“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** The Devil knows what is written, but the Devil is a

liar, and a deceiver. All the Devil can do is lie and deceive anyone who does not believe the written Word of God.

The Devil is “a god.” He is called **“the god of this world”** in 2 Corinthians 4:4. The word “god” used in 2 Corinthians 4:4 is “theos” in the Greek. “Theos” in the Greek means, “a deity, with supernatural powers greater than that of man.” The Devil does have supernatural powers greater than that of man. The Devil can inject thoughts in the minds of people, by a supernatural power which only a “deity” has. The Devil can also cause physical and mental deformities in the bodies and minds of people. Children can be born into this world with deformities in their bodies and minds.

In John 9:1 it says, **“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.”** Jesus’ disciples knew that sin opens the door for the Devil to cause sickness, disease, or deformities in the bodies of people, including those who are born blind.

Therefore, in John 9:2 it says, **“And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?”** In John 9:3-5 it says, **“Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him...I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work...As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”**

It is sad that so many Christians have added (their idea of what Jesus was saying), to what Jesus actually said. All that Jesus said about who sinned was, **“Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents...”** The word **“but”** means, the subject changed. Jesus was no longer talking about who sinned. Jesus said, **“...but that the works of God should be made manifest in him...I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work...As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”**

Jesus did not come to judge who sinned and who did not sin (John 12:47,48). The tree of knowledge of good and evil judges who sinned and did not sin. Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil (1 John 3:8). Jesus was the Word of God and Jesus was the life (zoe) which was the light of man (John 1:1,4). The Light of the Word of God destroys all the darkness of the Devil (1 John 1:5-7). Therefore, God the Father sent Jesus into the world to destroy the works of the Devil and that is what Jesus was doing when it says in John 9:6,7 **“...he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay...And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”**

Why are Christians always looking for “who sinned?” It is not always necessary to know who sinned? What is more important, is to know what the Word of God says about sin?

Sin brings death (Gen. 2:17). God is not trying to bring death upon anyone. Romans 6:23 says, **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

Christians can overcome sin and death by believing the written Word of God. The written Word of God does not say we do not sin. But, it does tell us that if we believe the written Word of God and obey the LORD, we can overcome sin and death.

In Mark 1:14,15 it says, **“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God...And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”** From the time that Jesus began preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, people were being set free of all sorts of demonic activity in their lives. How did they get set free? They believed the gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus was preaching. When we learn the truth concerning the Gospel of the kingdom of God, we will know how to overcome sin and death in our own lives.

While Jesus went about preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, many people were set free. Not because they were someone great, but because they believed the gospel of the kingdom of God that Jesus was preaching. When Christians today learn from Jesus' teachings, and the teachings of those whom God has called to write the New Testament, they also can be free.

How can we, as Christians, walk like Jesus walked? How can we, as Christians do the will of God in our lives? The answer is simple, walk like Jesus walked. Learn from what Jesus taught and did. Get to know God, and Jesus Christ so well that whatsoever you do, it will be pleasing to God the Father.

We are not told to be pleasing to everyone who comes to us for whatsoever they have in their mind. But, it should be our hearts desire to do the will of God in our lives. Jesus made it possible for everyone, who is willing and obedient to do the will of God in their lives.

Jesus said in Mark 1:15, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”** If there was ever a time in all of God's creation, that people should believe the gospel of the Kingdom of God, it is now.

Satan has blinded the minds of multitudes of Spirit-filled Christians to trust in their ability to do whatsoever they think they should do. It is not what we think we should do that counts. It is what did Jesus said we should do? What does the New Testament say we should do?

In everything that Jesus taught, His focus was on doing what the Father sent Him to do. It was not according to what other people thought Jesus should do. It was only, what Jesus knew the Father sent Him to do. When we know the will of God for our lives and the lives of those whom we come in touch with, then we will know how to live on this earth and be pleasing to God the Father.

The one thing that will hinder us in our lives is sin. God knew this from the beginning, even before the LORD God created mankind. Therefore, it tells us in Revelation 13:8, **“The Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world.”** The word “world” in Revelation 13:8 pertains to “the physical world,” including the area around this earth. That means, God had a plan for everyone who is born into this world of the bloodline of Adam. God's plan included, repentance and remission of sins.

Jesus said in Luke 24:47, **“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”** Oh, how important it is to understand the gospel of the kingdom of God. There is hope for anyone who will repent and receive forgiveness of sins.

As we look at the life of Simon Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, we will see what repentance and forgiveness of sins can do for someone who is willing and obedient to the LORD.

Peter walked with Jesus for three and one half years. During that time, Peter made many mistakes. Peter was rebuked by Jesus for some of the things he did. Peter learned from what Jesus taught, both by word and example.

In the last days of Jesus' life here as the Son of Man, Jesus said to Peter, **“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat...But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren”** (Luke 22:31,32). Peter then said unto the LORD, **“...Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death”** (Luke 22:33). Then Jesus said to Peter, **“I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me”** (Luke 22:34). If you follow the events in the life of Peter, you will see that Peter did deny Jesus three times (Luke 22:57,58,60).

What did Peter do after denying Jesus three times? It says in Luke 22:61,62, **“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice...And Peter went out, and wept**

bitterly.”

The gospel that Jesus preached is a true gospel. It includes repentance and forgiveness of sins. Following Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, it says in Luke 24:33,34 **“And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them...Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.”** Where there is true repentance there is forgiveness of sins.

As Peter obeyed the LORD, and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Peter began to do great and mighty works, not by his own power, but by the anointing which he received in Acts 2:4. Is God faithful? Will God do what He says in His Word?

As we follow the life of Peter in the book of Acts, we will see what God can do through a man who will repent and receive forgiveness of sins. It is knowing what the LORD was teaching, that helps to understand the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

One example is in Acts Chapter three. It says, **“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour...And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple...Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms...And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us...And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them...Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk...And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength...And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God...And all the people saw him walking and praising God”** (Acts 3:1-9).

Did Peter and John ask the LORD, **“Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born...lame from his mother's womb?”** (John 9:2; Acts 3:2). Why are so many Christians accusing others of sin, when they are no different than those whom they think committed some great sin?

Sin is the cause of sickness and death. But, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the answer to the sin problem. Peter, who followed Jesus, wrote in 1 Peter 1:15,16, **“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation...Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”** When Christians learn what Peter meant by what He wrote in 1 Peter 1:15,16, they will learn what the whole Gospel of the Kingdom of God is all about.

In John 8:1-5, it says, **“And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them...And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst...They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act...Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?”** This woman was taken in the very act of adultery. The Scribes and Pharisees brought her to Jesus.

In John 8:6, it says, **“This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.”** The words **“as though he heard them not,”** are not in the original writings of the Scriptures. Then it says, **“So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”** Jesus did not come to judge people, but to set them free of the works of the Devil.

In John 8:8-11, it says, **“And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground...And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the**

eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst...When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?...She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." It is important to understand what Jesus said, first to the Scribes and Pharisees, and then to the woman. Only those who have no sin in their lives are qualified to judge and condemn another. Those who have sinned, need to repent and **"go and sin no more."**

It is all in understanding the source of sin and death, and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. When we understand the source of sin and death, and then the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, we can obtain victory over sin and death.

Why does it say in Revelation 13:8, **"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."** The world lives by **"the tree of knowledge of good and evil"** (Gen. 3:1-6). They worship the Devil, without knowledge and understanding. Satan, the god of this world, has blinded their minds to **"...the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God..."** (2 Cor. 4:4).

For that cause, **"the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world"** (Rev. 13:8). Before Adam sinned in the garden of Eden the blood of the Lamb was declared as the payment for the sins of the whole world.

It says in Genesis 3:15, **"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."** What was spoken in Genesis 3:15, was declared as finished from the foundation of the world.

It is time that Christians understood the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation. The Scriptures are the written Word of God, written for all who will believe and obey the written Word of God. In Hebrews 5:1-9, it says, **"For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins...Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity...And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins...And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron...So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee...As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec...Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared...Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered...And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."** To them that obey the LORD, they will obtain unto eternal salvation.

How do we obey the LORD? 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."** When we study the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation, we will know the cause of sin and death. We will also know how to overcome sin and death.

The cause of sin and death is **"eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil"** (Gen. 2:17). Eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is done by listening to the voice of someone who is not telling the truth. The serpent lied to Eve, and Eve obeyed the voice of the serpent.

Eve was deceived by the serpent. All of the words spoken to Eve were not all true. Part of what was said was true, and part of what was said was not true. This is how the enemy gets people to disobey the LORD God and obey another. In Romans 6:16 it says, **"Know ye not, that to whom**

ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

When words are spoken to someone, thoughts come. In 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, it says, **"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."** When we bring every thought to the obedience of Christ, we will have victory over all the works of the enemy.

Thoughts come from the spiritual realm. Every thought that does not agree with the knowledge of God, which is revealed in the written Word of God, must be brought into captivity and destroyed. We must not receive any thoughts that do not agree with the written Word of God.

In 1 Timothy 6:11,12 it says, **"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness...Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."**

We are told to **"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life..."** In the New Testament we are told, **"The just shall live by faith..."** (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). It is important that we understand what Faith is?

What is Faith?

The Bible definition of faith is found in Hebrews 11:1 where it says, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** Faith does have substance and faith does have evidence.

Faith is not the same as believing. The Greek word for “believe” is “pisteuo,” which means “to believe in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing.” Many call believing faith, but it is not the same as true faith in God. True faith in God has **“substance of things hoped for,”** and it is the **“evidence of things not seen.”**

True faith comes from God and is given to those who believe God. True faith does not go by things that are seen, but rather by **“things that are not seen.”** In short, true faith operates from the spirit of man, not from the mind of man. Our mind is in our head. Our spirit is in our belly. There is a difference between the mind of man and the spirit of man.

The mind of man operates from the “living soul” of man, which includes the intellect, reasoning, understanding, etc. The spirit of man belongs to God and operates according to the desires and will of God.

In the beginning when the LORD God created Adam, the physical body of Adam was formed of the dust of the ground, and by the breath of the LORD God, man became a living soul (Gen. 2:7). The LORD God also formed a spirit within man (Zech. 12:1). God used man’s spirit to give man understanding. In Job 32:8 it says, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”**

God operates in man from the spirit of man, which is in man. From the spirit of man, the inspiration of God gives man understanding of God’s will for man. God also used the spirit of man to inspire men to write the Scriptures, which are called “the written Word of God.” By the written Word of God, we come to an understanding of God and man.

It is sad that there are so many spirit-filled Christians teaching the doctrines of men today. Some of these teach that “man died spiritually in the garden of Eden and could not hear from God.” That is contrary to the Word of God and should not be taught by anyone, especially spirit-filled Christians.

The purpose for God placing a spirit within man was so that God could reveal the truth to man from the spirit of man which was in man. Those teaching a doctrine that man died spiritually and could not hear from God are without understanding. They are not getting their information from God, but from the spirits of this world.

In the Old Testament, God worked from the spirit of man to write the Scriptures. In 2 Timothy 3:16 it tells us, **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”** 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.”** From man’s spirit, which is in man, by the inspiration of God, men wrote the Scriptures.

If man’s spirit was dead to God and could not hear from God, then man would not have been able to write the Scriptures according to what is revealed in the Scriptures. Satan is a liar, and Christians should not believe the Devil when the truth is already made known to us in the Scriptures.

The way God got men to write the Scriptures in the beginning was by the inspiration of God from man’s spirit. That is also the way God was able to use men to prophesy. But that was not God’s total plan for man and the spirit of man which is in man.

That was the way it was in the Old Covenant, but we have a better covenant. In the New Covenant, God takes away the old spirit that was in man, and gives us a new spirit, wherein God dwells in His fullness (Ezek. 36:26; Col. 2:9,10). It is no longer God working through man's spirit to give man understanding. Now, it is God dwelling in the spirits of Christians, to do all things. In Philippians 2:13 it says, **"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."** In the new birth, God and man are now joined together in one spirit. The very life of God lives in us and we live in God by His Spirit dwelling in us (Col. 2:9,10; 3:3).

This is a major change in man, being a "new creature in Christ." There is a twofold operation of God in the new creation of mankind. God dwells in the spirits of every individual Christian. God is in every born again Christian individually, working that we will be willing to do "His good pleasure." The Spirit of God does everything He can, in every individual Christian to help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach them all things.

It is "God in us," doing the works (John 14:10). It is no longer men teaching us to know God and do the will of God (Heb. 8:10). It is God Himself, working in us to do His will (Phil. 2:13). This is a major difference from what it was before we were born again. Now, in Christ Jesus, we are one with God (Col. 3:3).

What does this have to do with faith? Faith operates from our spirit, not from our mind. Faith is an operation of God, not of man. Remember, faith does not operate by things which are seen. ***Faith is the substance of things not seen*** (Heb. 11:1). Believing operates by things which are seen, imagined, or perceived in the mind. But, faith does not operate from the mind of man, but from the spirit of man.

In Hebrews 11:6, it explains faith by saying, **"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 cannot be seen or contacted with the natural senses. In John 1:18, it says, **"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."** For true faith to operate, we must believe, without any evidence in the natural. God is spirit, whereas man is a living soul, in a body.

The first Adam was created "a living soul" in a physical body of flesh and bones. The body of the first Adam was not created of things not seen, but of the elements of the earth (Gen. 2:7). The first Adam lived and operated by the five senses which respond according to the physical body. The living soul of the first Adam was able to receive information from both the natural realm and the spiritual realm. Therefore, in the Greek the word used to identify a living soul is "psyche." The Greek word for the living soul translated into English is "psyche," meaning, "the mind, the intellect; with the ability to operate in the natural realm and the spiritual realm."

When a person becomes born again, they receive a new spiritual body in Christ Jesus. At that time, the living soul is translated from the physical body of flesh and bones into the new spiritual body which is in Christ Jesus. Therefore, Romans 8:8,9 says, **"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God...But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."**

Being, we are a new creature in Christ, which is a living soul in the spiritual body of Christ, we must learn how to operate in the spiritual realm as opposed to operating in the natural realm of the flesh.

To operate in the spiritual realm, we cannot continue to go by the natural senses. We must operate according to things **"not seen."** By this, it is impossible to please God, if we do not believe that God exists, and that God does reward those that **"diligently seek him"** (Heb. 11:6). We must live by the Word of God, not by the natural senses.

Living by the Word of God, gives us the ability to control whatsoever comes against us in the spiritual realm. We cannot see the Devil and his demons, but we know they do exist, and they are the ones who are apposed to us. We destroy the works of the enemy by speaking the Word of God from our spirit. This is done by speaking the Word of God in faith, which is given to us from our spirit, in the spiritual realm.

God gives to every born again Christian “a measure of faith” to do what God has called them to do. In Romans 12:3 it says, **“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”** To each one individually, God gives them the faith they need to do whatsoever God has called them to do.

Romans 12:4 says, **“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office.”** Not everyone is called to the same office. Romans 12:5-18, says, **“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another...Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith...Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching...Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness...Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good...Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord...Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer...Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality...Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not...Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep...Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits...Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men...If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”**

All of the above must operate from our spirit, where God dwells in His fullness. All of the above operate by faith from our spirit, not from our mind. It is the likeness and image of God working in us to do His good pleasure.

Not everyone is called to the same office. Therefore, whatever office they are called to, God gives them faith to operate in that office. The faith that is needed for that office is given to that individual for that purpose. There are many operations within the body of Christ that need faith to operate in the anointing for that position.

As an example, it takes faith to prophesy, and to speak in tongues, and to interpret tongues (1 Cor. 12:10). These are all gifts of the Spirit that need faith to operate. Those who have not been given faith to operate in those gifts will not be able to operate in that gift. That is why the question is asked in 1 Corinthians 12:29,30, **“Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?...Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”** Not everyone has been given faith to operate in these offices, or anointings.

Faith is a gift from God, and given to whomsoever God wills. If God did not give us faith, we would not have faith. But, God has given us a measure of faith to do what He has called us to do. Everyone born again into the body of Christ has been given a measure of faith to do whatsoever God desires for them to do

Therefore, in Jude 1:3, it says, **“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”** Faith is a gift from

God, therefore, God delivered faith unto the early saints, which included the disciples of Jesus before they were born again.

In Matthew 10:1, it speaks of this saying, **“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power {exousia} against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”** In Luke 9:1, it says, **“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power {dunamis} and authority {exousia} over all devils, and to cure diseases.”** Then in Luke 10:19 the LORD said, **“Behold, I give unto you power {exousia} to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power {dunamis} of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”**

The Greek word “exousia” is “authority.” The Greek word “dunamis” is “miraculous power.” Both of these two powers were given to the disciples by Jesus. They were given “authority and miraculous power” over all the works of the enemy.

In giving the disciples this power and authority, the LORD delivered unto those disciples faith, that they could do the same works that He did (Jude 1:3). They needed faith to do some of the works that were done before Jesus died and arose again from the dead. After Jesus arose again from the dead, He breathed upon them that they would receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:22). When they received the Holy Spirit they became born again and also receive the fruit of the Spirit, which included faith (Gal. 5:22).

Being that faith was once delivered to the saints, and God is not a respecter of persons, we should all **“...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”** (Jude 1:3).

God gives faith to those whom He calls to do the work of the ministry. But, God does not limit faith to only those whom He calls to the fivefold ministries. God gives faith to everyone who is born again of the Spirit in “the New Birth.” Faith is given to every Christian as a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Therefore, every Christian has faith given to them. Because that every Christian has faith, every Christian is expected **“to live by faith.”**

It says in Romans 1:16,17, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek...For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”** Notice it says, **“...The just shall live by faith.”** Actually the word “shall,” implies that “living by faith” is not an option. It could say, **“the just must live by faith”** By this, every born again Christian is expected to live by faith.

This faith, which is given to us by God gives us the ability to do the will of God. God gives us faith, and God expects us to live by the faith which He has given us.

Faith comes from our spirit, where God dwells in us. When we pray in the spirit, it is our spirit that does the praying. In 1 Corinthians 14:14 it says, **“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”** It is not our mind that does the praying in the spirit. It is our spirit that does the praying in the spirit.

Therefore it says **“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also”** (1 Cor. 14:15).

That is why it says in Jude 1:20, **“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”** Faith comes from our spirit the same as praying in the Spirit comes from our spirit. It is a work of God from our spirit that enables us to pray in the spirit, and also to build up our faith while praying in the spirit.

Faith does not come from our mind. Believing comes from our mind. Faith comes from our

spirit.

The reason there are so many Christians not receiving answers to their prayers today is because they are believing in their mind, but they are not receiving their information from their spirit. They are being taught by men using the wisdom of men, not the wisdom which comes from God.

In 1 Corinthians 2:4,5, the Apostle Paul wrote, **“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”** When Christians trust in the **“enticing words of man's wisdom,”** God is not pleased. God is only pleased when Christians get their information from their spirit, where God dwells in His fullness.

In Philippians 2:13 it says, **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”** God is working from within our spirit, that we become willing to do His good pleasure. God's will and good pleasure are not the same as the will of men and the pleasures of this world.

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

If we are to do the will of God, we must learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit and walk in “true faith,” which comes from God and gives us **“substance and evidence of things not seen.”**

There is a difference between faith and believing, and we should know and understand the difference. Many Christians are not receiving from God that which is promised them because, they are trying to follow the teachings of men rather than being taught by God.

One of the differences between faith and believing is that faith has “an inward certainty,” where believing does not. That “inward certainty” is in our spirit, not in our mind. It is from our spirit that we have a knowing, beyond anything that is in the natural realm. The evidence comes from the Word of God which is in us. As we hide the Word of God in our heart, it becomes a part of our life in the spirit.

Believing is a mind operation which operates from the natural man (the outward man of the flesh). Whereas true faith comes from the spirit of man (the inward man of the heart). Faith comes from God, and is given to those in whom God sees the desires of their heart.

God looks at the hearts of people, whereas men look at the outward appearance. In 1 Samuel 16:7 it says, **“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”**

In Proverbs 4:20-22 it says, **“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings...Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart...For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”** It is very important that Christians understand the importance of what is in our heart. Proverbs 4:23 says, **“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”**

Those who believe in their mind can accomplish a lot in this life. In Mark 9:23, Jesus said to a man whose son had a deaf and dumb spirit, **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”** Jesus was telling this man that just simply believing would give him the power to cast out a deaf and dumb spirit from his son.

There is a lot that people can do when they believe. But, if Christians would understand the will of God for His Children and the plan of God for their lives, they would also understand that God

is looking for those who will **“live by faith,”** not by simply believing.

There is a difference between believing and faith. Therefore in Romans 1:16,17 it says, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek...For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”**

By believing the Word of God, a person can become born again into the body of Christ. When we believe the Gospel, we receive Jesus Christ as our LORD and Savior. As we continue in the Word of God, God gives us faith to live according to His Word. Therefore, being that God gives us faith to live by, God expects His Children to mature and walk by faith and not by sight.

God knows the difference between faith and believing. In the New Covenant, God is looking for those who will live by faith. Living by faith is also mentioned in Galatians 3:11 where it says, **“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”** Then in Hebrews 10:38 it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”**

If we are to please God, we must learn the difference between believing and faith. Then we need to walk by faith and not by sight In 2 Corinthians 5:7 it says, **“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”** Faith does not walk by sight. Faith walks by “things not seen,” as it says in Hebrews 11:1, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** That which is not seen is the opposite of that which is seen. Therefore, walking by faith is the opposite of walking by sight.

Not everyone has faith. In 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2 says, **“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you...And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.”** Today, there are many religious people who come against Christians. They do not have faith. Satan uses these to come against the work of the Holy Spirit among Christians. Being they are not born again, they do not have faith given to them.

Faith must be given to someone for them to have faith. But, everyone has the ability to believe. By believing alone, many can do great things. In Mark 9:14-29 it tells of a man who had a son that was possessed with a deaf and dumb spirit. The man brought his child to Jesus’s disciples, but they could not cast that spirit out of the child.

When Jesus was speaking to the man, He said to the man, **“...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark. 9:23). Jesus was speaking to the father of the child who was possessed with a deaf and dumb spirit. This father was not given faith as the disciples of Jesus were given, when Jesus **“...gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out...”** (Matt. 10:1). Yet, everyone has the ability to believe. Jesus said to the father of this child, **“...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark. 9:23).

Believing operates from the minds of people. Everyone has the ability to believe. Some religious people operate by “mind power,” which is “mind over matter.” This type of mind power does work. But, those who operate by “mind over matter,” are not operating by the ability of faith which comes from God. Unless a person is born again, and has been given faith, they cannot enter into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3, 3:5-7). What may look like results by mind power, will not produce the same results that faith will produce.

Satan knows the ability that man has in believing. Satan knows that “all things are possible to them that believe.” Therefore, Satan sends spirits of doubt and unbelief to destroy those who try to operate by believing only.

Doubt and unbelief are operations of Satan in the minds of people. If Satan can get someone

to doubt the power of believing, he can stop them from receiving all that could be theirs. God is not stopping mankind from receiving what He has made available to man. What God promised man in the beginning is still in effect today. It is doubt and unbelief that stops us from receiving all that God has promised in His Word.

Had Adam and Eve believed what the LORD God had told them in Genesis 2:17, they would not have eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When the serpent got Eve to doubt what the LORD God said, she then ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Then Eve gave also to Adam, and he did eat also. It was doubt that brought sin and death upon mankind.

Doubt and unbelief are opposite of believing. Doubt and unbelief operate from the minds of people. The mind operates from the soul of man. Being that man is a living soul, what man receives in his mind and believes in his heart controls what man does.

All things are possible to them that believe. But, doubt and unbelief will prevent believing from operating. Doubt and unbelief can even stop faith from working. When the disciples of Jesus asked why they could not cast the spirit out of the child, in Matthew 17:20, it says, **“Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief...”** Their unbelief prevented them from casting that spirit out of the child. They had faith, but their unbelief prevented their faith from working. Jesus told them that to overcome the unbelief they needed to fast and pray (Matt. 17:21). Fasting and prayer will overcome unbelief.

For Christians today, fasting and praying in the Spirit will overcome doubt, and build up our faith to do the work of the ministry that we have been given. That is why the Apostles in Acts 6:4 said, **“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”**

Faith is a gift of God, given to every individual Christian (Gal. 5:22). Our faith is built up by prayer and fasting (Matt. 17:20; Jude 1:20). Being that faith operates from our spirit, and not from our mind, we need to spend a lot of time praying in the spirit. Jude 1:20 says, **“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”**

We also need to spend a lot of time in the Word. Romans 10:17 says, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** It is when we are studying and meditating upon the Word of God, that we receive the faith we need to do the work of the ministry.

Faith only works one way. Either we have faith and exercise our faith or we let doubt and unbelief stop us. There is no such thing as un-faith, or negative faith. Faith comes from God and is always positive. God never gives anyone negative faith.

Believing works two ways. We can believe what God says and receive what God desires for us. Or we can believe what the Devil says and receive what the Devil desires for us. Believing starts with thoughts, and then manifests according to what we believe.

God sometimes puts thoughts in our minds and we believe those thoughts. When we believe the thoughts God puts in our minds, and act upon them, we receive what God wants us to have.

As an example, people become born again into the body of Christ by believing the thoughts that God gives them, and acting upon those thoughts. 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.”** As people think upon the thoughts that God puts in their minds, they respond and become born again.

Satan works the same way. Satan puts thoughts in our minds and when we believe them we end up doing what Satan wanted us to do. Believing can draw us to God or believing can pull us away from God.

In our natural life, we live according to what we believe. If we believe God we will gain what God has desired for us. If we believe the Devil we will obtain what the Devil desires for us.

In believing, we receive according to what we believe in our heart. Therefore, it is important that we learn “to live by faith,” and not by simply believing. Believing can cause us to go in the wrong direction. But true faith will not fail, because faith comes from God and returns to God.

Overcoming Sin and Death

In Romans 8:1,2, it 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.”** There is a law of sin and death. This law of sin and death came in the garden of Eden, when the LORD God said to man, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”** (Gen. 2:17). To eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, is to disobey God. All disobedience to God is sin against God. Sin against God brings death.

In God there is life (zoe). There is no death in God, for God is love (agape). Love does not kill or destroy. God is the beginning of all life. Satan is the beginning of all death.

In Satan there is no love (agape). Therefore, in Satan there is no life (zoe). Satan has the power of death, and all death comes from Satan. In 1 Corinthians 15:26 it says, **“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”** Death is an enemy. When death is overcome our enemy is overcome. Therefore, in 1 Corinthians 15:52-57 it says, **“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality...So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory...O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?...The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law...But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

In Hebrews 2:6-10, it says, **“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?...Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands...Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him...But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man...For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”** Then in Hebrews 2:14 it says, **“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”**

There is no death in God. All sin and death comes from the Devil. In 1 John 3:8 it says, **“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”** All sin had its beginning in the Devil. Anyone who commits sin, received their information from the Devil. The sin that came in the garden of Eden, came by a work of the Devil, using the serpent to deceive Eve (Gen. 3:1-6). The difference between sin and righteousness is obedience or disobedience to God. When someone disobeys the LORD God, they automatically obey the Devil. There are only two masters in this creation, the LORD God and the Devil (Matt. 6:24).

The Devil has the power of death. God has the power of life. These two are opposite of each other. In 1 John 1:5, 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.”** In God is light. In Satan is darkness. Light has power over darkness. Life has power over death.

Know Your Enemy

The world lives by the knowledge of good and evil. When we think of an enemy, we think of people who do things that are not good in our sight. People are not our enemies. Spirits are our enemies.

Spirits cannot be seen with our natural eyes. Therefore, the people of the world do not know that their enemy is not another person. Their enemies are the spirits that operate in the minds of people and other creatures in this world.

In the world, people stay away from creatures that could harm them, or even kill them. Most people are taught to stay away from poisonous snakes. People are taught that if they get bit by a poisonous snake they will die. Therefore, there is a fear of poisonous snakes in the minds of most people.

When I was a child growing up in the country, we used to go out and shoot and kill snakes. We did not like snakes, because we were taught that snakes are enemies of people. We were taught that snakes bite and kill people. Therefore, we were taught that snakes were bad, and we should kill snakes.

Why are people taught things like some creatures are bad, and some people are bad? Why do people hate other people? Why do some people want to kill other people?

It is because of the spirits of this world. The spirits of this world want to control what people do. The spirits of this world operate by the knowledge of good and evil that teaches that some people are good and others are evil. The knowledge of good and evil teaches that some creatures are good and others are evil.

Why are people taught that some are good and some are evil? Simply, because they have not been taught the truth concerning what is happening in the world. People are not taught the truth concerning many things in this world. What is not true is false. People believe what is not true, simple because they have been taught to believe things that are not true.

There is only one source of information that will teach us what is true and what is false. That source is God, and His Word. If people do not spend time in studying the inspired written Word of God they will be deceived by what they are taught by other people in the world. The Scriptures reveal to us the truth, and how to get to know the truth.

The people of the world operate according to the five senses, which are controlled by the minds of people. Our mind receives information from our five senses. This information comes from different sources, within our bodies and outside of our bodies. This information is then used to teach and train people how to know what is good and what is evil.

The Word of God does not go by the five senses. The Word of God goes by what happens in the spiritual realm, and then manifests in the natural realm. The Word of God has its source in that which we cannot taste, see, feel, smell, or hear with our natural senses.

There are two god's in this world. There is the Word of God, which is the Creator, and there is the god of this world, which is a created spiritual being. The Creator has power over all that He created. The created are subject to the Creator.

Anytime a person obeys a created being, contrary to what the Word of God tells us, they are submitting to a lesser power than what was planned for them by the Creator. Obeying anyone without first obeying the Word of God, is sin. We must obey those whom the Word of God tells us to obey. But, we do not obey others contrary to the Word of God.

It is knowing the Word of God in every area of our lives that enables us to live on this earth in complete obedience to the Creator of the world we live in. If we do not know the Word of God,

it will not be easy to obey God who is the Creator of this world.

Anytime we disobey the Word of God, we sin against God. All sin is disobedience to the Word of God. All disobedience is punishable by death. In Genesis 2:17 it says, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”** Living by the tree of knowledge of good and evil is disobeying the Word of God. Therefore, the Scriptures tell us, **“...the wages of sin is death...”** (Rom. 6:23).

There are two types of death mentioned in the Scriptures. There is first, the death of the physical body of man. Then second is eternal separation from God, which is called spiritual death or eternal death.

In both of these types of death, neither one takes place immediately following the sin that brings death. God, who is the Creator of heaven and earth loves all those whom He created in His own image and likeness (Gen. 1:26,27). God is not willing that any should die or perish (John 3:16). No one lives or dies without God making the final decision as to who will live and who will die.

No matter how great the sin is, God is love and not willing that any should perish, or die. Even the Devil, who was at one time an anointed Cherub before the throne of God in heaven, when he sinned against God, he was still given time to repent (Ezek. 28:12-20). Even after the Devil did not repent, he was still given a time before he would be forever in hell. The Devil’s time is not up, therefore he is still operating within this world as “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4).

God is Love (agape), and we must get to know God by His love. God is just, and not willing that any should suffer and die because of sin. God has given mankind His Word, and God cannot lie. If we are to live and not die, we must know the Truth, which is written and revealed in the Scriptures.

It is because of a lack of knowledge of the Word of God that people perish. In Hosea 4:6 we are told, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”**

The world does not know the truth. Therefore, the world lives by the knowledge of good and evil. But, what about those who are Christians? Do Christians know the Truth, or are they also being destroyed for a lack of knowledge?

Multitudes of Christians today are being destroyed for a lack of knowledge of the Word of God. Most Christians today have their minds blinded by the god of this world. They are blinded by the knowledge of good and evil, and cannot see or understand the Truth, which is revealed in the Scriptures.

Why are Christians blinded from knowing the truth? Simply, because they have not taken the time to get to know the Truth, which is the Word of God. Mostly, they are more interested in the world and the things of this world than they are in spending time in the Word of God. The world and the things of this world are more important to them than the Word of God.

It is totally up to each individual Christian to do the will of God or to do the will of someone else. Adam and Eve were the first people to live upon this earth. Adam was first formed, then Eve was taken out of Adam to be Adam’s helper.

Being that Adam was the beginning of all mankind, Adam was accountable to God to do as the LORD God told him. Adam knew he was not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam disobeyed the LORD God, and by his disobedience, sin and death came upon all mankind.

Before Adam sinned, Eve was deceived by the serpent. Eve listened to the words spoken to her by the serpent. Eve thought about what was told her, and in her mind she became deceived by the words spoken to her and the thoughts that came following her listening to the serpent.

Look at what it says about what Eve did after listening to the words spoken to her by the serpent. It says, **“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat”** (Gen. 3:6). All of this took place in Eve’s mind. What she saw, and what she desired came as a result of what the serpent first told Eve. The words of the serpent got Eve’s attention. Once Eve thought about the tree that she knew she should not eat the fruit of, her mind began to dwell upon what was first said to her by the serpent. After thinking about eating of the tree in which she knew she should not eat, she did eat.

That was the beginning of all sin that brought death upon the human race. Eve was deceived, but that did not change the Word of God. Sin is sin, no matter who disobeys the LORD God.

When Adam hearkened to the voice of his wife, Adam sinned and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil also (Gen. 3:17). Being that Adam was first formed of the dust of the ground, and everyone born of the flesh came from the bloodline of Adam, sin and death passed upon all who were born of the flesh.

When Christians understand that it is “thoughts and words” that are used by Satan to destroy us, we will then know what to do, that we are not deceived by the enemy. The enemy is Satan and his demons. People are not our enemies. Animals and living creatures are not our enemies.

We need the complete Scriptures to get to know the Truth. We cannot go by just a few verses from the Scriptures. We cannot go only by what is written in English translations of the written Word of God. We must check out what it says in the Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek manuscripts.

Not knowing what was written in the inspired written Word of God, brings deception, which brings sin and death. There is no other major source of information available to mankind, than that which is written in the inspired written Word of God. The source of the inspired written Word of God is God Himself. All Scripture was given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is the only true teacher of the truth which is written in the inspired written Word of God.

Studying the Scriptures will reveal how to receive the Truth from the Scriptures? In 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 it says, **“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him...But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God...For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God...Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God...Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual...But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

Christians who do not get involved in studying the Word of God, “guided and taught by the Holy Spirit,” will not get to know the truth. The Holy Spirit is called, “the Spirit of Truth,” by Jesus Christ who is the Truth (John 14:17, 15:26 16:13).

Only the Truth will set us free of the teachings of men and women, who teach things that are not true. If we spend time listening to men and women, who say they are teaching the truth, and do not get personally involved in studying the Scriptures and being taught by the Holy Spirit ourselves, we will easily be deceived.

We must study the Scriptures ourselves, and not depend upon what someone else tells us. Looking back in Genesis, Chapters two and three, we should notice certain things. During the sixth day of this creation, in Genesis 2:4 it says, **“These are the generations of the heavens and of the**

earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.” That would mean that all that was revealed in Genesis, Chapter one, was not in total order or sequence according to what was mentioned. The details of the creation of man, the beast of the field, and the fowl of the air are recorded in Genesis, Chapter two. There it mentions the order in which they were created. It also mentions that the beast of the field and the fowl of the air were all formed of the dust of the ground, just as man was formed of the dust of the ground. They also became living creatures, having a soul, containing a mind to think with and know and understand things.

Man was created before the beast of the field and the fowl of the air were created. This could be of some importance when understanding why man was given dominion and not the beast of the field or the fowl of the air. God had a complete plan for this creation before He began creating the heavens and the earth that we see now.

Man was God’s primary purpose for the creation of this earth and the heavens around the earth. This is revealed very clearly throughout the complete Scriptures. Once the LORD God began creating this earth and all that is upon it, He did not make any changes in His plans. Christians get deceived by thinking that God changes His mind at times.

In Genesis 2:7-15 it tells us that the LORD God created mankind, starting with one man by the name of Adam, and placed man in the garden of Eden. Then in Genesis 2:16,17, it says, **“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat...But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”**

According to what it says, Adam was the only physical human being living in the flesh at the time the LORD God spoke to man, commanding mankind not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Evidently, Adam did not consider all that was spoken to him before he sinned and did eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:6). Had Adam spent more time paying attention to the things revealed to him, he could have made the right choice when he had the opportunity.

Not making the right choices when we have been given the opportunity, leads us into deception. Adam was not deceived, based upon what he already knew concerning eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In James 4:17 says, **“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”** When Christians know what to do, and do not do what they already know to do, they sin. Sin brings death.

Our Real Enemy

In Ephesians 6:12, it says, **“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.”** Being our enemy is not **“flesh and blood,”** we must understand the spiritual realm.

In the spiritual realm, there is God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and all the angels who are obedient to God. These are not physical beings, therefore, we cannot see them with our natural eyes. There are also those who are born again Christians in Christ Jesus. None of the above are our enemies, they are God’s creation.

In the spiritual realm there is also Satan, the Devil, and his demons that follow Satan’s instructions. We cannot see the Devil and his demons with our natural eyes. They are not flesh and blood. These are the spirits of this world that inflect us with sickness, disease, and infirmities of the flesh and the mind.

These spirits operate in the spiritual realm and manifest in the flesh of people and other creatures. They are opposed to God, and they are out to destroy all that God has created. Their main purpose is to oppose all that God is and has created.

Their beginning is in Satan, the Devil, who was at one time created as Lucifer, the anointed Cherub. Lucifer was perfect and without sin when he was created (Ezek. 28:15). Of his own will, Lucifer (who is now Satan, the Devil), rebelled against God, wanting to be like God (Isaiah 14:12-20; Ezek. 28:12-20).

Lucifer deceived many angels in the heavens, and was cast out of the third heavens, down to the earth and the second heavens above the earth (thereby he became Satan, the Devil). Multitudes of angels followed Lucifer and are now held in bondage until the day of judgement (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).

Satan is a created being. Therefore Satan does not have power over God. Satan is subject to God, through the Word of God. The Word of God has power over Satan and all his demons.

Jesus Christ is “the Word of God” that manifested in the flesh of man (John 1:14). Therefore, Satan is subject to Christ Jesus, and all who are in Christ Jesus.

Satan and his demons always knew who Jesus was. In Matthew 8:28,29, it says, **“And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way...And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?”** In Mark 1:23,24, it says, **“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out...Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.”**

Today, Satan and his demons know that Jesus defeated them on the Cross of Calvary. In Colossians 2:13-15, it says, **“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses...Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross...And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”** In Revelation 1:17,18, the Apostle John wrote, **“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last...I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”** Satan and his demons

know that the name of Jesus has been exalted above all other names, in heaven, on earth, and beneath the earth (Phil. 2:6-10).

Jesus is the Word of God, who came in the flesh (John 1:14). It was the Word of God, in the flesh of man, that defeated the Devil on the Cross of Calvary. The Word of God is a living Word, living and operating in the spiritual realm (Heb. 4:12). Whenever the Word of God is spoken without doubt and unbelief, all of creation is subject to what is spoken.

The Word of God is Truth, and must be spoken in truth and without deception. Anyone can quote the written Word of God in deception, by adding to, or taking away parts or part of the written Word, making it of none-effect in the spiritual realm.

This the Devil knew from the beginning. Therefore, Satan used the serpent to deceive Eve in the garden of Eden. Just as Satan used the serpent to deceive Eve, he continues to use people today to deceive others. It is by the thoughts in the minds of people, and other creatures that words are spoken. Words that are spoken cause spirits to respond according to what is spoken.

All of creation is under the control of God the Father. All of creation is subject to God the Father. The Word of God, and the Holy Spirit are God with the Father (1 John 5:7). The Word of God and the Holy Spirit are always in agreement with God the Father. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit cannot lie, and cannot fail to accomplish whatsoever comes from the Father.

Jesus Christ is the Word of God, which manifests in the flesh of man. Jesus became the Son of God, by the Word of God manifesting in the flesh (John 1:14). Therefore, Jesus is the Word of God, with all power over all that is created, in heaven, on earth, and beneath the earth.

All of creation is under the control of the Word of God, when it is spoken by a living voice. What God has spoken, will come to pass. What is spoken by Satan and his demons is limited by what is spoken by a living voice, speaking the Word of God.

Our enemy is not flesh and blood. Our enemy is spirits, speaking words that are not in total agreement with the Word of God. Whatsoever does not agree with the Word of God is not of God, but of Satan, **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4).

By thoughts and spoken words, the god of this world has blinded the minds of all who do not believe the gospel. This includes the minds of Spirit-filled Christians “who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” Satan uses Spirit-filled Christians along with many other people in this world to blind the minds of people and other creatures that they do not obey the Word of God.

The end result is that spoken words originate from thoughts in the spiritual realm. These words then manifest in the natural realm. Sin is the result of words spoken in the spiritual realm and manifesting in the natural realm. All sin is a work of the Devil, for he sinned from the beginning (1 John 3:8). All creatures, including angels and demons are subject to the Word of God.

The Word of God gives Satan the power to destroy whatsoever is opposed to the Word of God. Satan uses this power which is given to him to destroy anything and all things that do not obey the LORD, who is Jesus Christ.

The only way to receive eternal life here on earth and in heaven, is through obedience to the Word of God, which is Christ Jesus. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, eternal life is available to everyone who will obey Him. In Hebrews 5:9, it says, **“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”** All disobedience is sin, and sin brings death.

Nothing happens in the natural realm that has not already taken place in the spiritual realm. What happens in the natural realm is the result of what has already taken place in the spiritual realm. When Christians understand what has already taken place in the spiritual realm, they will be in a position to take authority over all the works of the Devil. It is by “not understanding” what has

already taken place in the spiritual realm, Christians become deceived, and are taken in the snare of the Devil.

When Christians believe according to what they see with their eyes, smell with their nose, feel with their bodies, hear with their ears, and taste with their tongue they are carnal (Christians walking after the flesh). Those who walk after the flesh cannot please God.

In Romans 8:5-8 it tells us, **“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...So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”** We cannot please God if we are going to continue to walk according to what we see with our eyes, feel with our bodies, smell with our nose, taste with our tongue, or hear with our ears. That is how the flesh lives. That is not how God lives. God lives by His Word, without any other evidence than His Word.

God is a faith God. In Hebrews 11:1, it says, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** When Christians continue to go by what they see, feel, smell, touch, taste, or hear, they are still carnally minded, and walking after the flesh. God is not pleased when Christians walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit.

Christians are born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit (John 3:6; 1 Peter 1:23). Therefore, Christians are no longer in the flesh, and should not continue living according to the flesh.

Our physical bodies do live by physical substances, which do effect the life of our physical bodies. Our physical bodies cannot continue to live contrary to the Word of God and be in good health. The health of our physical bodies are dependant upon what our soul permits to take place in the spiritual realm.

When the Devil tempted Jesus in Matthew 4:1,2, it says, **“...the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread...But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”** (Matt. 4:3,4). Physical food for our physical body is necessary. But the physical food is not the source of life. The Word of God is the source of all life.

Therefore, God is well able to supply all that our physical body needs by His power, which is in His Word. By the Word of God, all things were created. By the Word of God all things will continue to exist. It is when people resort to only that which operates by the five senses the Devil can control what they do. Our bodies were created by God. God can supply all that our bodies need, by His Word (Matt. 6:25-33).

There is nothing too hard for the LORD (Gen. 18:14). The Word of God cannot fail to do that which God has promised. Therefore, we must learn to live by the Word of God, not by what the Devil and others say. Words are spirit and they control what happens in the spiritual realm.

The reason there is so much sin and death among Christians is because of the teachings of men. What men teach that does not agree with the written Word of God did not come from God. Anything that is taught that does not come from God, comes from the Devil. Our enemy is the Devil and his demons (Eph. 6:12). They are the beginning of all thoughts and words spoken that cause “sin and death.” God the Father is the beginning of all thoughts and words spoken that cause “life and health.”

When we see what is happening in our lives, we can know “Who Told Us?” Did our information come from God or from the Devil? Did our information come from the spirits of this world or from other people?

To know where our information is coming from we must study the Scriptures from Genesis

through Revelation. Not everything is revealed in sequence of what happened from the very beginning of creation. Therefore, we must include all of the information from Genesis through Revelation.

We must also check everything with the Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek. English translations are not always correct. Not knowing what it says in the Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek, will hinder us from knowing the truth. Even checking the Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek will not always reveal the truth, for the Scriptures are not written so that man can understand everything with his natural mind.

The Scriptures must be spiritually discerned by the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 2:12-14, it says, **“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God...Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual...But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

We are also told that man must be taught by God, not by men. In John 6:45, Jesus said, **“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God...”** In 1 John 2:27, it says, **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”**

It is important that Christians understand that God is for us, not against us. In Romans 8:29-34, it says, **“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren...Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified...What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?...He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?...Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth...Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”**

People are not our enemy. Our enemy is the Devil and his demons that put thoughts in our minds that do not agree with the written Word of God. The Devil also uses people to speak words to us that do not agree with the written Word of God. The person doing the speaking is not our enemy, but is used by our enemy, the Devil and his demons. Therefore, we must do what we are told in 2 Corinthians 10:5,6, which says, **“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...And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”** The **“knowledge of God”** is revealed in the written Word of God, called the Scriptures.

Get Wisdom, Knowledge & Understanding

In Genesis 3:6-11 it says, **“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat...And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons...And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden...And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?...And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself...And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”**

It tells us that when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, **“...the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked...”** What happened? They received the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:22).

By the knowledge of good and evil, mankind became subject to the Devil. The Devil did not receive Adam's dominion. All the Devil received was an opening in the minds of people to operate freely by thoughts that he puts in the minds of people. Being the Devil is **“the god of this world,”** mankind became “as slaves” to the Devil. By the thoughts that the Devil puts in the minds of people, he controls a lot of what people do as a slave master over his slaves.

Adam and Eve submitted themselves to obey the voice of the serpent. In Romans 6:16 it says, **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”**

It was sin that entered the bloodline of mankind that made it possible for sin to continue from one person to another. Thereby, even children are born into this world with sin and death resident in them. Being there is sin resident within them, the Devil can cause children to be born with deformities of the flesh or mind. Without sin, there would not be any sickness, disease, or infirmities. These are all results of sin, which came upon mankind in the garden of Eden.

First, Satan, **“the god of this world”** put thoughts in the minds of Adam and Eve. The knowledge of good and evil revealed to them that they were naked (Gen. 3:7). (This is how the Devil controls much of what happens in the Churches today. By the knowledge of good and evil, Christians are deceived into walking after the flesh and not after the Spirit).

Adam and Eve were always naked from the time they were created. In Genesis 2:25, it says, **“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”** Why were they not ashamed? There is no guilty conscience when there is no sin. There is no sin in being naked when the husband and wife were alone and no one else can see them. The animals do not wear clothing. The animals do not have any problems with sexual sins. All sin originates with the Devil. The Devil sinned from the beginning (1 John 3:8).

It is the knowledge of good and evil that causes people to sin against God. The thoughts in the minds of people cause people to go against the will of God. It all started with the serpent talking to Eve. The serpent lied to Eve when he said to Eve, **“...Ye shall not surely die”** (Gen. 3:4). The LORD God told man in Genesis 2:17, **“...in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”**

Sin came because Eve listened to the serpent when the serpent lied to her. Once Eve took and ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the Devil used Eve to get Adam to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil also (Gen. 3:6).

In Genesis 3:17 it says, **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.”**

Adam was the beginning of all mankind in the flesh. **“The life of the flesh is in the blood”** (Lev. 17:11). Sin entered into the lifeline of mankind. Everyone born of the flesh into this world was born from the bloodline of Adam. In Acts 17:26, it says, **“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...”** Even Eve came out of the body of Adam. Eve’s body was formed of the flesh of Adam’s body (Gen. 2:21-23). Adam said in Genesis 2:23, **“This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh...”** Therefore, all who are “born of the flesh of man,” are born with sin and death resident within them. Eve had no sin until she ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Eve sinned when she took of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Eve was deceived by the words spoken to her by the serpent. Eve was in the transgression. In 1 Timothy 2:14, it says, **“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”**

The life of the flesh flows through the blood. The bloodline of all mankind came from Adam, not from Eve. The flesh comes from the woman, but “the life of the flesh” comes from the man.

Praise God! For Jesus was not born of the lifeline of Adam, but of God. The “life of the flesh” in Jesus’ blood did not come from Adam, it came from God. Therefore, Jesus became our Redeemer, and He redeemed us from sin and death by His own blood, which He shed for us on the Cross of Calvary.

Because of sin, which entered into the life of the flesh through the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve knew they were naked. No one had to tell them they were naked. It was automatically known to them by the knowledge of good and evil. The accuser of mankind, who is the Devil, began openly operating in the minds of Adam and Eve. The first thing that Adam and Eve became aware of was that they were naked.

Before Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, mankind had not disobeyed the LORD God. It was the sin of disobeying the LORD God that opened their eyes to the knowledge of good and evil. Once their eyes were opened to the knowledge of good and evil, sin began to condemn them for their disobedience to the LORD God. Satan, is the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10). Satan operates through the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve’s conscience revealed their sin to them by the knowledge of good and evil. They knew they were naked (Gen. 3:7).

In Genesis 2:17, the LORD God had said to mankind, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely (muwth) die (muwth).”** Once Adam and Eve submitted themselves to obey the voice of the serpent, sin and death entered into mankind. Sin and death came because Adam and Eve obeyed a wrong voice.

In obeying the voice of the serpent, they automatically “disobeyed the voice of the LORD God” (Gen. 2:17). What the LORD God had spoken to man in Genesis 2:17 came to pass. Mankind did receive two types of death, physical death of the physical body, called mortality, and eternal separation from God in hell, called corruption, or eternal death.

Neither of these two deaths completed their actions that same day that Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God did not say in Genesis 2:17 what many teach in the Churches today. The words **“surely die,”** in the Hebrew signify two deaths that would come upon mankind. Neither of these two deaths completed their action immediately.

Note: the words "**surely (muwth) die (muwth)**," in the Hebrew signify two deaths, corresponding with Revelation 20:6,14. The Hebrew word "muwth" translated both "surely" and "die" is a primitive root word.

The first Hebrew word "muwth" translated "surely" in Genesis 2:17 is in the infinitive mood. Infinite means "unlimited; not limited to any person, number, or tense." Infinitive means "existence or action without reference to person, number, or tense. It is usually the form of the first person singular present."

In the case of man (the first Adam), eternal death came upon mankind. But, not upon Jesus (the Second Adam). In Jesus was eternal life. **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"** (1 Cor. 15:22).

The Hebrew word "muwth" translated "die" in Genesis 2:17 is also the same Hebrew word. But it is in the imperfect mood, expressing an action, process, or condition which is incomplete. This pertains to the death of the natural body, which is called "mortal" in Romans 8:11 and 1 Corinthians 15:53,54. Mortal means "death is resident; in the process of dying; and will eventually die" (Rom. 5:12).

Therefore, the first death that came upon mankind (translated "**surely**" in Genesis 2:17), is "corruption," sometimes called "eternal death." Eternal death does not complete its action until man is cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14,15).

The second death that came upon mankind (translated "**die**" in Genesis 2:17), is "mortality," which pertains to physical death of the physical body of man. Physical death does not come until man's physical body dies (ceases to live) upon this earth.

Therefore, in 1 Corinthians 15:52,53, it says, **"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."** In heaven, there will not be any mortality, or corruption. Mortality and corruption are the results of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

By the teachings of men in the Churches today, Satan has blinded the minds of many with his teachings that do not agree with what is revealed in Genesis 2:17, concerning the words "**surely die.**" Those teaching anything that does not agree with what was written in the Hebrew in Genesis 2:17, are deceived by the enemy.

Once again, looking back in Genesis 3:1-6, Eve listened to the voice of the serpent, and obeyed the serpent, which was contrary to what the LORD God had said in Genesis 2:17. All disobedience to the Word of God is sin. Sin brings death.

Once sin entered the human race through the disobedience of man, the whole creation began operating by the knowledge of good and evil. It says in Genesis 3:7, **"...the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons..."** Were they blind, that they could not see before they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? No. For it says, **"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes..."** (Gen. 3:6). Adam and Eve had eyes that could see even before they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Did someone say to Adam and Eve, **"look at yourselves, you are naked?"** No. They **"knew"** they were naked. They knew they were naked by the knowledge of good and evil that entered into mankind by disobeying the LORD God.

In Genesis 3:11, it tells us that the LORD God said to Adam, **"Who told thee that thou wast naked?"** Did Adam hear a voice saying to him, **"you are naked?"** No. It says, **"...the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons..."** (Gen. 3:7). By the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve

knew they were naked, and therefore, they made aprons of fig leaves to cover their physical bodies.

All sin begins with disobedience to the LORD God. All sin is known by man, even without anyone speaking words to them. When someone sins, they know they sinned. By the knowledge of good and evil everyone knows when they sin. Everyone knows when they are not obeying the Creator of all things. It is an automatic knowing, beyond all natural means.

This knowing comes by thoughts and words. These thoughts and words do not need to be spoken audibly. It is a spiritual operation in the spiritual realm. All disobedience to the LORD God begins in the spiritual realm. It then manifests in the natural realm.

Through the teachings of many Spirit-filled Christians throughout the world, many Christians have been deceived. Because of a lack of knowledge of the Word of God, many have been taught things that are not true.

God's plan for mankind is that they live by the Word of God, not by the knowledge of good and evil. It is the knowledge of good and evil that brings sin and death. It is the Word of God that brings eternal life and prosperity.

In 3 John 1:2, it says, **“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”** Man is a living soul, and as we prosper in our soul, we can be in health in our physical bodies. This word **“prosper”** as it is used in the Greek in 3 John 1:2, does not have anything to do with money. In this verse the Greek word “euodoo,” translated to the English word **“prosper,”** means, “succeed.”

When our soul succeeds in agreeing with the written Word of God we will have good success and will be in good health. Our success and health are dependant upon the renewing of our mind upon the written Word of God. In Romans 12:1,2, it says, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service...And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”**

Therefore, our health is dependant upon the renewing of our mind upon the written Word of God. Jesus made it clear when He said to the Devil in Matthew 4:4, **“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”**

The flesh operates by the knowledge of good and evil. The Spirit operates by the Word of God. To walk after the Spirit, we must operate by the Word of God, not by the flesh. (Not by the knowledge of good and evil).

All sickness, diseases, and infirmities are caused by sin. When Christians have sickness, disease, or infirmities they have evidence of sin. When Christians say they have no sin, and have sickness, disease, or infirmities, they are not telling the truth.

In 1 John 1:5-8 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 have sickness, diseases, or infirmities in our flesh, it is because we are not walking in the Light of the Word of God. Jesus is the Word of God that manifested in the flesh (John 1:14). Jesus is also the Light of man (John 1:4). When we are walking in the Light of the Word of God, we are walking in the true Light. When we are walking in the Light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. When all sin is cleansed from within us, we will be walking in the Light of the Word of God.

One condition that causes sin to manifest in our flesh is “pride.” In Proverbs 16:18 it tells us, **“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”** Pride comes before a fall. In James 4:6 it tells us, **“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”**

In Ephesians 2:8,9, it says, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...Not of works, lest any man should boast.”** We are saved by grace through faith, not by pride in whom we are, or what we have done. To be saved by grace through faith we must do what it says in James 4:7, **“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”** In submitting ourselves to God, we must do what it says in 1 John 1:9, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

Pride is not the only sin that keeps us from walking in the Light of the Word of God. Doubt and unbelief will also keep us from walking in the Light of the Word of God.

If we do not believe the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God, we have doubt and unbelief working in our minds, and even in our hearts. If we doubt the Word of God concerning the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, we cannot please God. God is not pleased when we doubt His Word.

If we do not believe the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, which is the same as the Gospel of Christ, “our minds are blinded by the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4). We need to get our minds renewed upon the written Word of God, and not be like the Galatians spoken of in Galatians 3:1-5. It says, **“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?...This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?...Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?...Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain...He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”**

How many Christians are still trying to justify themselves by works, rather than being justified by faith? Christians should study the third chapter of Galatians completely, “word for word.” Christians need to know what is revealed in Galatians concerning those who are truly born again into the Body of Christ.

In Hosea 4:6 it says, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”** How many Christians today are being destroyed for a lack of knowledge? How many are not studying the Scriptures for themselves? How many Christians are obeying the wrong voice, like Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden?

How many are speaking words without knowledge? Remember Job? Job lost his children, his possessions, and even his health. Job suffered from what Satan did to him for a long time. First, Job was told what to do by Elihu. In Job 34:5-9, it says, **“For Job hath said, I am righteous: and God hath taken away my judgment...Should I lie against my right? my wound is incurable without transgression...What man is like Job, who drinketh up scorning like water?...Which goeth in company with the workers of iniquity, and walketh with wicked men...For he hath said, It profiteth a man nothing that he should delight himself with God.”**

Over and over, it talks about Job speaking words without knowledge. In Job 34:35, Elihu said to Job and his three friends, **“Job hath spoken without knowledge, and his words were without wisdom.”** Again in Job 35:16, Elihu said to Job and his three friends, **“Therefore doth Job open his mouth in vain; he multiplieth words without knowledge.”**

Job was not listening to the young prophet by the name of Elihu. Therefore, in Job 38:1,2,

it says, **“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said...Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?”**

Many times it was told to Job that Job was speaking words without knowledge. After the LORD spoke to Job concerning his speaking words without knowledge, it says in Job 42:3-6, Job said, **“Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not...Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me...I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee...Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”**

After Job repented of *“speaking words without knowledge,”* the LORD had Job pray for his friends. Then in Job 42:10, it says, **“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.”**

There are all kinds of teachings of men that try to say why Job suffered so long. Yet, if we study the Scriptures, especially the book of Job we will know why Job suffered. Job was “speaking words without knowledge.” Many things Job said were not according to what the Bible says Christians should do.

We are to study the Scriptures and see what is says we should say and what we should not say. If we are speaking words without knowledge, the words we are speaking are the very words the Devil uses to hold us in bondage.

Words are spirit, and they control what happens in the spiritual realm. We must bring our words into captivity, and speak only that which agrees with the Gospel of Christ.

In 2 Corinthians 10:5,6, it says, **“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...And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”**

How many Christians are trusting in the worlds system, rather than in the Word of God? How many Christians are speaking words without knowledge? In Matthew 12:37, Jesus said, **“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”**

When Christians understand what truly happened to Job, they will have a much better understanding of what happens to Christians who do not obey the LORD God. Satan was trying to cause Job to curse the LORD God. But, Satan could not do anything to Job unless Job first started speaking words without knowledge. By the words that Job had spoken, the time came when the LORD had to permit Satan to destroy in Job’s life. Satan could not destroy anything in Job’s life, until the LORD permitted him.

This is the same in the lives of Christians. It is interesting to understand the book of Job. The book of Job is a type and shadow of Christians today. In Job 1:1, it says, **“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”** This statement concerning Job is not according to the knowledge of good and evil that the world lives by. This statement is the Word of God **“declaring the end from the beginning”** (Isa. 46:9,19). God sees the end from the beginning. God knew that once Job understood that speaking words without knowledge, gives the Devil the right to destroy according to what is spoken, Job would repent. Once Job repented of speaking words without knowledge, the LORD was able to restore to Job all that he lost.

Words are spirit, and they cause things to happen in the spiritual realm. According to what is spoken, it shall come to pass. In Isaiah 55:11, it says, **“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and**

it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” God’s Word cannot fail.

Was God speaking of Job as a man in the flesh, or as one of His own in the spirit? What is God saying about those who are His own, born again in Christ Jesus? We need understanding of the Word of God, so that we can discern the difference between good and evil, and obtain unto the resurrection of the dead according to the Word of God.

There were many statements that Job made, that was not in line with the written Word of God. Therefore, Satan was permitted to destroy in the life of Job. This is what is happening in the lives of many born again Christians today. When Satan tempts them with symptoms of sickness or disease, they agree with the symptom instead of agreeing with the written Word of God. That gives the Devil the right to put sickness and disease upon those who disagree with the written Word of God.

When Eve listened to the serpent, speaking words that did not totally agree with what she knew, Eve gave place for the Devil to deceive her into eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Eve was deceived by the words spoken to her by the serpent. Christians today are deceived by words spoken to them by others whom the enemy uses to speak words to them. Christians are also deceived by thoughts in their minds which did not come from God.

Jesus said, **“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned”** (Matt. 12:37). What we say is what we get. Therefore, what the Word of God says in Isaiah 33:24, it is speaking of the New Covenant, saying, **“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.”** Are Christians living under the New Covenant? Are Christians new creatures in Christ Jesus? If they are, then Isaiah 33:24 is speaking of Christians.

When Christians understand the New Covenant, they will also understand that evil thoughts and words come from the satanic realm. Christians, we are told not to give any place for the Devil (Eph. 4:27). By our words we give place for the Devil. What we permit, the LORD also permits.

Under our new covenant we are told that by Jesus’ stripes we are healed (Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24). If we believe the Gospel, then we are already healed. If we are already healed we should not give place for the Devil by saying we are sick. Our words condemn us when we say we are sick (Matt. 12:37).

In Ephesians 4:29,30, it says, **“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers...And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”** It grieves the Holy Spirit when Christians speak words that do not agree with the New Covenant.

Many Christians say such things as **“I know God is going to heal me.”** That is not true. It is not “when God is going to heal someone.” It is “when are they going to receive their healing?” Their healing has already be paid for. It already belongs to them. It is like money deposited in our account in a bank. It is like money from an inheritance that is deposited by the authorities overseeing the estate of someone who is deceased. The money belongs to the one that inherited it. When are those who inherited money going to spend some of the money that is in the bank? As long as the money stays in the bank it will not help them. We must use what is ours to benefit from what belongs to us. We must receive it to benefit from it. As long as it stays in the bank, we will not benefit from it.

When anyone needs healing, they need to receive it. Until they receive it, it will not manifest in their bodies. If there is sin in their lives at the time, they may need to get rid of the sin by repenting and confessing their sins. Then, receive forgiveness and healing both at the same time.

Healing for our bodies came when Jesus died on the Cross, descended into the lower parts

of Hell, and paid the price for our healing. Jesus is not going to go back to the Cross and die again, and then ascend again into the lower parts of hell, to do again what He has already done.

In Romans 10:6,7 says, **“But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)...Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)”** What Jesus did on the Cross, and completed by His descending into Hell and defeating Satan and his demons, was a one time finished operation. It was totally complete, setting us free of the works of the Devil. Jesus is not going to do it again. It is finished, and has been finished for almost two thousand years.

If we are to receive healing for our bodies, we must receive according to the written Word of God. It says, in Romans 10:8-11, **“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach...That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved...For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”**

When Christians believe in their heart, and do what it says in Romans 10:9,10, they will be healed. It is by believing in the heart and doing what the written Word of God says, that we receive healing. God has already healed us according to His Word. When we believe His Word, we will receive according to what we believe. This believing must be in our heart, not just our head.

Every word that is spoken contrary to the written Word of God, is giving place for the Devil. When we give place for the Devil, he takes advantage of whatsoever we say that will help him defeat us. Christians are being destroyed for a lack of knowledge of the written Word of God (Hosea 4:6).

What happens when Christians receive thoughts that come to their minds that do not agree with the written Word of God? First, let us see an example in Genesis 4:3-11. It says, **“And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD...And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering...But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell...And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?...If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”**

In this account of what happened to Cain, we can see what was happening. Cain was not bringing his offering by faith, as Abel was (Heb. 11:4). Cain's heart was not like that of Abel. The LORD did not have respect for Cain's offering. Therefore, **“...Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.”**

In Genesis 4:10,11, it says, **“And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?...If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”**

Thoughts were coming into Cain's mind, which is the door to Cain's heart. The LORD said to Cain, **“...sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”** Who is the **“him”** that the LORD was speaking of? It was the Devil, putting thoughts in the mind of Cain.

It was Cain's responsibility to rule over the Devil when thoughts came to his mind. Cain did not rule over the thoughts that came to his mind. Cain gave place to the Devil, when he did not come

against the thoughts that the Devil put in his mind.

This is what happens in the lives of Christians. Thoughts come into the minds of Christians. Most of the time they do not take authority over their thoughts and come against all thoughts that do not agree with the written Word of God.

Unless we submit ourselves unto God and resist the Devil, he will not flee from us (James 4:7). We must cast down “**...imagination, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**” (2 Cor. 10:5).

We must speak the written Word of God in boldness, not according to the thoughts of our minds, but according to what is written. When Jesus was tempted by the Devil in Matthew 4:1-11, He spoke the Word of God to the Devil according to what was written. Jesus set the example for us, what we should do when we are tempted by the enemy.

What happens in the spiritual realm if we do not resist the Devil and speak the Word of God according to what is written? We automatically give the spirits of this world a right to manifest in our flesh, and in our mind. We must resist the Devil, or he will not flee from us. We should not give place for the Devil by not resisting the thoughts that he puts in our minds.

What must we do, if we fail to resist the Devil and cast down every thought that does not agree with the written Word of God? The first thing we should do is repent. Jesus said in Luke 24:47, “**And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**” If we repent, then the blood of Jesus can take away our sin. Then if we confess our sins to God, He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Once our sins are washed away by the Blood of the Jesus Christ, we can then confess the Word of God with boldness to receive healing.

If we do not receive healing after repenting and confessing our sins, we may need to cast the demon out that came in by us not resisting the Devil, and casting down the thoughts that gave place for the Devil. Our deliverance does not always come instantly.

Many times it will be necessary for us to take the authority we have been given “**in the name of Jesus**” (Mark 16:17; Luke 10:19). We may need to command the demons to leave our bodies and minds. Jesus gave us instructions on how to use the name of Jesus against the works of the Devil. In Mark 16:16-18, Jesus said, “**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned...And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues...They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**”

In Luke 10:19, Jesus said, “**Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**” Christians have been given power over all the works of the enemy. We need to use the power we have been given to destroy the works of the enemy.

We cannot force the Word of God to manifest according to our ability. God looks at our heart, and knows what is the cause and conditions that allowed the Devil to put his sickness or disease upon us. Once we have done our part, then it is up to God to manifest the healing.

We must do our part to resist the Devil, in every area of our lives. We must do it according to what is written in the Scriptures. Without knowledge of what is written in the Scriptures, we are at a disadvantage over the spirits of this world. Therefore, we must renew our minds upon the written Word of God, and be doers of the Word, not just hearers only.

God loves His Children who are born again into the body of Christ. God has given us many

ways to overcome the Devil in our lives. Therefore, by knowing all the ways God has given us, we can be led by the Holy Spirit in the way that applies to our situation. When the Holy Spirit is in control, we will get the victory. In 1 John 5:4 it says, **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”** Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

To overcome the world, we must overcome the knowledge of good and evil, which the world lives by. It is the knowledge of good and evil that Satan uses to separate us from the love of God. When we overcome the knowledge of good and evil and live by faith, we will have the victory.

This book is only the beginning of the revelation of the Word of God that has been given to Christians to defeat the enemy in every area of our lives. This is Part One, of two parts to the subject of “Who Told You?”

Part One is the foundation for Part Two. In Part Two, we will see the total plan of God for mankind. God’s plan for mankind begins in Genesis, Chapter one and ends in Revelation Chapter twenty-two. From Genesis, Chapter one through Revelation Chapter twenty-two we go from Adam to Christ. We begin with Adam in the flesh, and we end with Christ in the spirit. Then we go from babes in Christ, to children of God, to sons of God.

God is looking for those who will follow His plan, and mature to become sons of God. In Romans 8:9 it 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.”** We came into this world born of the flesh in Adam. 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.”** In the new birth, (born of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit), we become a new creation of man in Christ Jesus.

Once a person is born again, they are no longer under the Law of Moses, but under **“the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”** (Rom. 8:2). Now, we need to renew our minds upon the Word of God, being taught by the Holy Spirit the principles of God.

In Galatians 5:25 it says, **“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”** In Romans 8:14 it says, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”** In Romans 8:18,19, it says, **“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us...For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”**

The sons of God shall reign with Christ in all eternity. The sons of God are those who, **“...are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”** We cannot continue to walk after the flesh if we desire to become the sons of God. For in Galatians 5:16,17, it says, **“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”**

How many Christians today are willing to die to sin and live unto righteousness? How many Christians today are willing to be led by the Holy Spirit and not by the flesh?

We can learn from the inspired written Word of God, how to walk in the Spirit and no longer walk after the flesh. We can learn how to take the authority given to us by Jesus Christ, and defeat the enemy in every area of our lives.

Therefore, let us, **“...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”** (Phil. 3:14). Watch for Part Two of this series on **“WHO TOLD YOU?”**

For more information on this subject and other subjects, go to our Web sites and download all the free books you so desire.