

# Human Behavior

By Arthur Eggers

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”*

**2Co.5:17**

## Preface

My purpose for writing this book is because I have met so many of God's people who have never learned the way of victory over their behavior. When a child of God has the deep desire to overcome, the answer is in the scriptures; we only need to study, with much prayer in the Holy Spirit. The secret is this: we were born by our parents with the nature of Adam; this is a sinful nature and can never be good in the sight of God, no matter how hard we try, we still come short of His expectations. His expectation is that we should be just as holy as God is, and in order for man to be in this realm of holiness he must have a new birth, with a different father and different bloodline. This happened when Jesus gave us His Holy blood on the Cross; a transfusion happened when we received His lifeblood into our heart and we became a **New Man**.

*"And have put on the **NEW MAN**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." [Col.3:10-11]*

This **New Man** has been provided for all believers in Jesus Christ to enjoy, we just need to put Him on. This has nothing to do with our behavior because God knows that we cannot behave well in Adam, but the life of Jesus in us will change our behavior, so our part is to put on Christ. *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ for-gave you, so also do ye" [Col.3:12-13].* "The elect" is referring to this new nature which has been chosen in Christ Jesus before the world began; and given to believers by His resurrection. This is the life of Christ whose character is, "holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another." This same character lives in every believer, all we need to do is wear it as a robe of righteousness. Can you see how this will change our behavior? This is a forbearing and forgiving nature that never finds fault to quarrel with another.

Let us not forget that many people who do not belong to Christ, can put on a false front; they only pretend to be good, like one on the stage playing the part of another. The religious flesh may act like a true child of God but will soon show by behavior its true colors. *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit" [Mat.7:15-17].* And then John warns us of these, saying, *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" [1Jn.2:18].*

Also, there are many of God's children who are walking in the flesh and by this they are leading many astray; they are still God's children, and He still loves them because they are His. Their deliverance from Hell is a free gift, paid by the blood of Jesus, but they will be judged and come short of God's best at Christ's judgment seat where they will lose much of their inheritance.

Arthur Eggers — 2008

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### REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names, such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.

**Note:** Definitions of references pulled from *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.*

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## INTRODUCTION

### DO YOU KNOW YOURSELF?

Our first need in understanding human behavior is to know who we are, what we are, and why we were born. The pronouns used in the Scriptures (“I,” “my,” “me,” and “mine”) represent a person. You are an individual, with a personality all of your own; there is no other person just like you. In His great wisdom, God allowed you to be born because He has a purpose for you. Nothing escapes Him, He knows all things...and...He knows you.

Now we ask, “Do you know yourself?” You must realize that you were born a sinner. David said, “*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me*” [Psa.51:5]. Adam brought sin into the world and all born in a body of flesh are sinners. We can’t help it; this is just the way we were born—selfish, self-centered, and self-willed. Solomon said “*The way of man is froward (contrary) and strange: (full of guilt) but as for the pure, his work is right*” [Pro. 21:8]. This is why we need to be born of God by faith in Jesus Christ. This **NEW LIFE** is pure and sinless, being holy to the uttermost and in Him everything we do is right, while in the Adamic life everything is wrong and sinful in the sight of God. Job said, “*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble*” [Job 14:1]. But Jesus said “*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*” [Joh.10:10].

We must also realize that the wicked (influenced by Satan), even mine enemies and my foes, are the works of the self-willed flesh that the enemy uses to try to defeat us.

## CHAPTER 1, HUMAN BEHAVIOR

In order to understand Scripture we must take heed to what the Apostle Paul said to Timothy, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” [2Ti.2:15]. We do not take the Word of God lightly. We must study to find the purpose for which it was written and to whom it was written, or else we will be ashamed when God doesn’t approve of our labors. The words **therefore** and **wherefore** in 2 Corinthians 5:16 refers to the first 10 verses of this chapter; that, everything concerning the old house, this body of flesh that was framed in Adam, is to be dissolved and replaced with a new house, spiritual, eternal and heavenly. Let us notice 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 where we learn that while we are in this body of Adam we cannot come into the fullness of the fellowship and joy we will have when this body is dissolved; in the meantime, we learn to walk by faith and not by sight.

If you agree with the Apostle Paul, people will think you have lost your mind...

*“And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; MUCH LEARNING DOETH MAKE THEE MAD. But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.” [Act.26:24-25]*

The work of Jesus on the cross is the basis for the “*words of truth and soberness*” which others may view as “*madness*.” Because of this, and from this time on, we do not consider the flesh to be important. Even though Jesus walked in this earthly form (fleshly body) we only

see Him now as a resurrected Christ. In the same manner we see ourselves in Christ and not in Adam; this is walking by faith.

Now, we know without doubt that this new creature (the **New Man**) is anyone who is in Christ. But then we ask, "What is it that is passed away?" It is the **OLD MAN**; it is the nature of fallen man. It was Adam who plunged the whole human race into sin. David said "*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me*" [Psa.51:5]. Not only was David conceived in sin, but the whole Adamic race is in the same boat. We were all born in sin by our parents; we cannot help it that we were born that way, but we can help it if we stay that way and live in sin. There is a way out; it is by being born again, as Jesus said to Nicodemus, "*This is the what I say it unto you,*" and He is saying it to everyone, "*except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" [Joh.3:3].

Now we have 2 men, one is called a New Creation (the **New Man**) and the other an Old Creation (the **OLD MAN**). The **OLD MAN** is to pass away and the **New Man** is to live on in victory forever. There are several names given to this **OLD MAN**, like **THE FLESH**, the **CARNAL MAN**, **OLD LEAVEN**, **OLD BOTTLE**. All these represent the things that need to pass away, but God has a new man for all to be born into, that is **INTO CHRIST**.

*"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* [Gal.3:27]

How does a person become **IN CHRIST**? It is by being overwhelmed and identified with Christ by faith in His death and resurrection that we arise with new garments to wear...God's robe of righteousness. It is not by any religious rituals, only by being "*in Christ*".

*"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature."*  
[Gal.6:15]

A person must be born a **NEW CREATURE**; then he begins a process of old things passing away. This isn't done overnight; it takes time for the **New Man** to grow and become powerful over the **OLD MAN** (the flesh). So many of God's wonderful people have never learned victory over the flesh, their life is a seesaw, up and down with failures and victories. Let us read the answer in God's Word:

*"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 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. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* [Rom.8:4-14]

First; it is Christ in us and by this power all the righteousness that The Law demanded is fulfilled **in us**; that is, by the Christ life living in our soul and not **by us**, which is the life of Adam. The Apostle Paul taught that there are 2 minds: ☪ The **CARNAL MIND** that produces death and • the **SPIRITUAL MIND** that gives life and peace. The carnal mind is hostile against God and can never please God or be subject to His laws. Although we might live

in the flesh, yet do we not live after the flesh. How wonderful to know that we who are in Christ, have the Spirit of Christ and we are a **New Creature**; but, those who don't have this new life are none of His; they do not belong to the body of Christ and have no interest in spiritual victory.

This rule is applied to everyone when identified with Christ, because then we put Him on for our righteousness. And, it doesn't matter who we are Jew or Gentile, man or woman, we are the same in Christ.

*"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one **NEW MAN**, so making peace." [Eph.2:14]*

Peace was made for us on the cross and is given to the **New Man** in Christ who arose from the dead. Jesus bore in His body all the sins of the flesh and left them in the grave, He arose as the Head of a new body—The Church—which consists of all believers.

*"According as he hath chosen us **IN HIM** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. **IN WHOM** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" [Eph.1:4-7]*

The secret in understanding this is in the words "*in Him*" and "*in whom*." Everything is in the Son of God. In His eternal plan, God chose a New Creation before the world was created in order that we as a body of believers should be holy and without blame before Him, and all this was **IN LOVE**. Before creation, this New Creation was ordained in the mind of God that He would have children just as holy as He. The word **adoption** means "to be placed as sons." Now we are able to stand before Him holy and without blame; this is what we are **IN CHRIST**. In Christ there is nothing to do except to enter into "*the praise of the glory of his grace*," because in this God has "*made us accepted in the beloved*."

Now let us look at Ephesians 3:11: "*According to the eternal purpose **WHICH HE PURPOSED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD***." God's eternal purpose was and is in Jesus His Son whom He raised from the dead, thus the believer became a part of a resurrected body in Christ. "*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son*" [Col.1:13]. This is all in the provisions Jesus made for believers on the cross, fulfilling His Father's will that was before creation. God has delivered us out of the power of darkness. In the flesh we were all in darkness, "*but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light*" [Eph.5:8].

At this time, I think we need to discuss the difference between the **PROVISIONAL** and the **PRACTICAL** side of Jesus' work. Everything we will ever need to walk in the Spirit was provided for us by the blood of Jesus, but all He died for is useless to us if we do not receive it by faith. We can know it is there, but if not applied to our heart it will not work in us. It is like having a refrigerator full of food and starving because you did not eat the food that was in the refrigerator. Have you appropriated all that Jesus died to give you?

Let us come to this conclusion: Within our flesh there lives **No Good Thing**, it only brings death. The flesh must be judged because "*old things are **PASSED AWAY***" [2Co.5:17]. Do you understand this?



*"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." [2Co.5:14-15]*

It is the love of Christ in the **New Man** that holds us together (Greek **SUN** and **ECHO**). The thought of the word **judge** is "to come to a mental decision," agreeing with God...saying, "We in Adam are condemned to die, with no hope." Then, we judge another fact that Jesus came to die to deliver the human race from the bondage of the flesh, sin that Adam put us under, and that Jesus brought in a new life. Notice that 2 Corinthians 5:15 is a comparison of the new life with the old life. "That they which live (in Christ) should not henceforth (no longer) live unto themselves (in Adam), but unto him which died for them, and rose again." Here are Peter's words on this:

*"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened (made alive) by the Spirit." [1Pe.3:18]*

Another verse follows:

*"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." [1Pe.4:1]*

"He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" means that he [the believer], who once for all has obtained deliverance from sin by Jesus' suffering for us on the cross, and is willing to put aside the flesh and suffer with Christ, should no longer live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. The temptation to walk in the flesh has lost its power when identified with Christ. Some have learned to look at spiritual things rather than earthly things. Oh! How this knowledge changes our behavior.

*"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." [Isa.43:7]*

Everyone is not only Israel but all who belong to God, all He has put His hand on and are born of God. The New Creation was born at Christ's resurrection to give Him glory and praise.

*"For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? And I will not give my glory unto another." [Isa.48:11]*

It is sin in the flesh that mars the name of God. If we say we have been born of God and act like the world, our life is not a true witness. This is for the Jew and Gentile alike, referring again to Ephesians 2:14-19:

*"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one **NEW MAN**, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."*

1. God abolished The Law of commandments that the flesh could not keep and in its place He produced a people who could not only keep all The Law but stand before God in absolute holiness having access by one Spirit unto the Father.
2. There is no wall between the Jew and Gentile during this Grace Age. We all must come the same way, by a new birth in Christ. *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”* [Gal.6:10]. Are you glad you are of the household of faith?
3. In Adam we were *“strangers and foreigners”* but in Christ, we now are now *“fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God”*. We are looking for the **NEW JERUSALEM**, our eternal home. When we take our place there by faith we will act like we belong to God’s household. Part of the household is in heaven and part is on earth; but one day a trumpet will sound and we will be together in heavenly places.

Let us look at Ephesians 2:21-22:

*“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*

Referring to Christ, the whole Church has been formed into a holy temple in Christ; this is used as an architectural metaphor. Three Greek words are used to describe this body,  $\Xi$  SUN (meaning “togetherness”), • HARMOS (meaning “to join or to fit,” like the joints of a body designed to move one part with another), and  $\Sigma$  LEG'O (meaning “to arrange or lay things in order”). So together they mean that everything fits properly and works together in harmony. That is what the Holy Spirit is doing today. He is like a carpenter, with his plane he makes a board to fit, or as a mason who chips away the excess stone. This hurts the flesh but He is making us to perfectly fit in the place He wants us to be.

Along with the architectural metaphor, the Holy Spirit is seen as a surgeon who circumcises a child; the flesh is cut off—not the flesh of the body but the flesh of the human spirit, and this was done by the cutting off of Jesus on the cross. It is the Holy Spirit who makes this practical in our lives.

Just as there are different saints in Christ, there are many different kinds of material in a building: *“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble”* [1Co.3:12]. The first 3 (gold, silver, precious stones) are used in the building of God’s eternal house, the last 3 (wood, hay, stubble) are works of the flesh that cannot be used...they will be burned.

*“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”* [1Co.3:14-15]

The **New Man** builds with proper material and according to God’s blueprints, but the flesh uses combustible material, all dead and easy to burn.

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* [2Co.5:10]

I think the worst thing that could be in the life of God’s child is to appear before Christ’s judgment seat and end up in extreme poverty, having all his works in life go up in smoke. This is exactly what will happen if we walk in the flesh and not in the Spirit.



The question is, “What do we gain from all the works of our labors?” Is it what will last after this life is over or will it all be burned? Wouldn’t it be awful to work all your life in some religious system, thinking you are serving the Lord, and it is all in the flesh, and only to be burned? But even if all is burned, you will still be saved, even though there will be no reward for all your labor. Only what is done for Christ will last.

## CHAPTER 2, BEHAVING WITH A GOOD SPIRIT

*“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*  
[2Ti.1:7-10]

Again, we see the works of the 2 natures—God has not given us the spirit of fear. “Well if God didn’t,” we ask, “Then who did?” Some say it was Satan but this cannot be true because he doesn’t give, he only takes away; “Then who was it?” The answer is: “It was Adam who gave us fear; it came with our first birth.” Infants are fearful and will cry at sounds they do not know. Fear isn’t always bad; many times it works good for the natural man. Adam was the first person to fear. In Genesis 3:10, Adam told God when he heard him walking in the garden that he was afraid because he was naked. And, because he feared in the naked flesh, God clothed both of them with skins of an animal. This is the first death in the Bible and represents the death of Jesus who by His death clothed us with His own righteousness. Most of the people in the Old Testament had fear.

- Genesis 15:1: God told **Abraham** not to fear because He was his shield.
- Genesis 18:15: When God told **Sarah** she would have a child she laughed and denied it because she feared.
- Genesis 26:7: When **Isaac** went to Gerar, he told the men that Rebekah was his sister because he feared them.
- Genesis 19:30: When **Lot** left Sodom he didn’t want to go to Zoar but would dwell in the mountain because he feared.
- Exodus 2:14: **Moses** fled Egypt because of fear.
- **Jacob** was afraid when he saw a vision and he said, “How fearful is this place! This is none other but the house of God.”
- Genesis 35:17: **Rachel** was afraid at her death.
- Even **Samuel** and **David** feared for their life.

So, we have fear by nature but sin in the flesh makes fear even more dreadful, it brings us into bondage.

*"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." [Rom.8:15]*

The knowledge of our New Birth releases us from bondage. So, we can see that fear is not of Satan but of the flesh, even though the devil might use the fear of the flesh to our hurt. To counteract the spirit of fear we now have the spirit of power, of love, and of a sound (disciplined) mind. What a glorious 3-fold gift God has given to believers!

1. The **SPIRIT OF POWER** is in the Gospel of Christ; *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation [or into complete deliverance] to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* [Rom.1:16]. Oh! The abundance of power we have in the Christ of the cross...especially after we have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." [Act.1:8]*

Some say this is past but we live in *"the uttermost part of the earth."*

2. Then we have the **SPIRIT OF LOVE**; the spirit of Jesus is the spirit of love:

*"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." [1Jo.3:16]*

I think this spirit of love is contagious. The Holy Spirit wants us to be like Christ. The same spirit that caused Christ to give Himself, causes us to give of ourselves too.

*"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." [1Jo.4:9-10]*

We are on the earth to tell others why Jesus came, it is the gospel of love that God has for all the world and the only life they can have is through Jesus Christ. It isn't that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins, or an atonement that covers our sins. Without this atoning blood, people will go to hell. God put this spirit of love in us that we can tell this gospel to others; we ask, "Are we telling it?"

*"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." [1Jo.4:18]*

I think we can weigh ourselves with this question: "How much do you fear about the things of the flesh, things that have no eternal value?"

3. Lastly, we have the **SPIRIT OF A SOUND MIND**; best rendered *"a disciplined (controlled) mind."* This becomes a part of our lives when we yield to the **New Man**, this is the mind of Christ as we read in Philippians 2:5: *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."* When we **let** His mind rule in us, our behavior is changed, we begin to humble ourselves and desire no reputation except in the resurrected Christ, and then we take on ourselves the form of a servant. Jesus' work on the cross now becomes the working in our life. We ask, **"WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?"** The Apostle Paul said,

*"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." [1Co.1:17-21]*

The calling of the **New Man** is to preach the gospel, proclaim the good news about Jesus; and, oh, how we want the work of the cross to be effective not only in our lives but also in the lives of others. This may seem foolish to worldly minded people, but to us it is the working of the power of God through us. Today, it pleases God, by the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe.

*"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom (of the flesh), declaring unto you the testimony of God (the spirit). For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." [1Co.2:1-4]*

God doesn't ask for or need the wisdom and the strength of the flesh. Notice how Paul described his ability, *"in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling"*; but his preaching was *"in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power."* This is the New Creation life, the life of a resurrected life of Jesus. The word **fear** as used here is different than in 2 Timothy 1:7 where the word means *"to be timid and cowardly."* Here, the word **fear** means *"to dread the outcome with a desire to flee."*

Again, we have the work of the 2 creations: The first (the **OLD MAN**) will perish in foolishness and God will destroy all its wisdom, but the preaching of the **New Man** is in the power of God. I believe I counted 10 times we read that God does not want us to be ignorant. I have learned that the best way not to be ignorant is to recognize my inability; this too is fearful to the natural man. Christ is the only one who is wise and the Holy Spirit takes of His wisdom and gives it to us. People who do not know Jesus are very ignorant, a *"fool hath said in his heart, there is no God"* [Psa.53:1a].

In 1 Corinthians 1:2-4, there are several things Paul declares of himself. One of those things is that he preached the gospel—the good news—concerning Christ. Although he had a great education, he did not use any of his own wisdom or words to impress others. *"But I certify you, brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ"* [Gal.1:11-12]. This is where preachers should get their sermons. They should seek the Lord; but instead they look to man for help. For a small fee they can buy sermons already prepared, they don't need to study. And, if they do study, it is not the Bible but man's writings that they study. Many preachers are not even saved.

Our main topic is the Christ of the cross. If the cross is not preached there is no foundation for anything we have, redemption was not made anywhere else. Without the cross, the Bible becomes worthless and void. It is not the cross, but it is by the Christ who was hung on the cross, and the blood that was shed for us, that we are able to come into the favor of God.

*"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." [Rom.5:9]*

There is only one means of being just before God and that is through the blood of Jesus. Because we have been redeemed, all our sins have been forgiven according to the riches of his grace" [Eph.1:7]. The ransom was paid **IN FULL** by the blood of Jesus on the cross. *"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ"* [Eph.2:13]. Oh, the blessings God has given to the Gentiles; we were brought near to God by Jesus blood on the cross.

And then; *"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven"* [Col.1:20]. Jesus made peace with God through the blood of His cross. We who were enemies in the flesh, have now been brought into His favor through a New Creation life; and the way Christ has done this is in 1 John 1:7, *"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."* It is the blood of Jesus Christ His Son that cleanses us from all sin; thus, we should walk in the light of this New Creation life. The Greek word **STOW-ROS'** is used for the word **cross** and means *"a stake or post; to set upright as a pole as an instrument of capital punishment."* It was between heaven and earth that Jesus gave His own self in suffering shame; stripped of everything, even His garments. Now this is downright abusive. Who in his right but fleshly mind believes such a thing?

*"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."* [1Co.2:14]

God knows the heart of man and will reveal truth to a heart wanting truth. The natural mind of man is limited in knowledge; he is so smart that he doesn't know his inabilities.

*"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* [Rom.8:6]

There are 2 kinds of minds: ☐ The mind of the flesh and • the mind of the Spirit. The mind of the flesh brings death and the mind of the Spirit brings life and peace. Which is the best? Saints, do you understand why we sometimes behave the way we do? If I yield to the flesh I will act just like an unbeliever. Much yielding is needed to walk in the Spirit. Now we ask, "How does one get the spiritual mind?" Here is the answer,

*"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."* [1Co.3:18-19]

There are 3 very hard steps the flesh has to take:

- **FIRST**, we must have an open mind and heart before God, because the mind of the flesh is natural reasoning, while the mind of the Spirit is faith, and only faith can please God.

*"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"* [Rom.8:5-8].

To which do we open our minds? To the carnal mind that is death or to the spiritual mind that is life and peace?

- **SECOND**, we must realize all our fleshly wisdom is of the world and will last only for a short time. The wisdom of the **New Man** is eternal because it is Christ who is our wisdom.
- **THIRD**, he humbles his mind and is willing to become foolish in front of all his friends. *“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty”* [1Co.1:27]. We are told, *“be renewed in the spirit of your mind”* [Eph.4:23].

Now, the seeker is ready to learn all the benefits of the cross, that it is the “*power of God*,” and we shout with Paul, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* [Rom.1:16]. When we realize that every child of God has these 2 natures, we must also realize that we must grow in the Word in order for this **New Man** to control our old nature. If you want to be spiritual, you must walk in the Spirit. This comes by a deeper knowledge of Jesus that the Holy Spirit gives to us.

Do you see how our behavior is changed as we walk in the Spirit and allow the wisdom of Christ to work in us to this perfection?

### CHAPTER 3, BEHAVIOR REVEALS GLORY

*“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”* [1Co.15:41-49]

The subject of this chapter is about a new resurrected body, and it is compared to the heavenly bodies of the sun, moon, and stars. All these luminaries represent the light of the New Creation, according to the degree of light that has been worked in us. This light is the life of Christ in a believer and is manifested according to how he walks in the light.

*“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”* [Joh.3:19-21]

It is quite evident that the flesh hates the light but the **New Man** loves the light...the more the better. *“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* [Joh.8:12]. We have been changed from darkness into His light and this transformation is the beginning of our behavioral change as well.

*"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." [Eph.5:8]*

As we (believers) walk every day in a corrupt world, we realize we have another man living inside that is described in 1 Corinthians 15:45-47, let us compare them.

- The first is the Adam of old who plunged the human race into sin, he is called dishonorable, natural, weak body, and of the earth earthy.
- The second (the last Adam) is the Lord from heaven and He is incorruptible, raised in glory, and in power, He is a spiritual body and the life-giving Spirit who lives in us.

*"As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." [1Co.15:48-49]*

These 2 natures are working in every believer; the unbeliever has only the old nature (the first Adam. The Apostle Paul describes this in detail: *"Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* [Rom.5:12]. Because everyone is born of the Adamic life, all people must die. Job said; *"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble"* [Job 14:1]. Job also said, *"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one"* [Job 14:4]. The answer to Job's question is: **MAN CAN'T AND GOD WON'T**; the old Adam must be put to death. The last Adam came from heaven to give mankind a new life. It is good to know that God didn't repair the **OLD MAN** but He made a **New Man** who arose from the dead with Christ.

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, HE IS a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." [2Co.5:17]*

He becomes a **New Man** the second he believes with his heart. Provisionally, old things passed away at the cross and we can make it true in our lives today as we believe and take it by faith, because we cannot have faith in the flesh; it is God who freely gives us the faith we need.

*"I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." [Gal.2:20]*

This is a state of faith that I should live in every day; it will change my behavior if I count myself **crucified with Christ**, the dead don't sin. Learn to apply these 2 facts:

1. I am crucified with Christ yet I live because **Christ lives in me**.
2. Then a statement of fact: In this life, which I now live in the flesh, **I live by the faith of the Son of God**. Not by my own faith but through Jesus' who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Now, we have already confirmed that we have 2 men (natures) living inside of us. These 2 men eagerly want to control our human spirit and bring it under subjection. The first man Adam is not spiritual and never will be; this is the unregenerate state of Adam.



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## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US TODAY?

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*"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. **FOR I KNOW THAT IN ME (THAT IS, IN MY FLESH,) DWELLETH NO GOOD THING:** for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." [Rom.7:15-18]*

Many of God's precious people find themselves in such a condition in life. They want to do good and not allow sin to rule but they fail...even many times. Saints, don't feel bad and give up if you fail, because the Apostle Paul experienced this too. There are 2 things to learn:

1. **LEARN WHERE SIN DWELLS**...it lives inside of us. First we must own up to this fact that I have sin living in me; and then learn to control it.
2. **LEARN THAT IN EVERYONE'S FLESH DWELLS NO GOOD THING.** We don't want it, we don't like it; but what can we do about it? *"For I delight in the law of God after the inward man"* [Rom.7:22]. Peter called this *"the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible"* [1Pe.3:4].

Oh! How we want to do the will of God, but the harder we try the worse we become; that is, until we learn which of these 2 men are in control of us. God has made every provision for this impossible deed because the **OLD MAN** was put to death at the cross. *"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day"* [2Co.4:16]. The Apostle Paul bowed his knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for us, *"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man"* [Eph.3:16].

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## A REAL WAR BEGINS

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*"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." [Rom.7:23-25]*

In these verses we see a war of the mind where Satan wants to attack. There are several things we need to consider:

- The **FIRST THING** is that there is *"another law"* or a law different than God's law; it is called the *"law of sin which is in my members."* King David met with the greatest battle of his life—his physical enemy, the inner Philistine, battling with the law of the liberty of God.
  - *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.*
  - *The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*
  - *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:*
  - *The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*
  - *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever:*
  - *The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether"* [Psa.19:7-9].

After seeing all that God is to him, David cries out that these are “*more to be desired...than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward*” [Psa.19:10-11]. Oh! What a desire God plants in us for His best, but with David we say; “*Who can understand his errors?*”; the answer is only in Christ can we know and say “*cleanse thou me from secret faults*” [Psa.19:12]. Notice the 3-fold desires of the heart:

*“Æ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; • Let them not have dominion over me: THEN SHALL I BE UPRIGHT, AND I SHALL BE INNOCENT FROM THE GREAT TRANSGRESSION. Ẓ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength (rock) and my redeemer.” [Psa.19:13-14]*

Now we have learned that we cannot do what we desire to do, but the **New Man** can do all things for it is the life of God. The **SECOND THING** is that there is a literal war raging inside of many of God’s saints. Notice the battleground...it is **A WAR OF THE MIND**. We learn of this as we study Psalm 19:13-14; we have these “*presumptuous sins*” of arrogance and pride wanting to control us. Are you fighting this or do you have the victory in Christ? This is a spiritual battle, so we do not use fleshly weapons; our weapons are listed in Ephesians 6:14-18.

- But first let us consider our need.

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND.” [Eph.6:10-13]*

We must know where our strength to overcome lies; it is in “*the power of his might.*” Then, we know that all we need is already provided, we just put on the whole of it.

- Next, we must know who our enemy is so we don’t fight our friends. Now we are equipped to withstand in the evil day.
  - We need our “*loins girt about with truth.*” Peter tells us to “*gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” [1Pe.1:13]. This is a battle of the mind that only the truth that is in Christ can conquer. This is the armor Jesus had when He conquered our enemy on the cross: “*For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke*” [Isa.59:17].
  - We need to put on the breastplate of righteousness. Oh! Saints, do you know how righteous you are in Christ? If you do then put it on and wear it. Christ’s righteousness will conquer sin and protect our heart, making us ready for translation. “*But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation*” [1Th.5:8].
  - Let us examine our walk; are my feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace? Jesus left us with this wonderful promise; “*Peace I leave with you, my*

*peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid* [Joh.14:27]. If you have a troubled or fearful heart, then remind yourself of this promise: *“My peace I give unto you.”* The flesh cannot give the peace we need to fight a good fight of faith. *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* [Joh.16:33]. Trials of faith will always be with us but, **CHEER UP**, Jesus has already overcome the world for us.

- Oh! How we need to take the shield of faith, for by this you will be able to *“quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”* The 3<sup>rd</sup> spiritual gift listed in 1 Corinthians 12:9 is the **gift of faith**. Have you taken this gift to yourself and thanked Him for it?
- The helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, must be taken together, we have no doubt that they are **THE WORD OF GOD**.
- Let us not leave out the last piece; *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”* [Eph.6:18].

Now, on to 2 Corinthians 10:4-5:

*“(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.”*

Satan uses the carnal reasoning mind for his beachhead against us, this is where he lands his heavy artillery; but, praise God, we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. We are able to pull down the strongholds through the power of God; our reasoning **OLD MAN** is cast down, brought into captivity...bound to the obedience in Christ. We rejoice when **THE VICTORY** is found.

*“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.”*  
[Rom.8:5-7]

The carnal mind is of the flesh of Adam; and the spiritual mind is of the Spirit of the last Adam, Jesus. Now, we know that we have the power of Christ to control the mind and bring every thought into the obedience of Christ.

*“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.”*  
[Rom.8:8-9]

How do I please God? The answer is, don't walk in the flesh but in the Spirit. Easier said than done; right? This is done only if the Spirit of God is in you, then you give your spirit over to His Spirit and He takes control. If you do not have the Spirit of Christ within, then you have nothing, for the flesh produces sin that can bring an early death [Rom.6:23]. In Philippians 4, the Apostle Paul tells us how:

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." [Phi.4:8]*

*"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." [Rom.8:12-13]*

The word **debtor** means "one who owes a debt." Did you know that you are indebted and obligated to walk in the Spirit? We owe the flesh nothing because provisionally it died on the cross, but we need to learn how to count with God to "*mortify the deeds of the body.*" There is a consequence for not reckoning the flesh dead; "*if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die,*" or have an early death; "*but, if ye through the Spirit do mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*"

*"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." [Gal.5:16]*

Now, having learned the secret of victory over the flesh, let us stop and search our heart. Don't allow this light to go out.

*"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. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [2Co.4:4-6]*

There are so many saints of God living in defeat because no one has told them about the 2 natures; their eyes have been blinded into unbelief. Oh saints, let the light of this glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, shine in you and then to shine out of you to the glory of God. It is "*God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God.*"

## CHAPTER 4, THE BENEFITS OF BEHAVIOR

*"All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." [1Co.15:39-44]*

In these verses the Apostle Paul names some proven absolutes, everyone can see the flesh of men, then that of domestic animals (as being owned), fishes, and lastly of birds. They all are different, in that some have hair, some scales, and some feathers. Each one has their own nature; a chicken has wings but doesn't fly like an eagle, a duck swims but not like a fish, and a cow doesn't walk on 2 legs. God made all creatures different. Only man became disobedient and fell from the place God gave him.

Then there are heavenly bodies (far above our skies) compared to earthly bodies, but each one has its own glory (beauty). The word **glory** has so many meanings, "*honor, brilliance,*

*riches, splendor or beautiful land”...; therefore, it needs to be understood by how it is used in context. For example:*

*“The heavens declare the **GLORY** (splendor, honor) of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” [Psa.19:1]*

*“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy **GLORY** (grandeur, excellency) above the heavens.” [Psa.8:1]*

*“Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and **GLORY** (wealth, precious, honor).” [Dan.2:37]*

*“The devil taketh him (Jesus) up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the **GLORY** (very apparent) of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me” [Mat.4:8-9]*

The world is in a fallen state due to sin and it is being taken care of by man who is also in a fallen state. How much glory then does this world have? Jesus took on Himself the form of Adam and the devil tried to cause Him to fall like the first Adam, offering Him the beauty seen with natural eyes. There is a higher glory to look on, that is the celestial bodies. Since men were placed on earth they have been trying to understand the heavenly bodies. They could see more if they could see that the **glory in them is of God**.

Looking up through the eyes of faith we can see the Lord.

*“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.” [Isa.40:22]*

How small man looks when we see him from heavenly places.

*“The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.” [Psa.97:6]*

After we begin to gaze on celestial glory, the earthly glory seems so dim to us.

*“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.” [1Co.15:41-42]*

Our Apostle Paul compares these glories with the resurrection of the saints. As there are different heavenly beauties, so the splendor of the saints in heavenly places vary in beauty. The questions are:

- “How much glory or beauty will I have?”
- “What is it that will govern my heavenly splendor?”

First we ask, “What language do you speak?”

*“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect (of full age): yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” [1Co.2:6-8]*

- Is your language of the world or is it a heavenly language?

- Do you use the same vulgar talk as the world? Do your words give you away as to where your home is located; or are they a language of love, joy, peace, and all the fruit of the Spirit?

This is what sets us apart into glory. We have come to the place that the world is not our home anymore; this is our calling in Christ.

*"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you (the New Creation) to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." [2Th.2:13-14]*

**Chosen from the beginning** is to be chosen a New Creation in Christ, unto a safe deliverance from the world by means of purification of the Holy Spirit and faith in the truth. Jesus is the truth in which our trust lies. We are to rely upon Christ for deliverance from sin.

Through the Gospel, we are called into the possession of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. How wonderful to think we have the opportunity to share glory with our Lord. This is being obtained as we walk in the Spirit: *"That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory"* [1Th.2:12]. You have already been called into His kingdom and glory. Do you believe this place is for you? By faith, we have taken our place in the heavenly places with Christ by His victory on the cross.

*"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." [Eph.2:5-6]*

Believers have already been raised from the dead with Christ; and, even more, we are already in a celestial state and seated with Christ. God counts it as already done. Oh saints! Have you taken your place there by faith, have you sat down with Him even though you are bodily on earth?

*"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." [Col.3:1]*

Where is Christ sitting? It is at the right hand of His Father. Study these scriptures; this is where you can be resting by faith: Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 12:2; Romans 8:34, and 1 Peter 3:22.

Do you see how this can change our earthly behavior?

*"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." [1Co.10:31]*

I like to ask myself these questions:

- "What will I be doing when Jesus returns?"
- "Will I be living in the flesh or in the Spirit?"

Now, here are some facts we take by faith, but how do we obtain them in our earthly life? They must be revealed to us by His Spirit.



*"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." [Col.1:26-27]*

"*Christ in you, the hope of glory*" is still a mystery to many of God's people today. Oh, that God would open eyes! Hope is always future; it is something we look forward to and taken by faith. The absolute in this is "*Christ in you*" and, by faith, He alone can establish this hope in us.

Now, God wants us to know **all the riches of this glory**. They are "*Christ in you, the hope of glory*." This is not new to God; it was in His plan "*before the world was*" [Joh.17:5]. It is called **hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world was unto our glory; and the "*wisdom of God in a mystery*" [1Co.2:7]. This mystery is revealed to those who want God's highest glory, the most radiant place, the "*glory of the sun*." This is ours as we walk in the Spirit.

*"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, MAY GIVE UNTO YOU the spirit of wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power." [Eph.1:17-19]*

The flesh can never know the things God will show the spiritual man; this knowledge is to know Jesus in a better and more perfect way. Who gives us this "*spirit of wisdom*"? It comes from "*the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory*." It comes by revelation so we may know our Lord better. He opens the deep thoughts of the mind and lets the bright rays of His light to shine allowing us to know "*what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints*." The Holy Spirit will open the eyes in our heart, that we may be able to see 3 great truths: ☩ The "*hope of his calling*," • the "*riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints*," and ☩ "*what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us-ward who believe*."

**FIRST**, we need to know what is **THE HOPE OF GOD'S CALLING** to you? Not to be saved from eternal death? This was finished on the cross. Our calling is into a closer fellowship with the Lord. "*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue*" [2Pe.1:3]. God's ability to give us all things are not limited, whatever we need for life and godliness He will supply. Now, notice this; it is "*through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue*." Oh, how God wants us to know His calling. "*God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord*" [1Co.1:9]. We are called into a partnership and sweet communion with Jesus. There is more than just getting to heaven, there is a high calling into a deeper relationship and higher glory. "*When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory*" [Col.3:4]. Our hope is in His coming to take us into glory. Have you taken Christ for your life?

The **SECOND THING** we need to know is "*The RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE in the saints*." The Lord's riches are measured by His glory. How rich is He? Jesus prayed to His Father and said; "*And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was*" [Joh.17:5]. This glory is not measurable. God wants us to know not the amount of riches but the source of the riches; it is in the saints. Our riches are in Christ, and Christ is in his saints. In John 17:9-10 we read,

*"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I AM GLORIFIED IN THEM. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." [Joh.17:20]*

*"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me" [Joh.17:22-23].*

Oh! The privilege of sharing His glory, a glory that He receives as we walk in the Spirit.

The **THIRD THING** we need to know is; *"The exceeding GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD us-ward who believe."* The Greek phrase would read: **"THE SURPASSING OF THE SURPASSING, TO THROW BEYOND THE USUAL MARK."** Have you set your mark for the highest glory to the very best He has offered us by His resurrection? There are so many who do not know God's power or even believe that God is really the everlasting, all-wise, almighty God. Do you really believe this with all your heart? If not, ask Him to open your eyes.

*"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." [2Co.4:4]*

So many eyes have been blinded over the ages in both Jews and Gentiles. Not only in the unsaved but in God's people too. Oh, that this legal veil be removed so that the Spirit of the Lord can free us from this bondage! Have you looked in the mirror of God's Word without a veil to see the glory of the Lord?

*"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Now, the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." [2Co.3:17-18]*

As we look deeply and search for truth, we will be *"changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* The truth concerning His work in us will set our opened eyes on Jesus and His soon return...

*"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." [Phi.3:20-21]*

Because of our citizenship and for obtaining heavenly promises of glory, we look for the return of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We fully expect to see Jesus, our Savior and Lover very soon. When He comes, He will *"change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body."* The best rendering could be; *"He will change our body (in the lowest estate of humiliation) in order that it may be conformed into a body of His glory."* Wonderful!

But the real question is "Just how much glory will I be changed into?" The answer is; it will be *"according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."* We have no doubt concerning the power of God to raise us up, for He raised Christ from the dead and He is able to change us from mortal to immortal; however, the uncertain thing is, "Are we going to allow Him to subdue us, that is the **OLD MAN**?" The life of Adam wants to subdue us too; which do I yield to? Saints; do you want to shine as the Sun, just be a reflection (like

the moon), or perhaps just twinkle a little (as a star)? We can shine as the Son that lives in us.

## THE INNER MAN

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*"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the **INNER MAN**." [Eph.3:16]*

Who is the "*inner man*"? It is both the soul and the spirit dwelling inside the body. All believers have both an inner and outer man. It is the inner man who needs to be strengthened.

The outer man is that which is seen by men, that is the body. The inward man is that which only God can see and understand because the soul and spirit are invisible to the natural eye. It is the spirit of man that controls all our lives. There are 2 great powers trying to control the human spirit, the greatest power is the Spirit of God, and the lesser is the spirit of Satan and all that is anti-God. The spirit of Satan can only work with the **OLD MAN** and the Spirit of God works through the **New Man**. Oh, how the inner man needs to be strengthened, and this is done by saturating our mind with spiritual food, because if we feed the mind with **JUNK FOOD** it will lose its hunger for the spiritual food.

The outer man is strengthened by the natural food we eat, while the inward man is fed by the Word of God. The Word of God is spiritual food that came from heaven, it produces the "*fruit of the Spirit*" noted in Galatians 5:22-23. Jesus Christ is called the "*living bread which came down from heaven*," and any person who eats this bread shall live [Joh.6:51]. Christ is our source of inward strength. If the soul is not fed it will become weak and be easily influenced by every wind of doctrine. We make sure that we feed the body with natural food because our human nature supplies hunger pangs that can't be ignored, but we seem to be able to ignore the hunger of the soul. Oh, saints; let us feed the inner man daily so he can grow and gain strength! How does this change our behavior? If the **New Man** feasts on Jesus and the Word he becomes stronger than the **OLD MAN**, his behavior will be brought under control.

*"Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto (into) all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness." [Col 1:11]*

It is by His glorious power that we gain patience and longsuffering, this produces joyfulness. The word **patience** means "*to remain under whatever God has allowed us to be*." In this we experience the **LONGSUFFERING** of Jesus without murmuring.

As the outer man needs strength to move objects in the way, there are also objects in the way of the inner man that need to be moved. The enemy puts many blocks in the way, and there are things we would like to do but there are many things to hinder. Like with Paul; "*Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us*" [1Th.2:18]. The Galatians were hindered by Judaism, using The Law to drive them away from the grace message. It takes strength to stand against the forces of evil. Also, as the outer man needs natural knowledge and wisdom for the natural life, so does the inner man need heavenly wisdom. There are 4 eternal things the **New Man** has in Christ: "*But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us* (Æ wisdom, and • righteousness, and Ž sanctification, and • redemption" [1Co.1:30]. Jesus is the only source and we go to Him for all our spiritual needs which we learn to draw from the Lord.

*"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." [Col.2:3]*

How does knowledge of "His will **in** all spiritual understanding (wisdom)" [Col.1:9] change my behavior? It isn't just to **KNOW THE WILL OF GOD** that changes us; but to be **FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL** is to be completely furnished and satisfied. The word **in** is a preposition that denotes a "fixed position." Are you unmovable **in all** wisdom and spiritual understanding? Then you can overcome any obstacle set before you.

*"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." [1Co.1:26]*

God's reason for using foolish things, weak and base things, is "that no flesh should glory (boast with joy) in his presence" [1Co.1:29]. If there is any boasting it will be in the cross of our Lord for by it we have been crucified to the world.

*"For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." [2Co.4:11]*

Oh! How our flesh rebels against the very thought of being committed to the suffering of death, even if it is for Jesus' sake. But all this is needful in order that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. This is truly bringing the flesh, that is subject to death, into subjection to the Spirit.

*"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." [2Co.4:16]*

It is for sure that the outer man will perish, it is God's design.

*"For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?" [Ecc.3:19-21]*

Isn't it better to be delivered unto death for Jesus' sake than to just die for no cause?

Isn't it better that the life of Jesus is made manifest in our mortal flesh, so that others may benefit?

Even though the sufferings of this life bring death to the outer man, the inward man gains strength as we feed it daily from God's Word.

The heart and mind is a part of the inner man where our thoughts are put into operation and become a part of our purpose. If our thoughts are evil so is our purpose. If our thoughts are subject to the mind of Christ, our purposes are spiritual; likewise, natural thoughts produce natural purposes. All are carried out through our spirit, whichever is in control...the **Old Man** or the **New Man**. How do we know when the Lord is in control?

*"Seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the **NEW MAN**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." [Col.3:9b-10]*

Here we read "seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." Now, we read that we are to "put on the **NEW MAN**." The **OLD MAN** is not the body or the spirit but the fleshly life that is

contained in the body; this is what we want changed. First we take it off like a dirty garment and put it in the trash [Rom.6:6], then we bathe thoroughly in the Word of God; perhaps soaking for a while and then putting on new clean clothes. Now you are ready for fellowship with God, no body odor anymore. It is then that the **New Man** takes His place of authority and begins to rule. We can now stop fretting and relax by resting with a new joy in our heart. Note, the **New Man** is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him. To **renew** is to “*renovate, and refresh us by the NEW MAN,*” which is Christ in us. It is then we present our bodies a living sacrifice, no more fashioned (patterned) like the world, but we become transformed by the renewing of the mind [Rom.12:1-2]. This is in the mind (knowledge or full discernment) “*after the image of him that created him.*” This is an inward spiritual transformation that develops into a whole new life of joy and love. This is “*knowledge after the image (likeness) of him that created him.*” This is how we come into the Bridal place, it is by the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead.

*“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the NEW MAN, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” [Eph.4:22-24]*

Putting off our old behavior we put on a whole new manner of life, which is in righteousness and true holiness. This is what God is looking for in us...this is Bridal behavior.

In 1 Peter 3, this inner man is called “*the hidden man of the heart*”:

*“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation (behavior) coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” [1Pe.3:1-4]*

Peter gives advice to wives concerning their husbands (saved or unsaved) that don't obey the Word. There are many husbands that are saved who are not interested in the Word of God. What should the wife do? The husband may be won by the behavior of the wife. If he sees her clean and pure life fashioned together with reverence to God, that may eventually lead him to Christ.

☞ She without saying a word (there is no article before “*word*”) she doesn't need to say a thing. • The word “*conversation*” should be “*behavior*.”

It isn't the outer man that is made beautiful by doing something, but it is the beauty of the inner man, the man of the heart, that counts with God. Much time and money is spent on cosmetics for the outer person, and very little time on the inner man being adorned by the Holy Spirit that gives inward eternal beauty.

It is in the inner man we pray. When the Holy Spirit is in control of the inner man, we pray in the Spirit and not from the lips but from the Spirit (our spirit is led by the Holy Spirit).

*“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I WILL PRAY WITH THE SPIRIT, and I WILL PRAY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING also: I will sing with the Spirit, and I WILL SING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING also” [1Co.14:14-15]*



Praying or singing must come from the Spirit moving in the inner man.

*"And he said unto them (the common people) in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers."*  
[Mar.12:38-40]

Many can make long prayers in the flesh, but the one the Lord enjoys is when the Spirit prays and sings through the inner man to the glory of God. He uses the outer man for the edifying of the body of Christ, The Church. It is the outer man that others see and hear; if the body is motivated by a carnal outer man then only carnal people will enjoy it. If it is motivated by a spiritual inner man, we will be a blessing to those who are spiritual—but we can't please both.

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### THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN

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*"The steps of a good man are ordered (established) by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore."*  
[Psa.37:23-27]

Who is "a good man"? Throughout the Psalms we read of the wicked and the evil man concerning the work of the **OLD MAN**, the life of Adam manifested in people today. This life is sinful and can never be good. Adam was sinful and there are no laws that can change him, no matter how hard he tries. In Psalm 37, the word **wicked** is used 14 times and the word **evil** 5 times. When a person is born into the family of God he becomes a **New Man** in Christ. In Psalm 37, this one is called **righteous** 9 times and **upright** 3 times. This one is as holy as God is holy because he is born of God; he can do no wrong. His steps are ordered of the Lord and God delights in his way. Oh! What a secret concerning our walk, we learn to walk in love.

The "steps of a good man" is his course of life. The "good man" signifies a strong man, a conqueror (hero); his way of life is ordered (ordained) by the Almighty God. If you have a desire to win in the battle of life, just realize who you are, a new creature, and then put your mortal life in the hands of the all-wise God and He will direct every step you make. "What if I fail?" God's promise is this; you will not stay down for the Lord will pick you up. Saints, can we rest in this fact, and relax in Jesus? Then we read that God delights in his way. Do you want your ways to be a delight to our God? Then let Him direct your course in life. Only He knows where you should go.

The word **way** means "a road, or a mode of action one would take in life." The life of Adam can only go one direction...an evil way which is contrary to God's way. The **New Man** can only go one direction too, and this is in the will and purpose of God. We who are born-again have both natures so we have a choice of the way we want to walk in life. We can walk in the flesh or the Spirit, but either way we choose we will have trouble in this body. How much better it is to walk the way of the Spirit and enjoy life in the midst of all our troubles.

- In Psalm 37:1 we have, "*fret not*." It seems that in these last days the evil doers are setting the pace for the world to go. The rich in the world seem to be in command, they seem to be prospering in material gain, and we wonder why we don't. Do



they really prosper or does it just seem like it? Mary said (in the Spirit), *"My soul doth magnify the Lord, He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away"* [Luk.1:53]. Here is the Apostle Paul's warning, *"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition"* [1Ti.6:9].

The phrase *"fret not"* is used 3 times in Psalm 37. **Fret** means *"to be hot, to blaze up in anger, to burn with displeasure, or be grieved."* As we look around us at those who prosper; how can we help but fret? The answer is here,

*"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."* [Psa.37:7]

- Let's face it, I cannot behave like this in myself but I can as I take my place in a resurrected Christ. So, resting and waiting patiently for the Lord will keep us from fretting.

*"Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off."* [Psa.37:8-9a]

- In Psalm 37:2 we read that evildoers will be *"soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb,"* leaving only a few seeds. *"A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked"* [Psa.37:16]. God never promised us earthly goods, though in Adam we desire them.

*"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."* [1Ti.6:6-7]

*"But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."* [Psa.73:2-3]

- Also in Psalm 37:12, *"Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches."* And what will happen to the flesh? It will be cut down like grass [Psa.32:2]!

In Psalm 37 there are 5 **FACTORS** concerning the **New Man's** way of life and this can only be done in Christ.

1. *"Trust in the Lord"* [Psa.37:3]. The way of the **New Man** is a trusting way that will enable us to do good in God's sight. This is a way to inherit the promise; which is for both Israel and The Church, in the earthly or our heavenly land. **TRUSTING** gives us clear vision to see things as God sees things. He turns faith into spiritual sight. Doing good is an achievement of faith.
2. *"Delight thyself also in the Lord"* [Psa.37:4]. This is a promise with a condition. What are the desires of the heart of one who is going God's way? The answer is in Psalm 37:2 where we read, *"And he (God) delighteth in his way."* The desire of ours will be the desire of His heart and this will bring deep joy to both God and the one trusting Him.
3. *"Commit thy way unto the Lord"* [Psa.37:5]. The word **commit** means *"to roll upon."* Oh, what a secret we need to learn, how to roll (cast) the care of life on Him with the faith that He gives us! The promise is that **He shall do it**; He is able, whatever the need.

*"And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him." [Psa.37:40]*

4. **"Rest in the Lord"** [Psa.37:7]. The word **rest**, means *"to be dumb, hold your peace, to be quiet,"* and *"study to be quiet"* [1Th.4:11]. Make this your goal as it takes time to learn. Put out some effort; this is accompanied with loving the brethren. Job told his friends *"O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and IT SHOULD BE YOUR WISDOM"* [Job 13:5].

This is all wonderful, but how do we find this road to walk in it? The answer is found in Hebrews 10:

*"Having therefore, brethren, boldness (to have liberty) to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised); And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." [Heb.10:19-24]*

In the Old Testament, the Holy of Holies was a forbidden place because of sin. But now our sins have all been given to Jesus and we come in the righteousness of God's dear Son. To rest in the Lord, we enter with boldness into His rest, by His blood, it is new and living. There is no other rest anywhere. Where do we find this rest? It is through the veil, it is his holy flesh that He consecrated for us by His blood on the cross:

*"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." [Heb.2:14]*

The steps of a good man are found in 1 John 1:7: *"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."* Jesus is the light we walk in as we walk by faith and He orders each step we take; then we are His delight. "What if I fall or fail? *"He shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD hold him up with his hand."* What a promise! The strong hand of the Lord is always there to catch us if we stumble. How do I know this? David knew by experience; and so do I. *"I was young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous In Christ forsaken,"* and you never will, because He is faithful to be there when He is needed.

Over the years I have observed how God has taken care of the **New Man**, and He will continue...He will not fail. We belong to Him, we have been bought with a price, the blood of His first begotten Son who has led many sons into His glory. While we are on earth, in a mortal body, regardless of the afflictions, our Father will supply all we have need of, as we walk in the Spirit. On what grounds could Paul say *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* [Phi.4:19]. He writes, *"no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only"* [Phi.4:15]. It was the Philippians who were willing to share with Paul, when he had a need. They distributed of their own things to Paul, not just once but again and again. When Epaphroditus came with the things which were sent, Paul called it an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. This is how God sees the willing heart of those who walk in the Spirit.

5. Lastly, “*cease from anger, and forsake wrath*” [Psa.37:8]. Again only the **New Man** can do this.

*“Among whom also we all had our conversation (behavior) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, (anger) even as others.” [Eph.2:3]*

But God changed all this by a new birth, and now He says; “*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you*” [Eph 4:31-32]. This is the life of Christ in us, all these were put away at the cross by Jesus’ blood. “*But now YE ALSO put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth*” [Col. 3:8]. Have you put off the old soiled clothing of the **OLD MAN** and put on all new garments of the **New Man**?

*“And have put on the NEW MAN, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” [Col. 3:10]*

The only way to stop fleshly anger is to reckon the **OLD MAN** dead and let the **New Man** take control. This **New Man** is clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

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### ISRAEL’S BEHAVIOR—A CHANGE

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*“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her.” [Isa.66:7-10]*

Just like The Church is made up of born-again people, so will the nation of Israel be brought into a new life. The old Israel must die in judgment. These last days are transition times. To me it is so obvious that God is almost through with bringing the Gentiles their blessing and now He is working with Israel again.

Before we go any farther we must understand what God is doing to and with His chosen People. When God chose Israel He had a purpose for them as a nation. That purpose was that the nation of Israel be separated completely unto Him.

*“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.” [Deu.14:2]*

They were not to be like any other nation; they were told what they could and couldn’t do, and there were certain foods they were not allowed to eat. The problem is that they could never live up to this calling because of the weakness of the flesh. God was willing to take the nation of Israel as His wife, but she was unfaithful to Him...she wanted to be like the other nations, flirting with them which God called **adultery**.

*“Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.” [Eze.16:26]*

*"Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied. Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith." [Eze.16:28-29]*

Being a holy God, He could do nothing except divorce her. Notice these statements; "*great of flesh*," "*thou wast unsatiable*," and "*couldest not be satisfied*"; isn't this just like the **OLD MAN**? The Apostle Paul said,

*"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." [Rom.8:6-8]*

Death is the answer to the behavior of the **OLD MAN**, but to the **New Man** the promise is life and peace. The reason for this is, the mind of the **OLD MAN** is contrary to the mind of God and they cannot be joined together in marriage; the flesh can never please God. This is the condition of Israel; therefore, God put her away.

*"They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and becomes another man's, shall he return unto her again? Shall not that land be greatly" polluted? But thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD." [Jer.3:1]*

No, God could not take her back, because under God's law He forbid this and God must keep His own laws.

*"When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance." [Deu.24:1-4]*

Do you see why God could not be joined with Israel as a nation? Their behavior was as disobedient as that of Adam. The Holy Spirit spoke through Stephen to say; "*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye*" [Act.7:51]. In the flesh they cannot change, they need a new birth. As we look at Israel today, we would ask, "Can this be possible?" "Can God give this whole nation a new birth?" God can do anything He wants because He is God.

*"And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also." [Jer.3:8]*

The word **backsliding** is only used concerning Israel as a nation, not as individuals. God has always had some wonderful people who were obedient to Him; the **New Man** is always obedient. There were 2 parts of Israel: ☿ The 10 northern tribes, who went into idolatry full time, and • the 2 tribes who followed their example, and even after the 70 years of captivity was over they only had God in tradition.

*"Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away." [Isa.50:1]*

Here we have a question that needs to be answered. Where is the document that shows the evidence of the divorce? There was no record that God sold them to creditors; this was not the case. As a husband, God had the right to divorce them, as a father He had the right to sell them to slavery [Exo.21:7, Neh.5:5]; but they sold themselves, they gave up their right to be a wife. But God still loved them and He said; *"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him"* [Hos.14:4]. So the Creator came, took on Himself the form of man, became a Jew, bearing on His Holy Body all the sin of the flesh, including that of the nation of Israel. For years this had been confusing to me, until I saw the truth of the **2 natures**. God isn't going to marry the old rebellious, backslidden Israel who committed adultery with the nations; that nation will be put to death and God will raise up a new people of Israel...

*"Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."* [Jer.31:32]

*"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, **THEY WHICH ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FLESH, THESE ARE NOT THE CHILDREN OF GOD:** but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."* [Rom.9:6-8]

Isaac is a picture of Christ through whom the promise must come, *"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise"* [Gal.4:28]. Then notice this vital part, *"They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God"*; and neither can they be the wife of God.

*"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded."* [Rom.11:5-7]

In Romans 11:1 we read, *"I say then, Hath God cast away his people?"* He will by no means do such a thing. He will always have a people of His election, called *"the election of grace (a remnant)"* [Rom.11:5]. One day God will reveal Jesus to them and they will know it is all by grace and no more of works of The Law: *"Otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work"* [Rom.11:6].

*"Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?"* [Rom.11:12]

*"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?"* [Rom.11:15]

God has blessed the Gentiles for about 2,000 years, but they, as nations, have become worse than Israel and God is about to cast them off. Today, we are living in a transition period. God is about to make some old dry bones that have been dead for many years to rise again, brought back to life as a new people, with the life of His Son, and they will be His joy forever.



When I think of all the promises God has given to Israel, my mind goes to these verses in Isaiah 54:

*"Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer."* [Isa.54:1-8]

Isaiah 54:1 is quoted by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 4:27. He is referring not only to The Law and grace, but also to the 2 cities called Jerusalem and the 2 natures. Ishmael is a type of The Law and bondage of the flesh, while Isaac speaks of the heavenly Jerusalem where the only law is the love of God. Even with a new birth and the knowledge of grace, Ishmael is still hanging around trying to rob both Israel and The Church of their blessings by legal bondage from which there is deliverance. But even so, grace will win. They will break forth with singing and enlarge the place of their tent; they will break out of the bondage of the Gentiles on every side and inherit the Gentile nations. They will never be afraid, ashamed, or confounded again, they will never remember the reproach of widowhood any more. They will only remember God as their husband, the one who by grace made them through the call of Abram, and His name to them will be the LORD of hosts, their Redeemer. At this time He will be called The God of the whole earth.

The "*small moment*" in Isaiah 54:7 had a partial fulfillment in their 70 years in Babylon, but will have a greater fulfillment at the end of this age. A small moment in God's sight is much shorter than in our sight, "*one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*" [2Pe.3:8]. About 2,000 years from the stoning of Stephen until now, but only 2 days to God.

*"After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. THEN shall we know, IF we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."* [Hos.6:2-3]

*"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."* [Rom.11:26]

This does not mean that every Israelite will be saved but the believing remnant of Israel, for we know many will die during The Tribulation.

*"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."* [Zec.13:8-9]

God will gather them out of the Gentile nations and separate them to Himself. Also study Jeremiah 23:3.



God has some wonderful promises for Israel,

*"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"*  
[Isa.2:2-4]

What a blessing Israel will be to all the other nations.

## CHAPTER 5, THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEHAVIOR

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* [2Co.5:10]

This is a must. All believers on Jesus will appear at Christ's judgment seat, bowing themselves at His feet (we will not miss this appointment). This is done in order that everyone, as an individual, will receive just what they deserve. What will be judged? The things done in the body or through the body. The thought of receiving is to receive something into his own hand as his own reward; payday is sure to come. In examining myself I must ask, "Has the flesh or Spirit been manifested out of my inner being and are those things good or bad?" The Greek word for **good** has the meaning of "*an inward goodness that comes from the life of Christ.*" The Greek word for **bad** is **KAKOS** and shows the bad, moral character of the **OLD MAN** that is listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

*"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."*  
[Col.3:24-25]

Here is a fact that we should have full absolute knowledge of; we learn what we receive is called "*the reward of the inheritance.*" The reward is because of the performance of yielding to Christ while in this human body, recompense will be made for all the sufferings that we have suffered for Him. Then, on the other hand, wrong doers will also receive recompense for yielding to the flesh while in this body. Let us memorize "*there is no respect of persons.*"

*"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."* [Heb.6:10]

We should be so glad that Christ will judge in righteousness; He has a good memory. The words **work** and **labor** are different in thought.

- **Work** is the "*course of action one takes, the product of the action or the deed itself.*"
- **Labor** has the thought of the "*suffering produced by the action, to be very weary and troubled.*"

Walking in the flesh or the Spirit produces a weariness in this body; but, when our work is mixed with the love of God and been done in His name we will receive "*the reward of the inheritance.*" This can be seen in our ministry today.

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." [Gal.6:7-9]*

This metaphor is so true, we can expect to harvest the same as we sow. This life is like a field in which we sow the desires of our heart. Is it selfish, just for our own profit, or is it for the Gospel's sake? Let us stop at this point, close our eyes, and examine our seed, asking God to take all the weed seeds out before they destroy all our efforts and we end up with nothing.

*"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* I know the way is hard, there are rocks in the way, but we can learn to draw our strength from the Lord. Let us not look at the sowing but instead at the harvest.

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." [1Co.15:58]*

Oh what admonition! After all the Word gives to us, there are certain things that need to come into being. That is...

- **Steadfastness**, meaning "to be totally seated in a fixed position by faith."
- **Unmovable** no matter what comes, though we are tempted on every side we stand firm. In Philippians 4:11, the Apostle Paul said *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."* He had learned how to live with nothing and in humiliation, he had learned to suffer *"the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ"* [Phi.3:8].
- Lastly, **abounding** in the work of the Lord. Is this true in your life? Then it will show in your behavior.

## CHAPTER 6, BEHAVIOR CONTROLLED

*"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace **MAY** abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" [Rom.6:1-2]*

The Greek word for **may** always expresses "a *negative*" answer, not in any wise can this be brought to being, because if Romans 5 is true, then the old Adam was put to death on the cross and the penalty for sin was paid for by the blood of Jesus.

In answer to the questions in Romans 6:1-2, we say "No, a dead person cannot continue in sin." Then the 3<sup>rd</sup> question comes forth,

*"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" [Rom.6:3]*

Are you ignorant of the fact concerning baptism that it was into Jesus' death? The truth is: "You died with Jesus"; a truth for spiritually mature minds.

*"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." [Eph.2:5-6]*

So beautifully is the work of Jesus on the cross laid out for us, that God saw us as dead in sin. Jesus bore our sin in His own body, then in His resurrection we, by faith, arose with Him. Then Paul takes the Ephesians a little farther to say, *“He made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”* Now, let us extend this blessing into another direction.

*“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” [Col.2:11-12]*

Circumcision, what is it? Paul uses it as a spiritual metaphor and a sign of a new covenant. The cutting off of the flesh was in the death of Jesus, the whole carnal nature was put off in the body of Jesus. Here is God’s plan for the human race: That we were buried with Jesus in baptism, after this we are risen with him. Now notice this! God’s entire plan was *“through the faith of the operation of God,”* and fulfilled by the One *“who hath raised Him from the dead.”*

Satan thought he had God defeated but not being all-wise he was fooled by God’s wisdom, because God knew He would raise Jesus from the dead, and us with Him. By the power of the resurrection, The Church became one with Jesus; and *“he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit”* [1Co.6:17]. Now, let us meditate on this:

*“If The Church has been made one with Christ in heaven, how should they behave themselves on earth; should not their behavior be like a heavenly people?”*

*“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.” [Col.3:1-6]*

This is not a question, it is a statement of fact. If this is true in your life, if you have really counted yourself raised from the dead with Christ, there are 3 things that will change your behavior.

1. *“Seek those things which are above.”* There are people who seek the Lord for their own benefit, Jesus said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled”* [Joh.6:26]. God wants us to seek heavenly things because this is where we are seated with Christ and we love to be with Him. Here was David’s attitude, “

*“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.” [Psa.63:1-4]*

2. *“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”* This is to exercise the mind. Oh how God wants us to be interested in things higher than earthly things, because they are eternal and far more important than any temporal thing. Saints; can you see how this will change behavior? Paul, setting himself as an example, said, *“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”*

And then the other way to walk, *“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that **THEY ARE THE ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST**: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things”* [Phi.3:17-19]. Now stop reading and pray,

“Lord I don’t want to be an enemy of the cross of Christ, when I see what my end could be, I want to seek heavenly things and enjoy the fruit of the Spirit.”

Now here is the way of victory; *“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”* [Col.3:3-4].

We have already acknowledged that we were *“buried with him in baptism,”* so now what do we do with our life? We enter into God’s hiding place by faith and count ourself hidden with Christ in God. Oh think of it! You are in Christ, and Christ is in God all wrapped up in a package that we can never be tempted by the world any more. But what if I am tempted? Then do as Jesus did when tempted by the tempter; He said *“it is written.”* Just go to the Scripture and say *“it is written”* that I am dead.

3. *“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth.”* In this lays the secret. Make a corpse out of every part of your body: My mind cannot think, hands cannot serve, feet cannot walk; neither can my mouth speak of things that would rob me of my heavenly inheritance. If we count ourselves dead with Christ then only the risen man can be alive.

Oh Lord, is this for me? Yes it is!

*“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”* [Gal.3:26-28]

There are 3 facts stated here; we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Oh! What a family God has and you are a part of it, apply this to yourself and say,

“Praise God I am a relative, therefore I am a prince or princess in a royal family of heaven. This earth is owned by my Father but it is not my home, my citizenship is in heaven and my Father wants me to behave like a good citizen. This transition happened as I put on Christ, my robe of righteousness, and then I testified to the world by baptism. ”

The most thrilling thing is that anyone can wear this robe of righteousness; it is for Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female...God is not a respecter of persons.

*“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* [Rom.6:4-6]

Here we learn some things concerning our death and resurrection with Christ; it was by the glorious plan and power of the Father: *“For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you”*

[2Co.13:4]. In the same manner that Jesus died in weakness we did too; and, as He lives by the power of God so do we by faith. Oh! What honor the Father receives when we honor the resurrected Son; and, even more honor when we walk in the newness of life. This thought takes us back to the thought that **old things pass away and all things become new**. If our old life in Adam was exceedingly sinful so our new life in Christ is exceedingly holy; and, when we walk in the newness of life others can see Christ in us. Another great fact is...

*"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." [Rom.6:5]*

The phrase "*planted together*" has the thought of growing up together, it is like the wheat of John 12:24 "*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*" We are the fruit of a new life, and when this is real to us we will act like it.

*"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin." [Rom.6:6-7]*

Have you learned yet that Adam died in order that the sin scarred body, that was a slave to Satan, has been laid in a grave never to rise again, and that the **New Man**, who can never be a slave to sin, arose in power? There is something else we need to know...

*"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." [Rom.6:9-11]*

Jesus' death was final; He will never need to die again. On the cross, sin took dominion over the man Jesus (not the deity) but it can never rule again. Now, Jesus lives unto deity; now we also, like a resurrected Christ, were raised with Him. Today, we can have victory over the flesh by counting with God that we died and now are alive and walking in the newness of this resurrected Christ life.

In Romans 6:6, we noted that our **OLD MAN** is crucified with Christ, in order that from this time on we should not serve sin; and knowing this, we war against any force that would bring us back into bondage.

*"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." [Rom.6:12-13]*

Don't let sin reign! But, how do I stop it from reigning in me? The answer is: Count with God, over and over again, that you are dead, and don't be available when you are called to act in a fleshly manner. Don't present any part of your body as weapons to fight against the Spirit. The word **instruments** could read "arms" or "weapons." "*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace*" [Rom.6:14]. One weapon the enemy uses is condemnation; he says that you have broken God's law, there is no forgiveness and, you are bound for Hell. Legal people don't know why God gave The Law, the purpose is found in Romans 3:19-20:

*"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: **THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED, AND ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD.** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."*

The Law did just what God intended it to do, it stopped mouths, and brought all people guilty before God, and now it has finished its job.

Now we are under grace which is a law unto itself; however, this does not mean we are not without any rule as our law is found in Romans 8:2: *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."* The *"law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus"* is not a burden we cannot keep because it is the nature of the **New Man**. Back to Romans 6:16.

Our behavior all hinges on the one we obey, is it sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness? The saints in Rome answered this by action:

*"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." [Rom.6:17-18]*

First they **WERE** servants of sin (past tense), they did not acknowledge being under its rule. Second; *"ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."* Baptism is not a doctrine, but it is only a form of the doctrine; the doctrine is "I died with Christ and arose from the dead." If they were obedient from the heart to what they said by their action; shouldn't we be also?

Let us look at Romans 6:22: *"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."* Faith has broken the yoke of sin and now we are free from serving sin. The old Adam has no right in our life, but he will keep trying, he doesn't give up easily. When we count ourselves servants to God we will begin to bring spiritual fruit out of our life and the results of our behavior will be exhibited in eternity. Oh! How happy we will be when our walk in the Spirit blossoms out and the eternal life we have from God comes to its fullness. This can only be as the Holy Spirit fills our very innermost being and begins to show us what we will miss if we walk in the flesh.

All the glories of God awaits us if we will only allow the Lord to talk to us, and listen to Him wooing us into higher hopes that this world can ever offer us. When the devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; Jesus had only this to say, *"Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"* [Mat.4:10].

## CHAPTER 7, BEHAVIOR IN MARRIAGE

As we approach the end of this age, there is a greater need for God's people to know how God wants them to behave in their marriage. It is so easy to obtain a divorce today, and for no reason at all; they call it **incompatibility**. But God has different rules He wants His children to go by, and He has given us a special Spirit so we can have power to live by them; it is the Spirit of the New Creation (the **New Man**)...the life of Christ. God wants us to know that the vows we take in marriage are to Him; our friends hear them and witness that they are true. We will be responsible to Christ, at His judgment seat, for the deeds done in our body...good and bad.



*"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."*  
[Ecc.5:4-5]

Oh! How we make promises to God...sometime in the Spirit and sometime in the flesh. We should not be hasty in what we tell the Lord. We don't realize the responsibility we take on ourselves when making a vow. When a couple stands before God and make promises concerning their marriage they are making a vow that it not to be broken...God expects it to be kept. Those who don't keep their vows, He calls "*fools*" and that He has no pleasure in their lives; actually, it would be better that they never get married. Why do God's people break their word to God? Because we still have this **OLD MAN**, which is not an acceptable excuse; it is only a reason. We don't realize that if we walk in the flesh, many suffer from our behavior.

*"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry."* [Mat.19:3-10]

- The first question asked was, "*Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?*" The answer Jesus gave was, "*Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*"
- The next question was, "*Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?*" Jesus' answer was, "*because of the hardness of your hearts.*"

The trouble begins in the heart. If the flesh is in command of the heart, it will become hard and they will not care what God says about it...which is, "*Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*" If we really believe God's Word and care what He has said, the Spirit will guard our behavior and strengthen us too; "*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*" "*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit*" [Gal.5:16, 25]. It seems to me that in these last days people are more self-centered than ever before. Not that the flesh has changed, but that men are yielding to the flesh with the attitude that "I want what I want even if others are hurt." If we really love the Lord who died for us we will want to live according to His Word.

*"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."* [1Co.11:3]

God has set up an order of command for His family:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: God, the Supreme Head of all things, even Christ;
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Christ the is Head of the man; and
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: The man is the head of the woman; I think we could add the children to this.

God will protect His children if they behave and walk in the Spirit. But, if they willingly walk in the flesh, they take themselves out of this protection and find troubles in their road of life. The woman must be willing to take the man as her head, as he takes Jesus to be his Head. Is this good or bad? I think it is wonderful, because all the responsibility of a happy family is placed on God.

This was the problem with the first woman; she never learned to take Adam as her head. All she needed to do was to say to the serpent "Go see my husband." God never told her not to eat of the tree, He told Adam, and she usurped the authority which was never given to her, but Adam loved her so much he was willing to die with her.

*"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord" For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of The Church: and he is the Savior of the body." [Eph.5:22-23]*

The **OLD MAN** never learns submissiveness; this comes from Christ alone, who submitted to the will of His Father to go to the cross. Being submissive could cause suffering of the flesh, but if it is done "as unto the Lord" it will produce joy in the heart. This will only be productive when the husband is submitting to Christ. Oh! How Christ wants first place. The Apostle Paul gave this same thought to the Colossians also, so it must be really important.

*"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that IN ALL THINGS HE MIGHT HAVE THE PREEMINENCE." [Col.1:18]*

*"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, AS IT IS FIT IN THE LORD." [Col.3:18]*

This is the proper thing in the will of the Lord; it is in His eternal purpose.

*"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." [Eph.5:24-25]*

The Church, as being the body of Christ, is like the wife as being from the body of her husband, the two become one by faith. Now, if she is to be subject to Christ, then she should also be subject to her own husband, not on most things but **in everything**. The wife might say; "What if I know that my husband is wrong?" Then go straight to his Head, Christ, and tell Him the problem and let Him do the talking. Can you see that there could be no argument, because it is all based on love?

*"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."* When a man loves his wife as much as Jesus loved us to give His all, then the wife has no concern about submission, for she knows that he will have the mind of Christ concerning her care; and, if he does make a mistake, love will take care of it...this is living by faith.

*"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." [Eph 5:28]*

Another thought is in Colossians 3:19: *"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."*

What if the wife becomes a child of God and her **HUSBAND DOES NOT GO THIS WAY OF FAITH** and remains a heathen? Then Peter has some advice for her, *"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, IF ANY OBEY NOT THE WORD, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives"* [1Pe.3:1]. Wives, still be in subjection to your own husbands even though he has not obeyed the Word of God.

- Now, here is what the wife is to do...She can win her husband to Christ through God by her own Christian behavior, without even speaking a word. *"While they behold your chaste conversation (manner of life) coupled with fear"* [1Pe.3:2].
- Here is what the husband is to do...He will inspect the wife's holy behavior and because of her reverence to God will see his need for a Savior. He will see that it is not just an outward pretense but from the hidden man of the heart. And, instead of arguing with him, she shows a meek and quiet spirit, which is priceless in God's sight.

Now; what if the *HUSBAND KNOWS THE LORD*, after being converted from a heathen life, and *HIS WIFE DOES NOT*? *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered"* [1Pe.3:7].

- First, he doesn't try to change her or give her an ultimatum to either change or get out; instead, he is willing to live with her according to his knowledge of God's will for them. The purpose of his heart is that they would share together the inheritance. So what does he do? He prays with unhindered prayer for her. Oh! Such devoted love can speak to her heart and she will want what he has; she will receive Jesus and her behavior will be changed too.

How much responsibility does God expect from the woman?

*"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."* [Tiu.2:4-5]

That the *"word of God be not blasphemed"* is a full-time job, and it takes a lot of discipline and correction: ☾ To be sober, to have a sound disciplined mind. • Love their husbands, that is, show him the affection that he needs, and at the same time show the same love to their children. ☿ Be discreet, keep her mind under control. • Be chaste, living a clean moral life. The rest speak for themselves; keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands. The reason to teach the young women is in order *"that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

If the woman's *HUSBAND HAS AN OFFICE* she has more responsibility; *"Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things"* [1Ti.3:11]. Do you understand that only the Christ life in us can perform such responsibility?

One more thing before we close this chapter. There is a judgment to those who choose to go the way of the flesh.

*"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose."* [Gen.6:1-2]

There are 2 classes of people mentioned here: ☾ The sons of God and • the daughters of men. The first class are the descendants of Seth and the second class are the descendants of Cain. The spiritual line married with the sinful line which was very displeasing to God. Paul gives us some thought on this, *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?"* [2Co.6:14]. Things just became worse and worse until God had to judge it.

*"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." [Luk.17:26-27]*

"*The days of the Son of man*" refers to the Tribulation time, but we can see it in our days too. I do not know how much longer God will put up with the foolishness of the flesh, but we know He will judge it in His time. As we meditate on these thoughts, what manner of person do we want to be when Jesus comes for us?

Marriage is honorable in all, so said our God; it is all about His Son and His marriage-to-be. If it is dishonored, He will judge with His rod and the shame will appear for all to see. Jesus will have His day when His glory will shine. The Bride, having left all behind for Him, appears in her dress of fine gold and the wedding begins. Her love for Him will never grow old.

So, let us who have a hope for this Bridal place, put all aside and set our love on our husband to be...Jesus Christ. It won't be long and we will see His face—the spirit of holiness is what we will see.

## CHAPTER 8, MY SPIRIT OF WORSHIP

*"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." [Joh.4:23-24]*

How is behavior connected to worship? Let us examine 2 words that explain our need of worship.

1. First **SPIRIT**. The Greek word used here is **PNEUMA**, from the root Greek word of **PNEO** that means "to blow," translated "wind" and "breath"; it is intangible and yet powerful. It has to do with the seat of thought and feeling and sets forth the frame of mind. It is not only translated "the Holy Spirit," but also "the human spirit" 30 times, "evil spirits" 30 times, and "angels" 2 times.

As a human, we are made up of 3 parts: Spirit, soul, and body. We are a soul; we are individuals; each one is different one from another...there "were seventy **SOULS**" that came to Egypt [Exo.1:5]. The Hebrew word for **soul** is **NEPHESH**; and means "the act of breathing."

*"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 (individual)." [Gen.2:7]*

God didn't breath into Eve, He took part of Adam's soul to be hers. **You are a soul and you have a spirit**. This is the power within the soul that governs behavior.

Human spirit is from Adam, what is it like? It is fallen, corrupt, and can never be spiritual or good. All have sinned (that which is contrary to God's purpose). The spirit is the power that controls how we live. No wonder our behavior is always bad without Christ. It is not bad in man's sight, but in God's sight. We cannot worship with the old spirit, we need a new one, and this is why Christ came in the form of a man, obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

*"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost (expired)." [Luk.23:46]*

After Jesus sounded out His last words, breathing His last breath, He said; *"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."* In other words, *"I place my Spirit alongside your Spirit"* [Psa.31:5 paraphrase].

In the first 10 verses of Romans 4 we have these words: *"reckoned," "counted,"* and *"imputed";* and, they all have the same meaning: *"to take an inventory, to estimate, make a ledger"*...or we could say, *"He did the work of an accountant."* In God's ledger He took all of man's sins and transferred them to His Holy Son, then He took all of Jesus' righteousness and transferred it over to a believer in Jesus who accepts it by faith and rests in the holiness of God. This work is written in detail in Ephesians 1:

*"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself." [Eph.1:6-9]*

Oh! The praises that goes from us as we realize what God has done for us, He *"made us accepted in the beloved."* We have full redemption through His blood, bought out of slavery to serve Him...a complete forgiveness of sins and all by the riches of His grace. The outcome of this is, we are accepted in the beloved. It was the Son of God's love who fulfilled all God's will. When Jesus was baptized, a voice came from heaven, saying, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* [Mat.3:17]. And again on the mountain, *"a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him"* [Mat.17:5]. This is the One we have been accepted in! The Greek word for **in** means *"to be fixed and unmovable."* It is only when we take our position in Christ that true worship can be experienced. True worship is when our spirit is given humbly to His Spirit, as Jesus yielded His Spirit we follow in His steps.

2. The second need for true worship is the **TRUTH** as it is connected with the *"spirit."*

*"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH." [Joh.4:24]*

Jesus is truth by which true worship comes.

*"And THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." [Joh.1:14]*

Oh! To behold the glory of the Creator who was made flesh; have you gazed closely at this One who is full of grace and truth? There is no other one like Jesus; just looking on Him fills our heart with joy. *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"* [Joh.1:17]. In the Old Testament, truth came as God gave it by His Word; then, as they walked according to His Word, they walked in truth and God counted this for worship. David said, *"For thy loving-kindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth"* [Psa.26:3]. But now we are not under The Law but grace and truth as a person, not on stone but by His love which is before our eyes do we see Jesus



and are able to walk in Him. Jesus, talking to Thomas, said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* [Joh.14:6]. Both Thomas and Philip were called at the beginning of Jesus' ministry; they should have known Jesus and who He really was, but they didn't. I wonder how many believers really know Jesus today, that He is the only way, truth and life which excludes any self works on their part. The degree to which we know Jesus is the degree to which we can worship God. Solomon said,

*"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart."* [Pro.3:3]

In other words, get a good hold on mercy and truth, they seem to be a pair (used 10 times in the Old Testament) like in Psalm 25:10 *"All the paths of the LORD are **MERCY AND TRUTH**."* If you want to know which way to go, look for the street sign **MERCY AND TRUTH AVENUE**, and then; *"He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him"* [Psa.61:7]. Now, look at this next verse where I see 4 outstanding descriptions of our Lord; if we know Him as these things we have a good foundation for worship.

*"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in **MERCY AND TRUTH**."* [Psa.86:15]

Worshipping in truth liberates us from the flesh.

*"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall **MAKE YOU FREE**."* [Joh.8:32]

We are not under bondage to worship; praise is not a sacrifice of the flesh, and it has nothing to do with dead flesh which was cut off at Calvary by Jesus our Lord. True worship can only be by the truth living in us, it is taken hold of by our human spirit, and is being controlled by the Holy Spirit. Are you glad that Jesus asked the Father to send us the Holy Spirit? The amount of the Spirit we have received is how much He is in control of our worship.

*"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."* [Joh.14:17]

Here He is called *"the Spirit of truth"* that only believers can receive. He began to dwell in the disciples after Pentecost, now we all can be full of the Holy Spirit. *"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me"* [Joh.15:26]. We know we have the **SPIRIT OF TRUTH** when only Jesus is spoken of and exalted. When preachers get in the pulpit and talk about money, politics, or such things it is not by the Holy Spirit.

*"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."* [Joh.16:13]

Another way to recognize the *"Spirit of Truth"* is that He *"will guide you into all truth."* Just because you have been filled with the Holy Spirit doesn't mean you have all truth. You must yield to the Spirit and follow His guidance.

Being filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit into all truth, you are ready to worship: *"For the Father seeketh such to worship him"* [Joh.4:23].



## CHAPTER 9, POWER TO OVERCOME IN LIFE

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." [Rev.2:7]*

The phrase "*to him that overcometh*" is written to The Church 7 times in Revelation [Rev.2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21]. The word **overcome** means "*to subdue, conquer, and prevail, also to get the victory.*" With 7 different conditions listed, there is power to conquer each condition. As we overcome a condition in our lives our behavior is being changed.

As children of God, we will always have something in life to overcome; e.g., sickness, jobs, family, or contention between people. What is the answer to our troubles?

*"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, **HATH PREVAILED** to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof." [Rev.5:5]*

The Greek for **hath prevailed** is ΝΙΚ-ΑΗ'-Ο. This is so powerful to take unto ourselves as we need to be reminded of the power that enables us to bound over any obstacle the enemy might put before us. The victory won when Christ prevailed over the enemy on the cross gave Him the authority to open the book of judgment at the beginning of The Tribulation. Now today, in the New Creation (the **New Man**), we too have the power to prevail over any situation that may come our way. How can we say this? Jesus said it first,

*"These things I have spoken unto you, that **IN ME** ye might have peace. **IN THE WORLD** ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." [Joh.16:33]*

Many things Jesus said and did were given so that we might learn the way of a victorious life. The choice is ours. Our faith is either in Christ or it is in the world. The Greek word for the phrase "*the world*" is ΚΟΣ'-ΜΟΣ and has a wide range of meanings:

- The arrangement to beautification.
- This including its inhabitants.
- The adorning world with so many glittering things to lure us.

*"Jesus had no beauty that we should desire him." [Isa.53:2]*

What do we choose, the beauty we can see or that which we cannot see? In Christ alone is there peace; this we must learn to take by faith and remember that our faith is seen only by God. The world has only one thing to offer and that is tribulation and not peace. "*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*" [Joh.16:33]. We can only overcome through Jesus our Lord. Praise God, tribulation has already been overcome for us by Christ on the cross; as we believe it...faith appears and tribulation disappears.

There are only 2 powers, that of Satan and that of God. We have no power in ourselves; one of these 2 powers will control our lives. Self-control always gives place to Satan.

*"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." [Rom.12:19-21]*

What good advice this is for us. Never try to retaliate or punish someone else for what comes into your life, don't give wrath even a small place. By avenging yourselves you take your cause out of the hands of God and then it falls into the hands of the enemy. Remember this, revenge belongs to God; let Him do it and rest in Him, and Romans 12:21 will come alive to you: *"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."*

*"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the Spirit of Truth, and the spirit of error." [1Jo.4:2-6]*

There are only 2 great spirits that would rule over our human spirit. John admonishes us to know the spirit whether it is of God or of an Antichrist (an opponent of Christ). The phrase *"Jesus Christ is come in the flesh"* has reference to all that Christ accomplished while in a body of flesh. There are many people who deny Jesus' finished work on the cross. We know this is true because we read, *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them,"* and this could only be done because of Jesus' work. You are of God because you are in Christ, born-again and Christ has overcome the world for the whole Church. We also know that *"greater is he that is in you, (Christ) than he that is in the world, (the spirit of the Antichrist)."* They that are of the world have the language of the world; we don't use the same vile words they do, and they don't understand our language. This is the way we know the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error (a deceiving spirit).

Now, let us admit that the battles we have are spiritual battles. Every conflict we encounter in life is spiritual; on the job, in our home, in the car, or wherever we are. The enemy would like to get us upset and discourage us, even despair of life, to where we just give up and quit.

*"And the Lord said, 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. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me." [Luk.22:31-34]*

*"But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, this man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not" [Luk.22:56-57]*

Jesus said that Peter was going to enter into a conflict with Satan who wanted to sift him as wheat. There are 6 things we need to see here:

1. That the battle is all spiritual.
2. Satan could not do anything without special permission from God; praise God, Jesus was already praying for Peter.
3. It was Peter's faith that was tested, *"that thy faith fail not."*
4. It was known that Peter would be victorious *"when (not if) thou art converted (come to yourself), strengthen thy brethren."*

5. Peter's self strength and will must be brought to nothing, *"I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death."* He could not even stand for the truth before a young bonds-girl.
6. True repentance on Peter's part, *"And Peter went out, and wept bitterly"* [Luk.22:62].

*"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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." [Eph.6:10-12]*

The power we have to overcome in life can only be in Christ, we simply turn our battles over to Him and then wait for Him to take us through them. Oh saints; learn where to find your strength, *"be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."* Then remember, we do not battle people; we battle principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. Do you see how this can change our behavior? Then, in the meantime, we rest in His word. Do you know how much Jesus loves you, and that He promised He will never leave you? And because He loves you, He will never permit anything to come into your life that He will not make work for your good; but, if you try to take it out of His hands, it will surely fail and bring much weeping. With this knowledge, the **New Man** can bound over anything our enemy puts in our way; everything is changed within us. When the life of Christ is ruling, our behavior will be in God's perfect will, and we will be so happy.

Notice this fact about overcoming:

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." [Rev.2:7]*

I hope that every reader has an ear that is able to hear what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them. God wants overcoming saints, and He is offering rewards for our behavior. It is to be able *"to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God"* This overcoming one has been brought into a place close enough to enjoy the fruit from the Tree of Life.

*"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." [Pro.3:13]*

*"She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her." [Pro.3:18]*

*"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." [Pro.11:30]*

Jesus Christ is wisdom, and man is happy who attains (finds) it. Then this overcoming one moves into the fruit of righteousness. Oh! How He fills the needs of the **New Man**. This tree is in the midst of the paradise of God; and where is this?

*"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) "How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." [2Co.12:2-4]*

The Apostle Paul said that he knew such a one who was caught up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven. We believe that Paul was this man, how else would he know what was seen?

The one thing God found wrong with the Ephesians was the fact that they left their preeminent love for Christ. Those who overcome this fault are seen in the Philadelphian assembly, where there is no fault found in them. Stop now and pray; ask God where you are concerning your behavior; is it in the **New Man** or the **OLD MAN**? Remember, that the religious **OLD MAN** is just as bad as in the out-and-out sinner. If we are eating from the **fruit of the Spirit** we should be bearing the same fruit in our lives.

Here is the answer to a constant happy and contented spirit: *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”* [Gal.5:24-25]. Proof that we are Christ's. There is no love in the **OLD MAN**. Our love for the Lord will change our behavior.

*“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 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. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That **HE WHO LOVETH GOD LOVE HIS BROTHER ALSO.**”* [1Jo.4:16-21]

This love is not of the flesh; the natural man does not know how to love; it is love only the **New Man** can have. The more we know God, the more we love Him. We learn to know Him better as we learn His Word because the Word forms a bond between us...His character becomes part of us. **God is love** and to dwell in Him shows the state of our relationship with Him, changing in our behavior *“because as he is, so are we in this world”*.

## CHAPTER 10, SUMMARY

The sum of all this is that the only way to behave as God wants us to behave is to first count with God that the **OLD MAN** died on the cross and the risen **New Man** arose from the dead. As we walk in the light of this and acknowledge Christ as our strength, He enables us to behave well-pleasing to God, as we read in Romans 12:2: *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

*“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not **AS OTHER GENTILES** walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened ... But ye have not so learned Christ.”* [Eph.4:17-20]

Oh, what a change in our lifestyle when we know how to walk in the Spirit, this is what we learn of Christ!

*“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.”* [Eph.5:2]

Walking in Christ is also walking in love, knowing that He is the source of love that lives in each believer.

The Apostle Paul said; *“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ”* [Phi.3:18].

Human behavior  
is like a bed of Roses  
full of blossoms and thorn



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