

*The NEW
Human
Race*

By Howard Williams

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I lift my heart in praise and thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the grace he has given me in sending his Son to save me from myself, and for translating me into His kingdom.

I thank Him for blessing me with a beautiful wife and two wonderful children who have inspired me to reach out and discover all the treasures there are in the new humanity, so that they along with others will be blessed with a legacy that is everlasting!

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my wife Karleen, my children Karsheena and Howard, and all the saints of God who have been born of water and of the Spirit.

INTRODUCTION

The gospel of John records a fascinating encounter that Jesus had with the Jews. On a certain Sabbath day Jesus walked by the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, where he encountered a multitude of people suffering from various illnesses. The story records how Jesus' focus was drawn to a man who had endured a disability for 38 years and how he struck up a conversation with the man resulting in his healing. The press of the crowd was so great that the healed man did not have the chance to appreciate who had cured him, until he later met Jesus in the temple.

The restored man then pointed to Jesus as the one who had healed him. *“And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the Sabbath day.”* (John 5:16) As shocking as his actions were for the Jews, Jesus pushed them further, emphatically declaring, *“...My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.”* (John 5:17) Jesus made it clear that as his father had been working continually, he would be doing the same.

When I read this, I was struck by what I understood as a reasonable and truthful

statement. I failed to see the implications of that one simple statement until I read the response of the Jews:

“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.” (John 5:18) What in that simple statement could cause such anger in the Jews that they determined to kill Jesus? This was a lesson for me. Jesus said that, “...God was his Father, making himself equal with God.” Wow, that was the key, and I had to be honest with myself realizing that these Jews had a greater understanding than I had at the time of reading. They immediately recognized the implications of what it meant for someone to claim God as their father. It meant equality with God. It meant having the same nature as God.

We understand that a human-being can only reproduce after its own kind, so humans reproduce humans - naturally. The same is true of God. The divine God can only produce offspring with a divine nature. Jesus is the *“only begotten (born) Son” of God (John 3:16)*. By claiming God as his father, Jesus implied that he shared God’s nature, a nature that is divine. This is what

the Jews correctly understood him to be saying, and what they vehemently reacted against.

This fascinating truth has entirely thrilled my heart up until this very moment. Jesus came to unite us to a new family, but we had to be “BORN AGAIN” from a new father thereby giving us a new nature and making us “equal with God”.

God made a way for us to become a part of a “new race of beings” because he gave us a new father, his Son Jesus Christ.

This “new race of beings” is the focus of this book and the treasure to be found herein is endless so let’s get started.

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Chapter 1

The Old Human Race

The word race as applied to humans, is often used to differentiate between groups of people based on distinct physical characteristics, where the term ethnic group may be more appropriate. It is necessary then to understand that the race referred to here is the category in which all human beings are placed as a species. We refer then to this category as “the human race.” Once you’re born, you are a part of this race of beings. It is a fact that we all identify as humans regardless of our color, physical features, social class or nationality.

Nature

Every human being is born with two natures; spiritual and physical. Most are not aware of this fact and it may sound strange, but the Bible teaches this clearly - and science is now catching on. Our physical nature is the body, but this is just the house in which we live. (2. Corinthians 5:1-4) The real you/me is what lives inside the body, and

that is the spirit. (Job 32:8) Therefore the natural state of every human being is spirit. The spirit we possess is the deciding factor that determines to which race we belong.

Two races

The suggestion that there is a “new human race” automatically infers that there was an “old human race”. It is important then for us to examine the differentiating features between these two races of beings and to identify to which race we belong individually. As already mentioned it is the spirit within the body that is the deciding factor. According to the scriptures there are two Adams who are the fathers of the two races of humans. One was the first and the other is, not the second, but the last, suggesting that there will only be two. These two fathers have passed on their inheritance to each descendant of their race, but this inheritance is a spiritual one. Let’s take a closer look at these two fathers and what they offer.

The First Adam

The first Adam was the first human being created by God, or better yet, he was the ONLY human being created by God. Therefore, all human beings who subsequently received life came from this first life. Even Eve came out of this life and then through the union of Adam and Eve this life of Adam began to be reproduced. Every human being born into this world receives Adam's life.

Good by Nature

Here is an everlasting principle that is most important to remember, "*God ALONE is good.*" (*Matthew 10:17*) When this first man Adam was created, he was made good by default. He was good by nature both spiritually and physically. He received life that was in union with God and the result was pure and total goodness. His wife also was good because she received of the same life that was in union with God.

Dominion

Man was made to have dominion (control and governance) over the earth as a king would rule his kingdom. Everything was under his control from the birds in the sky to every life form on the earth and even the creatures in the waters, all would be under his dominion and authority. God made him the ruler here on this planet.

The Test - Free Will

There are two main forms of government, a dictatorship and a democracy. A dictatorship is a form of government where one individual rules as an absolute autocrat unrestricted by constitution, laws or opposition. A democracy is a government where the people rule directly or through chosen representatives. In this system the numerical majority of an organized group can make decisions binding the whole group. The essence of any good government is to build on the principle of free will where the subjects are not forced or compelled but have freedom to choose!

Since man was made good by default (without his choice to be good), God had to give him an opportunity to make a decision by and for himself as to what he would choose. Would he choose to remain in union with God and be good, or choose his own way, be separated from God and face the inevitable consequences?

As a good father, God advised his children, Adam and Eve, of the facts that were essential to their knowledge and understanding of issues relating to a test they would be given, and the choice they would have to make. He cautioned them that by separating from him they would die. He was not threatening them with death but was simply stating a fact that outside of his life there is death. It was very similar to how God later dealt with Israel when he spoke these words in *Deuteronomy 30:19-20*, “*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy*

fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

God gave Adam and Eve a fruit tree as their test, but there was nothing special about the tree or the fruits on the tree. God could have chosen a flower or a stone, it was just a test. The fruit was an opportunity for them to demonstrate their choice. Would they choose to remain in union with God and so remain good, or would they choose to separate themselves from God?

Sin and its Results

When the time came for the test, to choose for or against God, ignorant of her authority, instead of using her dominion and power to rebuke and reject a talking serpent, Eve succumbed to the lie the serpent told, and eventually led Adam to follow her example. Thus, Adam and his wife both made the choice to live apart from God. This was the sin that resulted in death, and marked the first case of demon possession in the new world that God had created.

Man who had known only good since the day he was created was now introduced to a new

experience called evil which Satan told him that God was keeping him from. He would now experience life apart from God which is the self-life that produces only evil continually.

Since God had created only ONE life, and that life had become corrupted by severing the connection with God, all life reproduced from that moment on was to be born corrupted and evil. Every human being born on the earth from Eve's first child to the last baby that is being born now while you are reading these words, are all receiving Adam's corrupted life.

The life that is passed on to every human being is in the same condition that Adam was in when he passed it on, and that is a life without God. Therefore, that life is condemned to certain death because life without God, the source of all life, naturally ends in death. This is the legacy left to all the human inhabitants of the earth after Adam chose self over God! So the old human race has a carnal spiritual nature, given to bodily pleasures and appetites, with death working in it. That life was condemned to die without hope of ever existing again. That life is disconnected from the source of all life which is God.

Every person born into the old human race is Adam's son or daughter because it is his life that is procreated in all of the billions of people living today and all who have ever lived. This life of Adam is at its core separated from God, consequently it is a life of sin with self at its pinnacle and with death working in it. It is destined to die. The life of sin is a life of self-will, self-dependence and self-support. It is a life that is turned inward to itself for the purpose of self-aggrandizement, bereft of hope and of God. (Ephesians 2:12)

This miserable condition is the reality of the entire human race. Living without God the life-giver, destined to die forever, without the possibility of living again.

Chapter 2

Jesus' Mission

Jesus: The name central to the Christian faith. But who was he? What is the Bible's revelation of him? Why has this name spanned the entire earth's surface for the last 2000 years, and why is he still the most talked about person today? He never wrote a book and yet there have been millions of books written about him. He never had a personal family of his own, and yet today his family extends to hundreds of millions.

Get ready for what could be the discovery of a lifetime. It is not enough to just know about the person called Jesus, but grasping the opportunity to get to meet him personally after you've learned about him is essential. I hope this knowledge will draw out of you a desire to know him for yourself.

Jesus was the promised seed (offspring), looked for and expected for at least 4000 years before his arrival. The choice made by of our first parents immediately precipitated the fall of the old human race, God made a promise that The Seed of the woman would one day come and destroy the seed planted by Satan and eventually Satan himself. This promise was given

immediately after Adam and Eve chose to separate from God. The promise is known to be the first message of hope and is found 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.*”

According to this promise God would produce another Human Being (The Seed of the woman) who would destroy the self-life and give every individual born into Adam’s race another opportunity to choose for God. According to the promise this Being (The Seed of the woman) would destroy the principle of the devil which is sin, and the devil would try to kill this person (later known as Jesus). Jesus came in the line of prophetic fulfillment to deliver Adam’s race from the curse of condemnation and death. The Bible states that he arrived on the scene on planet earth in “the fullness of time”, or rather, at the right time. (Galatians 4:4)

The Plan

God devised a plan that his only begotten (born) son, Jesus Christ, would come to earth to

defeat sin at its core and having conquered sin would become the “last Adam”. The old human race could then choose to be “born again” by receiving his life, which would transform them into children of a new race – a new race with Jesus Christ as the father. This choice would in turn redeem mankind from the state of condemnation and death brought on by the choices of the first Adam.

Jesus then had to be born from the first Adam’s race, and as a son of Adam he had to take the principle of sin upon himself and destroy it, thereby gaining the right to be the new father. He was born to the virgin Mary as a human being but according to the book of Hebrews he received a body made of flesh (his physical nature) but inside that body dwelt the divine spirit (spiritual nature) of the only begotten Son of God. Remember we said our spirits are our true identity.

At its very core, the principle of sin is separation from God. Jesus was to be placed in the same disconnected position as the rest of humanity, thereby experiencing the same condition as all of Adam’s children. Then from that place of separation he would have to make a

choice to choose for God without the influence of God. Remember, Jesus himself stated that, “*No man can come to me except the father which hath sent me draw him...*” (John 6:44) Therefore, without the influence of God no man can choose for God.

Remember the everlasting principle mentioned earlier, God alone is good. There is no creature in the universe that can be good without God. Adam was good in a conditional way and that was because he was in union with God. Even the highest form of angels, once separated from the Good One will automatically turn to selfishness and evil, as was observed with Lucifer and the angels who chose to follow his example.

This was to be the true test of God’s nature. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God having the same nature as God, would be subjected to a state of complete separation from his Father, and left alone to choose for God but without the influence of God.

The Test

The test finally came when Jesus was “made to be sin” although he himself had never sinned.

How was he made to be sin? The answer to that question is easy if you have been following the biblical revelations mentioned earlier. It is important that we first have a correct understanding of what sin is, which at its core is, “separation from God.”

The apostle Peter says that, “...*he bore our sins in his own body on the tree.*” (1 Peter 2:24) On the tree is where Jesus took our sins upon himself. He did not take our sins at any other point during his life on earth.

Think about this idea of Jesus bearing our own sins in his body. How do you explain that? He never sinned so how did he bare our sins in his body? Misguided ministers and theologians have tried to explain this idea to the point of almost being ridiculous. Most say that God took all the lying, stealing, adulteries, killing and as many ‘thou shalt nots’ as mentioned in the Ten Commandment and placed them on Jesus. That is laughable because that is impossible to do. Is lying, stealing and adulteries (just to name a few) something tangible that you can place on somebody? The answer is a resounding NO!

So what did God do to Jesus to make him become sin? The answer is simple when you

consider what Jesus said when he was “on the tree” as Matthew recalled: Jesus said, “...*my God my God why have you forsaken me?*” (Matthew 27:46) That is the crucial point to understanding what God did to Jesus.

In Isaiah 54:4 it tells that Jesus, “*bore our griefs and carried our sorrows and we esteemed him, “stricken” and “smitten” of God and afflicted.*” That is when God forsook his own son by separating himself from him. That is what it means that he was made to be sin. God separated himself from Jesus, but Jesus did not separate himself from God otherwise he would have sinned. Hence the act of God separating himself from his son was the act of making him (Jesus) to be sin. Therefore, sin is separation from God.

In this state of separation any other creature would naturally turn to self-preservation, but Jesus who had the divine nature of the Almighty God did not chose self, he conquered sin by not yielding to selfishness in saving himself, and therefore when he died, death could not hold him because he was not a sinner, meaning he did not separate himself from his father. Consequently, the grave had to loose him because it was not he who separated from God. Jesus was the first

being in all of eternity past and future that God ever separated from.

Jesus conquered sin by not turning to self-preservation and saving himself. He conquered death by being released from the grave, and by walking out of the grave forever!

The book of Revelation (“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”) affirms that as he was leaving the grave Jesus “took up the keys of hell and death” declaring, *“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.”* (Revelation 1:18) This is a powerful statement because as we shall see later, these keys are given to the children of Jesus.

Chapter 3

Jesus - A New Father

Had it been possible for Jesus to have a pure wife like Adam had in the beginning, he could have started a new race of beings with righteous and holy children, but that would in no wise have helped those in Adam's fallen race. Jesus' goal was to redeem mankind by giving them an escape route out of their wretched reality, thereby saving them from death. Following his triumph over sin, death and the grave, Jesus became the originator and father of a brand-new race of beings that had previously not existed.

The Father's Life

As in any family the life of the father is in his seed that produces offspring, equally, to belong to Jesus' new family, one has to first receive his life. (Romans 8:9) According to the book of Hebrews, Jesus became the father of some children that God had given to him. (Hebrews 2:13) In 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47 Jesus is called

the Last Adam who is also “the Lord from heaven”.

Just as an earthly father gives his children an inheritance of his life, in just the same way Jesus also gives his children an inheritance which is his divine life.

Since Jesus was the first of this new race of beings, it stands to reason that all who are in his family are endowed with the same quality of life that Jesus possessed while he was here in this earth, and also the same quality he has now as a conqueror at the right hand of his father in heaven. Did Jesus possess anything in his earthly existence that his children cannot possess today? Are there more benefits and privileges to be gained that came after his victory?

Inheritance

Since the first Adam’s condemnation was passed on to his children through his life, it follows that the last Adam’s victory would be passed on to his children through his life. In the same way that Adam’s race received their inheritance from Adam, Jesus’ race receives their

inheritance from Jesus. It is a natural phenomenon of father to child. Indeed, this is exactly what the Bible teaches. *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”* (Romans 8:16-17)

This is one of the most amazing passages in the Bible. We are joint-heirs with Christ! Most people understand what it means to have a joint-account with someone else at the bank. What this means is that both persons have equal right to the money in the bank. In the same way every person who is a child of God inherits God’s benefits and privileges equally with Jesus Christ. That is amazing!! Take a moment to think about Jesus and try to understand what he inherited from God. Everything that you can think of that Jesus inherited, if you are a Christian, born again in the life of his son, then they belong to you equally!

Think about this passage. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”* (Ephesians 1:3) Did you grasp what that verse is saying? All

Christians have already been blessed with ALL spiritual blessings in Jesus! Sadly, because most people have been lulled into a spiritual silence and sleep, it is hard to even see the truth of the words in this passage. Nonetheless, what we just read is actually, literally so.

In other words, every father gifts a natural legacy to his offspring. Adam's legacy is the carnal spirit which is "separation from God" which leads to death, BUT Jesus' legacy is his divine spirit that becomes one with our spirit and brings us into "union with God", leading to the victorious, unconquerable life.

*Who then is your father?
Adam or Jesus?*

The answer to this question is based on the fruit of your life. Do you live for self-gratification or do you live for others? Do you find pleasure in uplifting others or do you prefer others to uplift you? By answering these questions we are able to distinguish whose life we possess whether it's the self-propelled life of separation from God which pulls inward to self, or the God-filled life of love that radiates outwards to others. Do you try hard

to live a good life every day? What about if you don't try, how do you live? The result of natural living is a good indicator of your true identity. Let's look at the facts as recorded.

Natural Behavior

In the beginning God had a wonderful relationship with Adam and Eve, and they with him. They spent time together when God visited in the cool of the day. However, one day something changed, though it was not God who changed. God came to meet his children, as he always had done, but this time Adam and Eve's response was unusual and uncharacteristic. This time they ran and hid from their Father. Why? Something happened to them that caused their behavior to change. Their new behavior was "natural" to them but it was in stark contrast to how they had "naturally" reacted to God previously. Everything was different and the reason for that change was that something inside of them had been altered. They did not try to behave differently, they just did - naturally.

Let's examine Jesus. In reading the Bible, you clearly see a picture that presents him as

always helping others. He always looked out for the sick and the weak, and he changed their lives for the better. This was his natural approach, without having to try to be who he was. The word that best describes him is “compassion.” The word literally means, “sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.” This is how Jesus was naturally, he did not have to try hard to be this way, it was simply his lifestyle.

Faith in Jesus

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26) We need to exercise faith to believe in our new birth so that we can accept our new identity. Faith is the hand that accepts from God the new nature that he offers us. Once we acknowledge who we are in Christ, and really believe it, we will be able to live in the reality of who we are, this is the natural life of those who are born again. The true child of God walks by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)

It is important that we understand the emphasis in this verse. It does not say those who were baptized into a church, but rather baptized into Christ. Many people make the mistake of thinking that baptism into a church is baptism into Christ, but it is not always so. Church membership often requires baptism as the method of becoming a member of the organization. However, to be baptized into Christ means you have put on Christ. Re-read this verse from the Amplified translation of the Bible. *“For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on [clothed yourselves with] Christ.” (Galatians 3:27 Amp)*

Clothing yourself with Christ indicates that you are fully covered by him, just as your clothes cover your entire body. Therefore, as Christians we have Christ in us and also on us. This is the beauty of what Jesus gives us as our new father. We inherit his character because we inherit his life. We are united with him in such a way that our spirit, which was once carnal, has been joined to that of the divine Spirit of Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

Chapter 4

Salvation Explained

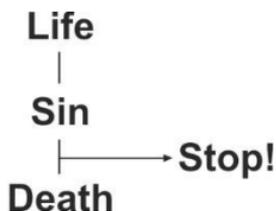
To save: to “rescue from harm or danger.” The idea of salvation as it relates to inheritance in the bible is most interesting. As relating to what we were when we received life from Adam, the scriptures say. *“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”* (Ephesians 2:12) This is the state of every human being born in the world. It is the signature of death that rests upon all. This is the crisis that the whole human race has been in since the fall of Adam. It is the reason for sickness, disease and death. A never-ending cycle that would (without intervention) eventually annihilate the entire human race. It is against this backdrop that Jesus came to earth to give the human race another chance to live, whereby if they would accept his life they would be redeemed from condemnation, sickness, disease and death.

One choice versus no choice

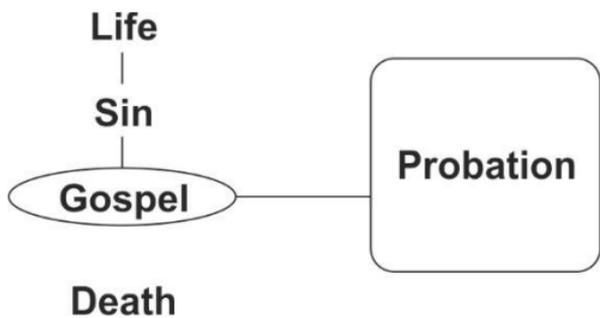
The human condition can be described with a layered diagram. The first step shows the bare facts.



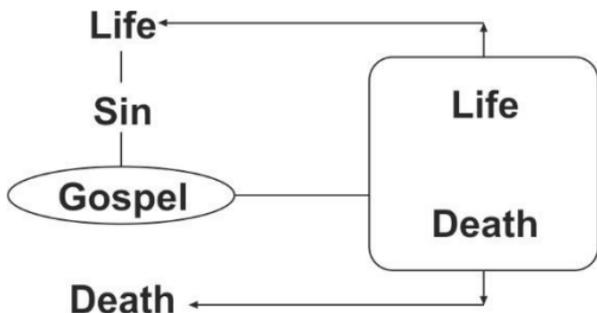
God created human life then sin entered the experience of life, and the result is death. As far as we know, man was created, man sinned, and man dies. This was the short history of man. Then God did something to change the results. We'll add more to the diagram.



God stopped death with the gospel (good news) and gave man a probationary period called his lifespan. In general terms probation is “the suspension of sentence of a person convicted but not yet punished.” This probation would be the lifetime of man which according to the Psalms is 70 years or “if by reason of strength” 80 years. (Psalms 90:10) According to science the biological clock within, man says he can live for 120 years. All this time is probation as shown in the diagram below.



What is the purpose for this probationary time period of 70, 80 or 120 years? Simply put, it is to make one choice. Either we choose life or make no choice at all and we go to where we were destined to go before God intervened.



This then must be the most essential purpose of our existence – to choose life! We were born with a death sentence hanging over us and Jesus came to give us a choice out of our predicament.

This is the beauty of what true love does for us. Adam was made good by default but God gave him free choice, and he chose evil, so all humanity inherited evil from Adam without their choice. God’s justice and fairness demands that all humanity be given the same chance to make a free choice, (seeing we were born evil by default without our choice). We are then invited to choose whether we want to remain evil and die, or chose to accept the life of Jesus and live forever.

Lack of Understanding

When human beings are not aware of the facts of life and death, they make wrong choices based on misinformation about the truth of our reality that they receive from misguided parents, guardians and teachers. Today's world focuses in a big way on education. Children are sent to school at an early age where they "learn" various themes and subjects of life but little attention is given to the true purpose of life. Those most important questions, 'Who am I?' 'Where did I come from?' 'Why am I here?' 'Where am I going?' These questions are rarely asked even though a proper assessment of these questions is at the root of the greatest knowledge that can be transferred to any human being.

Students read countless books, exploring a myriad of subjects, in an effort to gain the knowledge shared by the authors, but they ignore the greatest book of all, the Bible, which contains the most critical knowledge about the purpose of our existence.

Despite the accolades and fanfare surrounding education today, the only true education comes first from a proper

understanding of life's purpose, and as earlier stated, the purpose of life is to choose Christ. To put it in the words of Jesus himself, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.*" (Matthew 6:33) What are the "these things" that he is talking about? According to the context of the passage, "these things" refers to what we will eat, drink or be clothed with. In other words, it is dealing with what our education promises to do for us. Education should get us a good job so that we can get a decent salary so that we are able to eat, drink and clothe ourselves, or in other words; so that we can survive.

It is senseless to spend the years of a lifetime just existing and at the end to die and not be able to receive the benefits of Jesus' life. All that would be gained during the life would be ultimately useless and just pleasurable for the 70, 80 or 120 years of life. For this reason, it is important to understand these facts of life as early as possible so that the individual can choose to have life through Jesus and be guaranteed everlasting life in him forevermore.

The gospel in essence is the good news, but what is the sense of good news without a

contrast? Here's an analogy. If you offer food to someone who has already eaten and is full, would you be surprised if he said, "no thank you?" In the same way, someone who doesn't know his true condition, but is "full" of the treasures of this life, would naturally refuse or even ridicule the gospel if it were presented to him. The gospel only makes sense when you see the dark ugly contrast of what sin has done to humanity, then and only then will the gospel be seen in its beauty.

Chapter 5

God's original plan recovered

This passage in the Psalms beautifully outlines God's original plan for mankind:

“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” (Psalms 8:5-9)

God's original plan was that man would live forever having dominion and control over every living thing in the air, in the water and on the land. Sadly, man lost his control by yielding to ideas and suggestions of the enemy who usurped man's position of dominion until Jesus came to earth and won it back from the enemy. Jesus is now in full control, declaring, *“All power is given to me both in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)* Since Jesus has conquered the devil and secured all dominion, he has the power now

restored in himself. As the father of the new human race Jesus not only gives us his life in our redemption but he and his father both come to live inside of us, true Christian believers. (John 14:23)

All who have been baptized into Christ, and put on Christ, and have Christ living on the inside now possess all the power of God on earth today. Jesus made it clear that his church has power on earth to bind and to loose, and the church also has power to bind and to loose in heaven as well. Not only that, but the individual members are also equipped with power so that any two members of the body of Christ can agree to anything that pertains to the destruction of the devil's works and it shall be done as they have agreed. (Matthew 18:18-19)

Most Christians are not aware of who they have been made to be and what they are called to do. For this reason Christians experience daily defeat. Confessing how weak they are on a daily basis, until they have no strength to stand and proclaim God's goodness to the world. Like Eve, who did not know to use her authority to rebuke and cast out that serpent from the Garden of Eden, Christians fall prey to the enemy and succumb to

his temptations continually, living in defeat until they see themselves as defeated.

In the churches sin is magnified and the failures of the church members are glorified. They seem proud to be called sinners even after declaring that they have put on Christ. This environment is harming to the Christian's faith, and if faith is destroyed he cannot believe the truth, and he cannot experience the truth because the only way to be saved is by God's grace through faith. The Christian risks living a lie and corrupting the witness of what God did for him in Jesus Christ. What is the cause of this?

Church Divisions

It was a plan of the devil to divide Christ's church into different segments called denominations. Once he had established the divisions, he ruined the whole plan of salvation. Instead of having the people come to Christ, they came to and became part of a denomination. Every denomination accepts and rejects portions of the Scripture. For example:- They all believe what Jesus said, *"I am the way the truth and the*

life, no man cometh unto the father but by me.” (John 14:6) They accept and teach that this verse tells the truth BUT they corrupt that teaching by adding that they are the only channel to Jesus, and if you don’t come through their channel you cannot get to Christ or even be saved. That is why some denominations refer to themselves as, “God’s remnant church” or “God’s only true church in the world today.” They all have their secret teachings that are not supported by Christ. In fact, Jesus called these teachings, “the traditions of the elders.”

Once people are pointed to Christ the denominations are in trouble. Once people see that it is Jesus who is all and in all then they will gladly seek to find Jesus and stay with him, and like the disciples they will not want to leave because he is the one with eternal life. (John 6:68-69)

This division of Christianity is the greatest hindrance even to the unity that Jesus prayed for. The divisive teachings are so entrenched that most denominations see the others as a threat and warn their congregations to stay away from the others. Christians views other Christians with suspicion until they can ascertain that the beliefs

of the others are in harmony with theirs. This is a strong contrast to what Jesus taught in his day. Pay close attention to this conversation and see the marked difference with Jesus and our churches today.

“And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.” (Luke 9:49-50)

This would not be allowed in today’s world. Considering all the different denominations today, numbering in the thousands, Paul’s question to the Corinthians should be asked again, “Is Christ divided?” The Corinthian brethren simply had the choice between Paul and Apollos, yet Paul was strong in his rebuke. *“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” (1 Corinthians 3:3)*

If back then they were deemed “carnal” this indicates the state of the so called, “churches” today. They are a hindrance to the working of the Spirit of God in the hearts and lives of the majority of church-goers. On the other hand, we see another phenomenon where a few people are

waking up and are being enlightened by the Spirit of God to behold Jesus Christ in his fullness and purity, their hearts being drawn out after him, and leading to wonderful experiences with him. This awakening to the reality of what God has done for them in Christ allows the believer to take hold of the word of God and believe for the first time in their lives, this is just awesome!

Apostolic Times

Back in the early days of Christianity people met in homes and by the river side because what was important was the body of believers meeting together and it did not matter where they were, they knew Christ promised to be there. Even if there were only 2 believers Christ promised to be present with them. (Matthew 18:20) Today we see that as the people are enlightened about the corruption that exists in these churches they are slowly moving back to the way of worship in Apostolic times and again churches are meeting in homes (nowadays called home churches), in school rooms and wherever the people find comfort to come together and worship Jesus.

Jesus the Center

The center of the Christian's life is Jesus. Peter said, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" (Acts 4:12) Once the people of God begin to search for Jesus they can be assured of this one thing, they will find HIM! Salvation is a gift from Jesus! We can do nothing to earn it. We must receive the life of Jesus without which we cannot be saved! We become the very body of Jesus on the earth because that is what the church is! Our bodies become the temple or dwelling place of Jesus! It is remarkable that there are so many doctrines being preached and taught in the churches today but very little about being born again or having Jesus coming to live on the inside of the believer.

How are we saved?

To be saved means to be rescued from the condemnation of death and given the reality of never ending life while on earth today. Because we were born into death we need a new birth to

bring us into a different experience. We are what we are by nature. Our behavior is a result of our nature, so to have a new life which brings change of behavior we need a new birth. The scripture tells us, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17) The way into Christ is by first receiving the life of Christ, then that life in us will produce the behavior of Christ in us. *“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.”* (Romans 8:9)

Now the question may be asked: How do I receive this life of Christ? It is simply by inviting Christ to come in and make you apart of his life, and then by faith accepting that he has come in. This is true Christianity. The water baptism is simply an outward sign to all around that you have been dead, buried and resurrected to a new life with Christ.

Chapter 6

The Baptism of the Holy spirit!

This subject of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a popular one. It will even be surprising to many that there are two baptisms mentioned in the scriptures. The first is the baptism of John the Baptist and the other is the baptism of Jesus. One is the baptism of water and the other is the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire! This is what John the Baptist had to say, *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”* (Matthew 3:11)

Whose baptism have you received? That of John or of Jesus? Most Christians were baptized with water when they joined a church denomination, and that is as far as it went, but according to the scripture there is more to be gained. Jesus never baptized with water even though he had more disciples than John. (John 4:1-2) Later, when Paul met some disciples and asked them a question, “Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?” This comes

from an interesting passage that requires deeper study.

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.”
(Acts 19:1-7)

According to Jesus no one who has received John's baptism is fit or equipped to be a witness about Jesus today. (Acts 1:4-5) Without the baptism of Jesus there is no power for witnessing. So, the baptism of Jesus is to empower Jesus' children to become worthy witnesses for him.

(Acts 1:8) The biblical example shown is that the water baptism comes before the Spirit baptism. Even Jesus speaking with Nicodemus told him, “...*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*” (John 3:5) To enter into the kingdom experience we need to be born of water and of the Spirit.

While anyone can baptize you with water, you must first have received the baptism of the Spirit to be able to baptize anyone in the Spirit. After Pentecost the baptism of the Spirit was passed on by the laying on of hands, as seen when Paul met those 12 disciples.

Another story in Acts 8:5-17 also demonstrates that there were two baptisms carried out by the disciples in apostolic times. The story is about Phillip (one of the deacons) who travelled to Samaria to preach about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result the entire town was baptized in water. Then they sent a report of what had happened to Jerusalem, and then Peter and John were sent to Samaria. Read how the Bible puts it.

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the

word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 8:14-17)

How to receive the baptism of Jesus

Compared to what we have seen in the scriptures we can conclude that there is a missing element in the Christian church today. It is the powerful witness comparative to what the disciples had. That missing element is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

As mentioned before only those who had already received it could pass it on. The way they got it initially was to wait for it – as Jesus had promised them, and it came on the day of Pentecost. Then those that got it were able to pass it on. A prime example of this was Paul who received it from Ananias who had prayed for him. (Acts 9:17)

Today, who do you know of that has received the baptism of the Spirit? A person who has received the baptism of the Spirit can lay their hands on you for you to receive it too. If you do not know such a person, you can go directly to God and ask him for it, and not stop asking until you have received it. Only then would you be qualified as the witness for Christ that the Christian ought to be.

The church denomination as an entity cannot empower the Christian, not even a college and university theological degree can give the Christian this power. It is only by having Jesus on the inside that power is given to the individual to become a true witness for him.

Chapter 7

Life without Limits

This is a strange topic for many and yet it is the truth as expressed in the New Testament. Were there any limits to the life of Jesus? Did he put a tally on the amount of love that he gave for a day? Wasn't the love that came from him endless? Jesus taught his disciples that they should have no limit on forgiving. *"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."* (Luke 17:3-4)

The disciples were so surprised at this they immediately asked him for an increase in faith. In other words it seems they had a formula similar to ours in today's world, like the baseball game, "Three strikes and you're out." Jesus said seven times and Peter thought that was the limit in a day so he came to Jesus with this question. *"... Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?"* (Matthew 18:21) Peter heard Jesus said seven times before, so he wanted confirmation that seven times is the limit

to forgive the offender in a day. “*Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven.*” (verse 22). The issue is about limits. There is no limit to the child of God. The child of God never keeps a record of wrong to know when we’ve gotten to the 490 times that one person did you wrong in a day.

To strengthen this point, let’s look at a well-known passage regarding the fruit of the Spirit.

“*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*” (Galatians 5:22-23) This passage begins with the conjunction “but” to mark a contrast with what the author had discussed previously. He looked at the seventeen natural outworkings of the carnal flesh and ends by saying, “*that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*” Then he contrasts the fruit of the Spirit and shows nine natural fruit, or demonstrations, that are manifested in the life of the Spirit-filled person. He also gave an ending to this passage which is nothing short of amazing! He said, “...against such there is no law.” If there is no law there is no limit! The Spirit-filled individual has no limit to being loving, joyful,

peaceful, patient, gentle, good, trusting, meek or temperate. There's just no limit to that kind of living. The Spirit of God and Jesus dwelling in the individual produces this kind of life filled with all the attributes of God. Notice there is no law that forbids any of these characteristic.

But how far is too far? Consider another passage that expands on this idea.

“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”
(1 Corinthians 6:12)

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.” (1 Corinthians 10:23)

What does Paul mean by ALL THINGS? He means just that, ALL THINGS! In other words, I can do anything I am led to do, and nothing can stop me not even the law because as a Christian I am not controlled by any law whatsoever. Therefore, because law does not govern the Christian he is free from the rule of law and is a law unto himself. (Romans 2:14) Notice how precise Paul was in talking about what governs or controls us. *“For sin shall not have dominion*

over you; for ye are not under the law but under grace.” (Romans 6:14)

What is this grace that we are under?

“...the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.” (Romans 5:15) Jesus Christ is the Grace of God to us; thus we are governed/controlled/directed by Jesus living inside. With that said and understood, it becomes easier to understand the verse in 1 Corinthians chapter 10. Consider verse 23 as translated in the Amplified Bible: *“All things are legitimate [permissible - and we are free to do anything we please], but not all things are helpful [expedient, profitable, and wholesome]. All things are legitimate, but not all things are constructive [for the character] and edifying [for the spiritual life].” (1 Corinthians 10:23 AMP)*

This perspective of limitless living is a challenging concept for many Christians to grasp since it is not taught by many bible teachers today. Instead of focusing on who we have been

made to be, we are bombarded constantly with our past and what we were. In fact, we have been so brainwashed with what we were that we think it is who we still are. We only see our current faults and failures, and desire to be redeemed when Jesus comes again the second time without appreciating how much we have already been redeemed and made to be more than conquerors through him that loves us today in this present time.

Therefore, all the qualities that the Spirit of God produces in the life of the Christian are good and worthy to live and express in his life. Thus he is free to do anything he chooses within the virtues and attributes of the Spirit within him. The Christian may even choose to be brought under the power of all these attributes for the Father's sake, that his name be magnified, and his praises swell.

This is the essence of living without limits. It is living as Jesus lived, free from people's opinion, free from ecclesiastical authority and control. This is the life of the New Human Race.

Chapter 8

Supernaturally Extraordinary

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

This verse highlights the change that takes place in the Christian in such a dramatic way that the only way to describe it is by explaining that all things become new. Such an experience is supernatural. One can learn, develop and acquire new lifestyle habits but one cannot change oneself overnight. For a change to happen overnight it has to be a miracle. The experience is not an ordinary one but an extraordinary one. Plainly speaking, what happens when a person is born again is a supernaturally extraordinary event!

Process vs Event

Christianity is a miracle. The new birth is a miracle. Christianity has never been a religion of working and trying to become better by good

actions, but yet this is what it has been taught to be. Reflect on the following questions carefully: Is birth a process or an event? When a child is born, does he learn to become a human by teaching, training and practice or was he born a human being?

Let's get the sequence right! When a child is born he is born a human being but he is not developed or mature. As he grows, he matures as a human being, developing skills relative to his maturity. The same is true of the person who is born again. He is born with a new nature thus becoming a child of God. He is no more just a human being but he receives another nature, the nature of divinity thus becoming a part of the divine human race. This is the new race of beings that exist in our world and Jesus was the first of this race. In the same way Adam was the first Human Being and all who receive his life are humans, even so Jesus is the first divine human being and all who are born from his life are divine humans. Jesus had a human body but inside of that body dwelt a divine spirit which was the Son of God that came from heaven. (Hebrews 10:5; Philipians 2:5-8; John 3:13)

In like manner also every human is born with a body and a human spirit but those who choose to become a new creation (Christians) receive the divine life of the Father and the Son through their Holy Spirit. (John 14:23) This divine life is married to, or becomes “one with”, our spirit thus making us divine on the level of the spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17) Every Christian who is born of the spirit is just as Jesus is, a divine human. They have the same human body that they were born with but now they have a NEW spirit that is joined (married or united) with the spirit of the Father and his son Jesus Christ.

The Fruit or The Tree

The principle set in place at the creation was that “each would produce after his kind.” According to Jesus, and clearly seen in nature, a fig tree will produce only figs. The tree produces after its kind. “Make the tree good and its fruit good or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt.” “The tree is known by its fruits.” Somehow we take one statement out of context and destroy the real purpose of all that is said. “By their fruit you shall know them.” Who or

what will be known? The kind of fruit or the kind of tree? Jesus' point was the TREE. When you see the fruit you will know the type of tree because an orange tree does not bring forth apples.

Living by faith

The fruit brought forth in the life of the born-again believer is a natural outgrowth of his faith experience. As little children, having just received our first life, we lived that life to the fullest – devoid of any care. Everything came naturally and easily. No caution needed to be exercised, except as was implemented by parents or guardians, and then it was a fight to refrain from our natural tendencies.

The new life is not easy and natural except as we walk by faith, so the real question is what does it mean to walk by faith? How can I practically experience this?

When learning to drive studying road safety, and a car manual are necessary. You study these books and learn the rules about driving. But does reading such books result in a competent driver?

Not by any stretch, right? All the information gained flies out the the window the moment the fledgling driver sits behind the wheel for the first time. An instructor has to direct the learner step by step to depress the brake and clutch, put the car into gear, to slowly release the clutch while stepping on the accelerator slightly. For a brief moment the car starts moving forwards but then shakes horribly, splutters and died. Once the initial clutch accelerator balance has been mastered, driving in a straight line is possible. Braking is the next problem. Every time the driver tries to slow down, they come to a screeching halt and the car dies again. Then comes manouvering while controlling the car all at once. Slowly the learner driver begins to get the hang of it and after gaining lots of confidence through much practice, graduates with a license.

Do you think that the driver continues to nervously think about looking in mirrors, using indicators, and when to change gears? No, that now happens automatically. But the fact remains that no one learns to drive a car from a book or by just being in a car. One learns by getting behind the wheel. Practice was necessary until confidence came. Practice builds confidence.

That is why Paul said mature believers exercise. They practice over and over until they know exactly what and how to do the will of God. That is a process and that is why it is called growing up into Christ. The point is that you have to exercise the will of God to the point where doing it becomes automatic. If you have to think about doing it, you are not automatic yet.

Practically

The practical aspect of living by faith is first based on the word of God. “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17) The perfect description of how a child of God lives from day to day is written in the word of God. Strangely enough it is not written as a step by step rule but by principles. Here’s how it works. (John 16:13) “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” Once you’re born again and the Spirit of Jesus comes and unites with your spirit, then as a brand new creation you now need to silence the voices

around and within so you can be guided into all truth. This is not only related to doctrines and teachings, but also of living your daily life.

Most times we only ask for God's intervention in our lives when we don't know what to do ourselves, when our way is not working, so then and only then we seek him to know his way.

The pure trusting child of God doesn't do anything on his own, instead he constantly lives in God's presence. He is constantly connected with the Lord and so always walking by the Spirit; this is the KEY to victorious living. When this kind of living is fully experienced it would become the life of heaven on earth!

Strange Acts of Power

The life of Jesus while on earth is a perfect demonstration of what real Christianity looks like. If the Christianity of the present day does not resemble that of the Bible, then it is not the life of Jesus in his people. Notice what was recorded about Jesus' ministry. *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that*

were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)

All the people Jesus healed were oppressed by the devil. The lame, the deaf, the blind, the leper and all others that Jesus healed were all an oppression of the devil. The demonstrations were amazing and yet they were consistent. With his voice he rebuked sickness and demons. From his clothes flowed virtue and power.

This was not only from Jesus but as the disciples filled with Jesus’ spirit went to preach about the kingdom they also demonstrated the same or even greater power from their words, their clothes and from their shadow. God worked in them in the same way he worked in and through Jesus. If we accept the word of God to be truth, then the word of God says, “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*” (Hebrews 13:8) There should be no reason why God would not be doing the same things in us EXCEPTING as we’ve been taught differently than were the first Christian believers. Our expectations and faith cannot wait for his power to be manifested in us, but the hope is that things will change and we will receive the fullness of his power working in and through us!

Chapter 9

River of Living Waters

There are many bodies of water. Puddles, dams, pools and lakes but Jesus did not use any of these in his analogies. These four bodies of water are stagnant, and do not flow. When Jesus thought to describe what happens on the inside of the believer when he is filled with the Holy Ghost he could only think of a river. A river flows while the others are stagnant. No one can become a dammed Christian; whatever is inside needs a way to burst out of you. *“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38)*

This experience was offered to the Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at the well in John chapter 4. The conversation began with Jesus asking the woman for a drink of water. The woman noted his culturally strange and unacceptable request, but Jesus responded with a stunning revelation. *“If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” (verse 10)* So had the woman known with whom she was

conversing, she would have asked him for water and he would have given her living water. Note what Jesus says about how the living water works. He makes a contrast with what was in the well versus what he gives. “...*Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*” (verses 13-14) The water Jesus gives becomes a well of living water springing up inside the believer. In other words, the water that Jesus gives becomes the river head or the source of the river. It continually springs up inside and flows to the outside satisfying the thirst of those who are seeking for a greater experience with Jesus.

Carriers of his presence

After giving the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel, Jesus comforted his disciples with a very beautiful thought. “And lo I am with you always even to the end of the world.” That was a joyous revelation that regardless of what happened to

them he would always be present with them wherever they may go. What is it like to have the presence of God with you constantly and always and be conscious of it? Yet that is what Jesus promises to do for us.

How many of us as Christians are aware that Jesus is present with us personally as he promised to be? If he is with us, then that means he's in us because that is what Paul says of him that we are joined to him by Spirit so he's in our spirits that is within us! Wow! That is an awesome thought! We are carriers of the very life, presence and personality of God the Father and of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Temple

God is revealing more and more to us through his word. Let's see another building block in this revelation. *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own"?* (1 Corinthians 6:19) Let's break down what we just read. What is a temple? "The dwelling place of a diety." So then our bodies are

the dwelling place of God and his son. Jesus puts it this way, “... *If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*” (John 14:23) We carry the very God of the universe in our bodies as we live and move each moment of our lives. Oh how wonderful that thought is. We are never alone. “Lo I am with you even till the end of the age.” “...greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.”

All these promises were penned for our benefit so that we can grasp the truth about who we really are in this world. We have God’s own nature in us and are able to represent him to the fullest. Just as Jesus was God’s representative so he has ordained that his children will be JUST as he was in this world. In fact it says even greater than that in the book of 1 John. (1John 4:17) “*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*” Notice we are not as Jesus was when he was here but we are AS HE IS presently. Where is Jesus presently? He is in heaven seated on the right hand of the majesty on high. That is where we are and we have all the victory that Jesus won abiding in us! Look at this

wonderful verse. (*Ephesians 2:6*) “*And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” So even as we live and move in our everyday lives we carry the life, power and presence of God and his Son in such a real way that that we are actually living in heavenly places as Christians.

The Flow of the River

The beauty of a river is that it is always flowing, cutting paths and channels through the earth as it goes. In other words it cannot be contained - or else it ceases to be a river. What did that flow look like in the life of Jesus Christ? Here are two different verses from the same book that paint a telling picture.

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”
(*Matthew 4:23*)

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing

every sickness and every disease among the people.” (Matthew 9:35)

Jesus’ life was devoted to reaching into people’s lives every day bringing restitution, healing, hope and the promise of his kingdom. He lived for others. He toiled tirelessly demonstrating to his disciples, and to us his body, what our daily living should look like. In this manner his life flowed out to others as a constant stream of power, setting free all those who were suffering from all manner of Satan’s attacks. Our connection to the power of Christ living inside us is demonstrated by the way we live each day, and what flows out of us. This is a living testimony of our faith!

Warning

Here is a thought-provoking perspective to grasp. Jesus is a huge river and his children (true believers) are the channels through which he flows, just as a natural river cuts channels through the earth. As we, if we are his children, allow him to flow through us then we in turn have to find other channels through which he can flow,

thereby passing on the revelation of his love, power and grace so that the flow will continue. As we search for others who are in need of help or ministry we enable the constant flow of power to others. Of utmost importance is the realization that we cannot allow the flow to stop by not finding ways, means and opportunities to keep it flowing. Once it stops we run the danger of becoming stagnant, we become selfish and self-centered – keeping the power to ourselves while others around us suffer and die in desperate need of the life-giving flow of power from Jesus.

Chapter 10

The Glorification of God

Jesus

Jesus declared in his last recorded prayer that he had glorified God on the earth saying, “I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” (John 17:4) It seems that the mission of his work on earth was for God’s glory. What then was his mission? Luke explains it in the following passage.

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the

book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.” (Luke 4:16-21)

Jesus read his mandate and commission from the prophecy of Isaiah who had penned these words years earlier. All who knew the prophecies knew how it must be with the life of the seed of promise. Let's take John the Baptist as an example. When John saw Jesus he declared him to be the Lamb of God (John 1:29) because he was told by God what he would look like. However, it seemed that John misunderstood Jesus' mission, and so after a while when John (then imprisoned) did not see the fulfillments of the things he expected he sent a message to Jesus asking, “...Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.” (Matthew 11:3-6)

John the Baptist began to doubt whether or not Jesus was the promised saviour, and in response Jesus made it clear to John's disciples what they should report back to John – all that they saw and heard. Once John heard what was happening, he was consoled in his heart that indeed, Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah because he was fulfilling his mission as recorded by the prophet Isaiah. This was how Jesus glorified his Father.

His Children Today

How are the children of God on earth today to glorify their father? Must it be in a different way than Jesus did it? Jesus admonished his disciples and followers, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16) God will be glorified on earth when his children are living based on their divine inheritance. When the believer is able to grasp their new reality and by faith take their place as his witness on earth, then something amazing begins to take place! How can one be so certain

of this? Compare these prophecies recorded by three separate Bible writers :

“But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.” (Numbers 14:21)

“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.” (Isaiah 11:9)

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14)

God’s plan is that the world will receive a witness of the true gospel before the judgment can be just. In other words when every person needs to see the true picture of who Jesus really is, why he came to earth and what his accomplishments are.

Most Christians are so confused about God that they give a wrong representation of him to the world. Others are so self-driven that they edify themselves and hiding “safely” in their congregations. Very few Christians today are engaged in reaching out to the lost to show them Jesus.

The Gospel

The gospel is THE good news, suggesting there is only ONE good news. Paul 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.” (Romans 1:16-17)

The gospel is POWER not just words or a teaching. It is not just power, but it is the POWER OF GOD to save anyone and everyone who believes in Jesus. Therefore, the mission of those who carry the gospel is to reveal in their own lives first a power that has saved them from sin and transformed them into saints or children of the most high God.

It is easy to attribute the problems in our societies today to the criminals and the misbehaved, yet under closer scrutiny could it be that the professed children of God are to be blamed for not living the gospel for others to see Christ and glorify God? Could this be the cause why many sick people still suffer and even die? Paul describes the world’s problems in this way,

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God... Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” (Romans 8:19, 21)

Paul clarifies what the world is waiting for is to witness the sons (children) of God on display. It is not enough to just have a book that carries the records of the wonderful things that happened ages ago. If what happened back then was real and the book is true, then the same things should be happening today in our world. People need to have the same experiences as those they read about in the word of God. IF God is the same yesterday today and forever and that he changes not then we must see him at work in at least the same way that he worked in the past. Only then will the Father be glorified.

Answered Prayers

Jesus says, *“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13)*

To pray and receive an answer to your prayer is also for the glory of God. Do you receive answers to your prayers when you pray? If not then God is being robbed of the glory that is due to him. It is impossible for our witness to have an effect if we don't even have a good enough relationship with God where we can talk to him and get answers.

The failure in our receiving from God the Father is directly linked to the relationship we have with him through Jesus. When our relationship is right, then we have fellowship and communion that is recognizable. When the fellowship and communion is lacking it is demonstrated in our failed or seemingly unanswered prayers.

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

To abide means to stay or live so when we are constantly connected to Jesus and walking in him; when we are believing everything he tells us about ourselves and walking in the truth about our reality, then we are able to ask what we will and it shall be done unto us just as we ask, require or declare. When this begins to happen, then will our

Father be glorified in and through his son Jesus. That is why Jesus says, *“If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”* (John 14:14) Put him to the test and he will prove himself to be truthful, he will do it!

The Great Commission

Jesus offered a brand-new life with an alternative reality to the earth. His ministry spanned an awesome three years, so when he spoke to his disciples about his impending departure they were all sad thinking that such experiences would end, BUT that was not Jesus’ plan. Jesus intended that what he had started would continue and accomplish the work of reaching all the lost – through his disciples. Jesus’ commission to all his children, is for them to do what he did. He told them to “teach to observe all that he himself did.” He told them “make disciples of all nations.” He told as them, “As the father sent me even so send I you.” The plan was to establish the Kingdom of God on earth until the will of God is done on the earth as it is done in heaven.

The record from the book of Acts tells of the swell of the preaching and the demonstration of the kingdom of God carried out by the apostles and also by Paul as he made his missionary journeys to various countries. The apostles were accused of filling Jerusalem with their doctrine and thereby turning the world upside down. Had the preaching of the gospel continued with such power, the entire world would have had a chance to meet Jesus but something tragic happened. Satan, the enemy of Jesus came into Christianity and totally destroyed the Christian faith from within. The way he accomplished this was by causing Christians to take their eyes off Jesus and to focus on building institutions. They eventually lost the power of God and turned to man-made organizations to fill the void where Jesus should have been, and it has been a disaster ever since.

Today as you read this line, God is doing an awesome work of leading men back to himself; to his power and his Spirit. As you and I and all those who are led by God return to this place of power, we will see the manifestation of a work that has never been witnessed in the history of our world.

Paul writing to the Christians in Rome said it this way. “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God...because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” (Romans 8:19,21) This is what the world is waiting for. God’s children have been undercover for too long, so claim the boldness given to us by the Spirit of God within us and stand like a brave and declare the gospel of the kingdom and expect the demonstrations that will inevitably follow. “...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

So that we may boldly say, “*The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*” (Hebrews 13:5-6)



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