

The background image is a photograph of a church interior. It features a large, ornate dome with a central fresco of a religious scene and a band of smaller figures around its base. Below the dome is a large crucifix on the altar, flanked by statues. The church has high ceilings, arched windows, and rows of pews in the foreground.

# *Resurrected Christ In Me*

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*Sylvia Huffnagle*

*by Sylvia Huffnagle*

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**By**

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E-BookTime, LLC

Montgomery, Alabama

**Resurrected Christ in Me**

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Gal: 2:19-20:

For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20: 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.

Col: 1:27:

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: 28: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Gal: 6:14:

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto Me and I unto the world.

Forward:

I have named this work, "Resurrected Christ in me", because to be crucified with Christ and resurrected Him in you is the subject thread throughout the book and also none of these spiritual thoughts will penetrate or work for the reader unless the reader is willing to entered into the crucifixion and resurrection written about in Rom: 6:3-11.

Rom: 6:3-11: Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4: 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. 5: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6: 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. 7: For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8: Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gal:5:24: And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

I believe God has given me good understanding of His Word and who He is and what He has done and wants done. This book is actually the rest of the journal that I kept as I sought the Lord with my whole heart, though I have rearranged some things and added some things.

These are the advantages I had, which I attribute to why I do have this knowledge and understanding.

ÿ I was desperate.

ÿ As a child, I was taught that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of the world.

ÿ I was taught Bible stories and memorization of key scriptures.

ÿ I was not taught man-made theories and doctrines.

ÿ I had easy access to scriptures.

ÿ I was a reader.

ÿ I had freedom of religion and freedom of worship.

ÿ I had plenty of time to study and meditate.

ÿ I had a very deep need.

Ps: 119:99: I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

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## Section One:

### Gold Nuggets

**G**od loves His enemies so much that He gave Himself for them in the hopes of winning their love so He can give Himself to them.

**G**od's plan of salvation is the only plan that could possibly work to save man from sin and enable him to live righteously. This is because it's the only plan that takes into consideration the corruptible nature of man and does what needed to be done about it--crucify it and replace it with an incorruptible one.

**S**aved - daily delivered from sins dominion. Rom. 5:10

**S**alvation is a free gift, but it's not a ticket--it's a person . 1Jn:5:11-12

**B**eing saved is not meant to mean getting into heaven. It was meant to mean being reconciled to God and given His Spirit.

**F**aith comes in serving God, not ourselves, not our circumstances, not our surroundings, not our limitation and not our experience. The church has a heart problem--she does not have the heart to obey the commands, precepts and teachings of the Bible. This problem could not exist if the call to salvation was accurate and thorough. A. W. Tozer

**E**ffective prayer is being concerned for the reputation of God, the work of God, and the will of God - Bill Gothard

**F**EAR - false evidence appearing real. I got this from Joyce Myer

**FEAR** is the darkroom where Satan processes negatives. Either Joyce Myer or John Hagee

**Let** your emotions subside before you decide. Joyce Meyer\

**When** you are down to nothing, God is up to something. John Hagee

**The covenant** - Our part of the covenant is to trust and obey God. When we enter covenant with God we promise to trust and obey him. His part of the covenant is to be our God and Father. It's that simple. We listen to His teachings and admonitions and He takes care of us.

Covenant relationship is why Jesus could do all that He did and then He willed it all to us. In heaven they live by the same covenant without a need for it to be written out because they have God's Spirit which is the covenant relationship--all that I have is yours goes both ways in heaven.

**I** looked for happiness and fulfillment in things, but found them in submission to God.

### **The Bride of Christ**

In the world you promise to love, honor, and obey when you get married. In God's kingdom, you promise to love, honor, and obey, to become engaged. It takes fulfilling your vows to be the bride of Christ. In the world you are supposed to remain a virgin until you marry. With God you become a virgin unto Christ and then marry.

**My** deliverance from guilt and fear of sin did not come from what the humanist teach--that all sin and that sin is normal. Nor did it come from what liberal theology teaches--that the blood of the lamb takes away all your guilt, whether you go on sinning or not. It did not come from what the communist teach--that we are animals controlled by our environment. My

deliverance came in the truth, the good news that although all have sinned and all are capable of terrible sin, one can repent of sinning and receive the atonement and a new life hid with Christ in God. It's a brand new way of living--the old nature is crucified and the new nature hearkens unto God.

**The Christian's goal or focus** should not be to try to do the Christian thing until you accomplish it, it should be to make Jesus your Lord in all areas of your life. If you focus on works, you will get works. If you focus on Jesus, you will get Jesus.

**Desires:** Carnal people do not come into the light, if that light interferes with their strong desires. To come into the light one must turn from their carnal desires to God. To stay in the light, one must conform their desires to Christ's desires. This can only be accomplished through a strong love relationship with the Father and the Son. One can only have a strong love relationship with them through the bonding process. The bonding only comes from spending a lot of time in intimate communion and interaction with them.

**God** created us to worship Him. That means we were created to be vessels filled with His life and love so that we can benefit ourselves and all those we come into contact with.

**It's** a lot easier to recover from defeat when you have a vision and knowledge of where God's taking you.

**The** promises of God are actually the inevitable result of making the right choices in life.

**Humanists** don't have agape love (the God kind of love).

• Their only hope is in man and you can look at history and see where man's way has gotten us.

• They have no hope in life (a glorious life) after death unless they believe in reincarnation then they can look forward to being a cow or something.

• They do not have access to supreme wisdom.



- ÿ They do not have access to divine strength.
- ÿ They have no promises to carry them through the hard times.
- ÿ They have no infallible hero to look up to.

**A**ccording to the Bible If you will make God your God, you will become more and more useful, kind, good, loving, healthy, happy, peaceful, and fulfilled.

**F**rom the parable of the prodigal son we learn that:

- ÿ The Father's love is not something that can be earned--it just is.
- ÿ The Father's forgiveness is not earned, it's His natural reaction to a repentant child.
- ÿ The Father's attitude of love, forgiveness, joy, and acceptance toward the sinner was not deserved, but was demanded by the Father's loving heart. The Father's nature would not respond any other way. The Father did not dwell on thoughts of how His son had mistreated Him. He longingly watched for His wayward child to come home, hoping he would learn his lessons. His mind did not take pleasure in dreaming up punishments, but He dreamed instead of lavishing gifts of love upon him and restoring him to his place in the family.

**The glory of the Lord** is His goodwill toward men. It's His caring for and about all. It's His absolute sense of justice. Which, by the way, always takes into consideration all the facts in a case. He is led by the Spirit of love for the offender as well as for the victim. His judgments are merciful, yet they deal with the issue perfectly. The glory of the Lord is His enormous mercy and benevolence. It's His long-suffering. It's His omnipotent power. It's His pureness, Holiness, righteousness. It's His unchangeableness. It's His gigantic genius. It's His love, light, and life. It's that He wants everyone well, prosperous, joyful, victorious, and has provided for believers to have this in Jesus.

**T**he Old Testament didn't come alive for me when I thought God was talking to a certain group at a certain time. When I found out He had it all recorded to talk to me now, it came alive.

**R**ighteousness is also a tangible thing. When God gives a new believer the gift of righteousness--His righteousness, it's His Spirit to walk through life by. Righteousness is to make the loving choice which is the only right choice.

**A** spiritual person is one who lives in a higher dimension where thinking is done on an eternal basis--relying on the omnipotent God. A dimension of giving instead of taking, of trusting instead of worrying, and of blessing instead of cursing.

**Truth is not relevant**--it doesn't change or adjust to the times, but some truths must be evaluated according to the times. These truths are relevant. Here is one: Determining the balance in things like how to dress appropriately, one must consider the mindset and fashions of the day. For instance: If it's a day of great conservativeness in attire one must cover more than in a day of liberal dress. But in both cases the Christian wants to be modest and godly in their attire.

**T**rusting in Jesus for salvation does not mean to trust His blood to blot out your sins while you go your own way. It is to trust Jesus with your life so that He can save you by directing your path.

**I** believe the greatest blessing aside from creation is that God made it possible for me to lose my lower life that I might have a higher life. Or put another way, He made it possible for me to lose my life that I might find it. Yet, it is one of the hardest things to do, because the carnal nature abhors the very idea.

**Y**ou know you have come to the end of yourself when you are attacked and you run straight to God, knowing that you can't save yourself--only He can save you. You realize that the flesh is above no wrong. You do not spend time and anguish denying that you are capable of such wrong or in proving that you are a good guy, you acknowledge that you are vulnerable to the liar and pray for protection, abide in the Vine, and follow the Shepherd.

**P**eople do not have to think of themselves as small, puny or insignificant in order to know God's bigness. He is so big that even if we were huge, He would be way bigger. He is bigger than the world. When people think of themselves as small, their God gets smaller and farther away. If you want to comprehend His vastness and His relationship to you--just know that He is as big as the universe and you are His little child.

**G**od is not so high that we can't touch Him, He's so high that we can touch Him. Being perfect in all attributes, He is totally approachable and it is totally reasonable that if we approach Him the way that He has said to do, He will receive us.

**G**od is greater than great, but it is not a lofty far off great. Because of His very greatness, He is very near.

**Vision:** being able to see the future through the eyes of faith and hope in God--expecting good to come as a result of one's prayers and obedience to Father's instructions.

**I**t was believing and acting upon a lie that caused mankind's downfall and it is believing and acting upon the truth that will save him/her.

**"I'll stand behind you,"** some good people assure you. But I found that when you are in a great battle, you need those who will fight along side of you.

**S**ome Christians sup with Jesus. Some even visit with Him frequently. But the victory lies with those who dwell in Him and He in them.

**I**f you are gold or silver the fiery trials will separate the precious from the impure. If you are stubble they will destroy your faith.

**T**he reality of Christ must be made manifest in order to be received. If He is not a reality to you--as a way of life, it will be very difficult for you to resist the world's view of things.

**F**orgiveness is not so you can still sin and still win--you can't sin and win. Forgiveness is so you can overcome sin and win.

**W**hen everyone's opinion is of equal importance, no one's opinion carries any weight.

**G**od is perfect in all things--perfect intelligence, wisdom, understanding, knowledge, love, goodness, and power. Christians, though having access to the super-natural, are still human beings and are very imperfect, very limited, even perverted in some areas. Then there is the troublemaker to hinder them and their carnal nature to drag them down. This is not a negative article. Those things were pointed out only to show that Christians, as long as they are in a carnal body, can not be perfect--not even perfect children. But they can have a perfect heart toward God. That's what they must have in order to be children of God and expect to overcome.

So let it be known that God is not expecting Christians to be perfect, but He does expect them to strive for all purity. Eph: 5:10 He does expect them to run the race according to the rules. 1Cor: 9:24 He does expect them to live by love and faith and not by fear or selfishness.

**B**y remaining faithful to God, I will become faith-filled.

**T**rue prosperity is to have access to all that you need and all that is needed to minister to other people.

**T**he blessings and prosperity message is in the Bible. The reason it sounds carnal and dangerous to some is that they do not realize the message of "yes it is yours" is for those who have been crucified with Christ and resurrected Christ in them.

**A**void the "what about me" mentality. Live in the "take up your cross daily" mentality and you

will walk in victory.

**No**, it is not true that God leaves some faults and weaknesses in us so we will lean on Him. The truth is that when we are perfected it will be because we learned to lean on Him. We were made in such a way that we function best when we lean on God. He will always be Father and will always be needed as such.

On the same note, God does not put trouble on His people to keep them dependant on Him. The truth is that trouble comes because the person was vulnerable in that area. God lets it happen so He can teach the person so they will no longer be vulnerable in that area. James 1

**Who** will be raptured? Those who claim to be saved? No. Those who walk straight before Him and in His uprightness. Isa: 57:1-2

**It's** sad to me that the Olympic champions are so admired for doing in the physical what God has called all Christians to do in the spiritual. Their achievements, a mere temporary triumph, are glorified while God is ignored. They speak of attainment, dreams, and hopes and the people including Christians are enrapt, yet it never occurs to them that God gave them all the equipment to conquer insurmountable odds in overcoming the flesh, world, and the devil. If only they would apply themselves as the Olympic achievers do. You need to catch the vision.

**It** has been said, God can't accept sinners into heaven. Well, that's because sinners can't accept God. One must accept God's rules for life and that can only be done through repentance. Rebellion can't get into heaven. That's what makes heaven heaven--it's because that's where God is.

**Good** intentions carried out by carnal efforts bring bad results. The devil deceives the flesh. He urges the one with the calling or good idea, who does not practice being led by the Spirit, to take certain actions, promising certain results, but the end result will be failure, nothing, or even disaster..

**F**ilth is filth no matter whether it be spiritual filth, moral filth, or material filth. Filth is the breeding ground for disease whether it be spiritual disease, moral disease, or physical disease.

**T**o proclaim liberty is to proclaim the whole council of God. I base that on what it says in James, chapter one. It says that the perfect law of liberty is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. He says this liberty comes from the engrafted word and that it comes by practicing it. Jesus says the truth will set you free. He says to continue in His word--that His word is truth.

Jas: 1:21: Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jas: 1:25: But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

**C**hristians must take a stand against sin, so that sin is bound. When they don't oppose sin, it is unbound--free to do its thing and promote itself, thus many more people and animals are hurt.

**I**t's strange how many have taken God's word for it that we should love our neighbor, but they don't believe God knew how to love His neighbor. They believe the Bible when it teaches that they should love, but they don't believe the Bible on how they should love.

I'm talking about the false concept that love always says nice or kind things to people whether they are true or not and whether or not they will truly help the person. Christians think they should turn a blind eye to a lot of things that if it were their own children, they would not. If it were their own children they dare not, yet they refuse to see or warn the Christian who is in deadly error. Love always does the right thing whether it is popular or not and whether it will make waves or not.

**A** dedicated Christian wants a deeper relationship with God. He prays, "Whatever it takes, Lord, I want to go your way--break my leg, take my home, whatever it takes to teach me." But when you come into that deeper relationship, you know that God doesn't break legs to teach lessons, He teaches lessons so legs don't get broke.

"Well, what about the shepherd breaking the lamb's leg to get it to bond with him and follow him?" For the believers, that was supposed to take place when they asked Jesus into their heart. If they didn't get the message straight and ended up with a broken leg and then they turned to God and He taught them to follow Him. Where is He to blame for the broken leg?

**Liberalism--** the false prophet has two horns like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon. What better way to describe liberalism? Rev: 13:11

**The** carnal person serves their flesh. The spiritual person serves God.

**You** can be emptied of pride, emptied of sin and still not be emptied of self. This usually means you love the Lord and are determined to serve Him, but you do it self's way, not His way. When emptied of self which comes from being a doer of all of the Word, God can come into your heart and work in and through you. It's Him or you working--it can't be both.

**God's** way is black and white, severe and gracious, tough and gentle, but it never allows for the carnal nature. God's way is to crucify it and replace it with a godly nature.

**The** Spirit which cries, "Abba Father" is a spirit that recognizes the Father and therefore practices trust and submission toward Him.

**Judging:** We are not to judge in the sense of looking down upon others. We are not to pass sentence upon them. We can and must judge whether they are walking in righteousness or not.

1Jn: 3:7 tells us we can know who are the children of righteousness.

Mal: 3;18 says we are to discern who serves God and who does not.

Prov: 20:11 says even a child is known by his ways.

### **Do people need God?**

Does a baby need a mother?

Does the created need the creator?

Do sheep need a shepherd?

Do students need a teacher?

Do children need a guardian?

Does a machine need an operator?

God is to Christians what a Father is to a child, electricity is to the TV, gas is to a car, fuel is to a stove, lights are to a room, blankets are to a bed, and milk is to a baby. He is essential--you cannot live the Christian life without being led and empowered by His Spirit and His Word.

### **We have been redeemed.** Gal: 3:3

In the great resurrection at Jesus' return, we will experience redemption of the body. Our spirit is already redeemed. We must now insist on living a spiritual life and on denying the flesh or carnal life that caters to its own desires, rather than to absolute righteousness, which is walking in agape love. Paul called the body vile, because it is animal in nature and does not care about right or wrong. The carnal nature caters to the carnal or animal appetites. True Christians suffer as they deny the flesh and obey the Spirit, they take their comfort and joy in knowing that once the carnal nature is brought under the rule of the spirit there is victory. And they know that eventually they will get a glorified body--one that is in harmony with God's Spirit. One that is immortal. Carnal is mortal and love is eternal.

**I**n Gal: 4:22-31 the bond woman represents mankind trying to do what God has taught them to do on their own. The free woman believes that God will do the works and all she has to do is trust and obey.

**Everyone will be resurrected**--those who refuse to have the flesh rule them here will be



free from its demands and the evil that goes with it, forever. Those who allow the flesh to rule their decisions here will spend forever being subject to its impossible demands with no relief. Rom: 6:5-8

**In** the beginning God's Word was to be a plowshare. Gen: 2:15 After Satan became the god of this world, God's Word became a sword. Eph: 6:17 (relate to Isa: 2:4)

**God is all in all:** Lucifer's beauty was God in him. Jesus' beauty is God in Him. In every Christian their beauty is God in them.

**Only** those who are tempted with evil are threatened. God is not tempted with evil and His throne is not threatened.

**God** is awesome and glorious in every way and it is not for us to just look at His glory and admire it from afar. He has given Himself to us. We can have God and live godly.

**Maturity** does not mean no weakness, it means no weakness operating. A strong person is not strong in every area and a weak person is not weak in every area. The devil magnifies people's good point to cause them to fall into pride. He magnifies their weaknesses to cause them to fall in despair. The Bible and the Holy Spirit help the Christian keep the balance and as they mature they learn to listen to God, not the devil. God helps them keep things in their proper perspective.

Each individual in the **body of Christ** has strengths and weaknesses. The body works together to strengthen the weak and cover the fumble. Each member of the body has specialize functions--each has a time to be on the first string and a time to be on the bench.

**Success:** Society would have us believe that success depends upon our intelligence, looks, personality, attitude, environment, upbringing, schooling, breaks, who we know, etc. But for a Christian, the truth is; success is truly actually based upon their relationship with the Father

and the Son. This is very good news for it means that they can have their dreams come true despite any negatives in the above categories. This means they can have their heart's desires not because of their attributes, but because God is God in their life. PTL!

**T**here is a spirit out there that causes one to think it terribly important:

ÿ That things go our way.

ÿ That we must be in control.

ÿ That we must not mess up.

This is high-pressure. The good news is that Jesus has provided a way for us to lay down that life and rest in God, knowing that things don't always go our way and we cannot always be in control of the situation and God is there to take over where we fall short. PTL!

**O**ne might say, "Jesus just did those miracles to show that He was the Son of God." That's right--agape Love always does what Jesus did and what Jesus commissioned us to do and that is to show the world the Father and the Son. We, as His holy body should be carrying on His work.

**I** can't live in two kingdoms. As long as my heart is in the kingdom of God I can participate in clean worldly activities. But if my heart turns to worldly things, I lose my ability to be heavenly-minded and I lose the ability to think correctly. I start to chaff about all the things that aren't the way I want them to be, instead of praying and leaving all that in my Father's hands, while I concentrate on living for Him.

In a nutshell, the Bible teaches that living outside of a agape love (the God kind of love) is to live weak and vulnerable. How does one live in agape love? By living a life of trust and obedience to God the Father. Gal: 5:14-24

**T**he hid treasure is brought out where you can perceive it when you go through the fiery furnace and the dross is removed. It is the outcome of suffering through the hard times with the emphasis on doing things God's way. The benefit is that God's ways bring the very results that your heart yearned for.

**The** key of David, which caused him to be the greatest king in the Old Testament was trust in God, a heart to please God, faith in God's Word, and knowledge of the power in words.

**Every** person who is Spirit-filled was self emptied first.

**One** cannot be converted until they despise their own way and fall in love with Christ.

**One** can receive the Spirit of sweetness and love without receiving the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge.

**Worthy:** People do not get saved because they are worthy and God doesn't love them because they are worthy. But once a Christian is in Jesus and He in them, they are worthy to be called the children of God. But there are things that the scriptures teach we must qualify for or be deemed worthy to receive because of God's love. No one who is not worthy will be exalted to a position of power or responsibility. One is declared worthy of eternal life because their works show that they really did put on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible declares those who endure to the end worthy of eternal life. Some will be accounted worthy to escape that which is coming on the earth, because they had the strength and ability to resist that which is coming on the earth and are ready to stand before the Son of man. This strength and ability comes from putting on the whole armor of God and standing against the evil day.

Matt: 10:38: And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Matt: 10:22: And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Lk: 3:8: Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Lk: 21:36: Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

**Humble** is not seeing yourself as nothing or as a worm or something, it is seeing God as all and knowing from whence cometh your help.

You do not have to consider yourself a worm in order to have a proper perspective of how weak, ignorant, and insignificant you are in comparison to God. Jesus died on the cross for you--you are not a worm. God reconciled you back to Him as His child--you are not a worm.

To put things in perspective all you have to do is look at God's greatness. He is all powerful. He is omnipresent. He knows everything. He never makes a mistake. He has all wisdom. He is perfect love. He is perfect. He never changes at all. Get it?

The Bible produces a spirit of humbleness--a spirit of submission to the God-head and a reverential fear and awe of God. To be an overcomer, a good witness, and/or an effective minister of the Lord's, these things are crucial.

**All is well because:** my God is perfect, my Father is perfect, my Savior is perfect and has done and is doing a perfect work. My High Priest is perfect therefore I am perfectly saved, as I cleave unto Him and put my trust in Him and wholeheartedly practice obedience to His will. I am not perfect, but because He is perfect I am perfectly saved.

**There** are many things that the world does that I don't do, not because I'm a legalist, but because I do not desire to do them. And I do not desire to do them because I made a quality decision to seek spiritual cleanness, purity, and integrity.

**It** has been said that God does not need us to defend Him. No, He doesn't, but people who don't know what to think or believe do need Bible teachers to explain how a good God could be in control of such an evil world.

**What** we all need to do to receive the promises is to receive the Messiah. This works in all areas that the church or Christians are having problems--we need to receive Jesus as our Lord in all areas. The Spirit of Christ is the answer to all our problems. He is the answer to all

of the world's problems.

**The good news is** that God is Love and Goodness. Therefore evil (harm) is not the conqueror. Evil is temporary. God is the most high God, His throne is established forever because He has no flaws, weaknesses, or corruptibility. He is perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness. The devil may have challenged His throne, but he was never a threat to God. To the great God the devil is but a flea.

**G**od is Good. Evil is not God. Evil is the inevitable result of being cut off from what God is sending forth, which is light, life, love, mercy, blessings, and all good things. Evil is defeated--it cannot last. Goodness is the inevitable result of a good God. Jesus is King. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the first-fruit and guarantee of the resurrection of goodness and life for all the earth.

**T**he inevitable result of God's work is the fall of Satan and the rise of the righteous kingdom. The law of sin and death has been defeated and conquered by Jesus and He is the first-fruit of a righteous people. Hallelujah! Sin is going to be annihilated. Evil will be swallowed up. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire. Jesus is King and Lord.

**G**ood is what flows from God and it must be received and given. We must receive good from God and give good to all others in our path. Evil is the effect that takes place when good is not given or when good is not received.

**W**hen God creates, it is good. It is the devil who perverts God's truths. Perversion of good is evil--harmful. Sickness is a perversion. Blood sucking insects, vicious animals, and selfish people are a perversion, to name a few.

**G**od does want His people well, but that's not the whole truth. The whole truth is that God wants all people well and that is why it must be done to the glory of God. God intended to reveal His glory and power through healing as well as to make the person well. This way

accomplishes the healing and establishes who has the power to make one well and keep one well. And He wants to fill His people with His power so He can use them as vehicles to get this power out there where He can heal and save.

Jn: 15:24: If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

It isn't that He wants to show off, it's that He wants all of mankind to know and understand that He is the source of all good things,

**C**hristianity is receiving supernatural love and applying it to all of life's situations

**T**he victory is to receive the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ in every situation. It is not in cleaning up our own act.

**I** thought judgmentalism came from a nasty spirit and I knew I wasn't speaking from a nasty spirit, so I could not believe I was being judgmental.

But judgmentalism is a way of looking at things--a habit of looking at things from our own point of view. So if you aren't hearing directly from the Holy Spirit, shut up. I mean if you are not sure that God would have you say a statement that could be taken as judgmental, don't say it.

**Y**ou can have a spiritual desire and yet be in the flesh in how you go about implementing it. You have to wait and be led by the Spirit.

**L**ove is exclusive--it excludes all things that are not love--hate, nastiness, gossip, impatience, inconsiderateness, deceit, fraud, manipulation, etc.

**H**uman love will sacrifice standards in the name of peace. The love of God will sacrifice self,

but not standards, in the name of love.

**T**he Pharisees were looking for a Messiah that was going to set up a glorious kingdom right before their eyes and they expected to be His right hand men. Instead, along comes this poor Galilean, a simple man with simple taste and teaches contrary to what they thought was godliness. They saw that Jesus did do many wonderful works that no one else had done before and they saw that He helped many people, but surely He couldn't be the one, after all, He didn't believe as they did.

**Long-suffering:** God will win because He is long-suffering. Love is eternal because it is not destructive. God knew that if Adam made the wrong choice, he would be in for a long period of suffering, but it would be for the purpose of bringing mankind to the place of permanent sanctification. This sanctification means to always walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh. This must be done voluntarily, because love does not force or coerce obedience. Yet, obedience to God's Spirit is necessary, essential if earth is going to be heavenly.

**G**od knew that through love and grace it could be done. God does not stop short of perfection in man, because only in that state--total willingness, delighted submission to agape love--can there be everlasting peace with no suffering at all. Because He is graceful, merciful, and full of loving-kindness, mankind has a chance to repent and they will, after their rebellion comes to complete fruition--revealing the total horror and devastation caused by their disobedience. Then they will be delighted, willing, eager to worship God only.

**Love is the power.** Flesh is the vessel, not the power.

**T**he power that gives light, warmth, life, and happiness is the same power that can heal, it is the power that produces good. There is no power anywhere that can overcome love and love can overcome any other power. That's why God is God. That's why He demands us to love with His love. If you love others as much as you do yourself, the liar cannot color the truth or turn off the light. 1Jn: 2:10

**Love** is the power. Faith is the receiver. And God's Word is the transmitter. Actions are the evidence and life more abundant is the result.

**N**atural powers such as; fire, atomic energy, electricity, gas, etc can be used to serve mankind if they obey the laws or rules of safety connected with them. It's the same with God's super-natural powers--there are God established laws that must be followed in order for His power to serve you and others. (God is good, love, light, life--His laws are based upon His nature which is to go about doing good.)

**G**od's fire is needed to purify. It is also needed to destroy the debris. So when one is on fire for God they need to speak His words, that the fire may spread.

**I** may not have enough power to fully obey God, because He brought me out (of sin and degradation), but there's great power available in knowing that it is through obedience that He can bring you in (to the promise land or the kingdom of God).

**W**hat must mankind learn in order to live happy, free, successful lives? They must learn that God's way is the only successful way. What will be proved in all this? That love is the only power that can rule everlasting.

**G**etting into the Word--spending a lot of time listening to God gives you power to go into action about loving and spreading the gospel, because through faith you can see positive results in your situation through reading about like situations in the Bible.

**Love is like oil**--it makes everything run smoothly. It renews the resilience and is an excellent source of energy. While burning it gives light and warmth and the fire will consume evil and purify good.

**Trying to walk in love without understanding** the nature of true love is harmful. The Bible supplies this important information. Alas! The devil has helped carnal Christians take out



the unpleasant aspects of love and operate only in what to carnal man is the pleasant portion. This causes mal-formation of the fruit, if there's any fruit at all.

One thing Christians really hate to do is rebuke, exhort, or disagree with one another. We want to be agreeable. We want to be nice. We want to love the person we are dealing with and to the carnal mind that means make them feel good or be happy at that moment.

**God** says in Acts 10:15: And the voice spake unto him again the second time; What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. Today, the benevolent attitude is--whosoever calls themselves clean, call them not unclean.

**It** is easier to be soft-spoken, amiable, and pleasant and Christians have Bible verses to back that up like--be kind, don't cause dissention or strife, judge not. Understanding knows that all these things must be done and all of them done in love. Love demands the action that is needed at that moment. The action that will have eternal value is the one that will meet the person's need long-term not just at the moment. We must be led by the Spirit and to do that we must quit being carnal Christians and walk by the Spirit.

**God, the great Shepherd became the sacrificial lamb.** Heb: 13:20, Rev: 5:6 This shows how agape love creates, teaches, provides for, rules over, suffers and dies for the objects of His love. He can become the sacrificial lamb or the God of wrath--whatever is needed to meet the needs of the people. Phil: 2:39 Our God is so flexible in His role as love that He can be sovereign majesty, sacrificial lamb, almighty God or Son of man. He created worlds and He washes feet. He is love. He does love.--whatever the job calls for.

**Love** is a person, not a law. But the law is the basis of love. This is why a person can be walking in love, but not appear to be obeying the Levitical law. The law can preserve life, but it can't give life.

**A** Christian leaving this earth is like shedding the garment that hinders them from

comprehending pure love. It's like shedding a cocoon and coming out the real person.

**I**f God calls someone to scrub floors for people, then that is their part in agape love and it is just as important as any job of the ministry. If God calls one to scrub floors and they preach instead, they are out of His will and are not in love and are therefore useless. Whatever God calls you for, that is your part in the effectual working of every part. Some are called to sit in prison for the gospel's sake and they may feel useless, but if they remain steadfast in the faith, they are doing a very important work. If they perhaps compromise in order to get out of jail to preach, they would be useless. Your most important job in and for the kingdom is whatever God has called you to do.

**I** see that many pious saints saw in the Word that we have been bought with a price and should choose to be God's bond servants. Because of their conditioning, they have therefore concluded that God wants **slaves** and they subject themselves to this idea. But since it is the devil who enslaves people, it is he that convinced them to live a life of service devoid of the Holy Spirit and the promises. God does not want to Lord it over us, He wants to fill us with His glory so that we can be a blessing to all on the earth. The bond in bond-servant is love.

**God's actions and reactions are not affected by His emotions.** He does not show anger until it is time to do so in the name of love. God's anger is the inevitable result of hardened hearts. Its purpose is to allow the inevitable result of separation from Him to occurred to teach the recipient that Father knows best and Father can help. Mal: 3:6

**T**he foolishness of this world began to be apparent after heaven as my real home, Jesus as my absolute Lord, Love as my only God, and my flesh as being crucified became realities. In order to think like God these things must take place. Also the Bible must be realized as the truth and reality even if all our senses say different. Many people think that a partial or a little of these things is enough, this causes retardation and deformities in the body of Christ. It works the same as a mother's body supplying wrong things and not enough good things for an unborn or infant child.

## **Problems?**

Fear of death--we have eternal life in Jesus.

Power to stop sinning--the knowledge that living in holiness means life, health, victory, good things, love, joy, and peace and knowing that Jesus is living in you and will help you.

Need to feel clean--faith in Jesus' blood.

A way to escape the carnal nature--the crucifixion and resurrection--reckon it crucified, believe you are raised a new person--one prompted by the Spirit of Jesus, instead of your carnal nature.

A way to love one others--let Christ live in you.

Feeling weak--renew your mind with the New Testament teachings.

Need answers--the Bible has them all.

Want security--God's Word gives that.

Want a refuge--God is that.

Need wisdom--God's Word gives that.

**I**n God's Kingdom there is no selfish nature. Our nature there is a love nature. You enter into the kingdom of God by receiving Jesus and His finished work--that is reckoning the selfish nature crucified with Christ and receiving the love nature--the gift of God.

**Y**ou win by worshipping God instead of your desires, yourself, your loved ones, your money, your body, your tools, etc. By worshipping God you are brought into holiness, peace, love, joy, safety, health, etc. Worshipping means loving, adoring, desiring, obeying, serving, revering, submitting to.

**T**he world's attitude is that this life is life, so let's live it to the fullest and have all the enjoyment that we can, because life is short--make the most of it. (Heb: 2: 4-15) So the flesh drives people to seek fun, excitement, good times, nice things, thrills, entertainment, and human love. Then when the person is run ragged and has frantically searched and in many cases, "tried it all," they find that their soul is hungry, their body is tired and maybe sick. They may have won in the world's eyes, but what fruit do they have? Emptiness and a feeling of futility and maybe even depression and a worn out body, maybe alienation from their loved ones. The devil then tries to persuade them to kill themselves and end it all or he tells them

that they are just no good or they are a failure and they might as well eat dirt.

Rom: 6:21: What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

But if they choose to seek God diligently instead, they will find life--the true life which is hid with Christ in God. They will learn God's way of thinking and doing. To the world they will look pathetic--they don't buy all the latest toys and doodads, they aren't allowed to have fun, and they have to talk about being good. But the one who chose God found spiritual life and now has fun obeying and pleasing God. They have fun helping people and telling people the good news. They are grateful and relieved, delivered, satisfied, joyous, and glad to be useful and have a purpose in life. They also enjoy the knowledge that they have a wonderful tomorrow--eternally.

**W**hen we are one with Jesus, it will be because we consider ourselves one with Jesus. We will love what He loves, hate what He hates, work for what He works for, and have His goals, ambitions, and desires. His interest will be our interest, His enemies will be our enemies, His hurts, our hurts, His joy our joy, His Father, our Father, His beliefs our beliefs, His habits, our habits, His love our love, His faith our faith, His mind our mind and therefore His power, our power. Let us lay down our life and take up His, then when we do things His way, we can expect His results.

**P**eople run to and fro seeking knowledge, thinking that with it they will get the sense of well-being they desire. They seek other things wanting a sense of well-being too, but a true and lasting sense of well-being comes from spiritual knowledge and that can only be obtained by receiving Jesus and spending quality time learning from the God-head--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**N**ot about us, means that our part is to have a broken and contrite heart and to tremble at His word. His part is to recreate us into what He wants us to be. Not about us, means we don't do it--we can only choose His way. He is the husbandman.

**S**ocialism will not work because it does not deal with the heart of man. God's social program is to change the heart of man--give people a heart to love one another. Those who receive a new heart will want to bless others. In God's kingdom people work so that they have to give. All those in the kingdom work and give.

**S**ome are now saying that we shouldn't bring sanctions against threatening countries, because Jesus said to love your enemies and feed your enemies. Prov: 24:17 and Matt: 5:44 Well, Jesus also said His kingdom was not of this world otherwise He would fight for it. Jn: 18:36 The U.S. is in this world and we are in the U.S.

**J**esus teaches us to resist the enemy not feed him. In Rev: 19:14-18, Jesus Himself goes to war and it's not to feed the enemy, but the birds. My intention is not to null and void the teaching of feeding your enemies, but to keep it in context. Jesus was referring to personal enemies that want to do us personally, harm--we have a decision to make--would it be the love of God to let this pass or would it be the love of God to teach this person a lesson? Those decisions are not the same as going to war to stop oppression. Isa: 58, Ps: 82:4

We must gather all scriptures about a subject and see what is being said. If Jesus hadn't done that, He would have thrown Himself off the pinnacle.

## Section Two:

### The Plan of Salvation

**D**id your god die for you? Did your god become a man and do the overcoming for you, so that all you have to do is follow Him and you can overcome too? Did your god come to earth, show Himself to be totally perfect and trustworthy? Then why don't you receive my God--He did!

**P**eople do not have eternal life in themselves--it is found in Jesus--He is eternal life. 1Jn: 5:11-12

**T**o receive Jesus is to embrace His teachings, to put on His mind--the Bible teachings are His mind, and to walk by His Spirit.

**T**he Bible doesn't condemn, it merely tells people what their condition is and then offers them the remedy and all good things. They are the ones who choose life or death, blessing or cursing.

**Sin** (choosing selfish desires rather than righteousness) put into effect the law of sin and death. That law says, make right choices and live, or make wrong choices and die. Love acted out, put into effect the law of the Spirit of Life, thereby cancelling out the law of sin death--an act of love bore death not His own, thereby breaking its power. This is how God solved the problem. Sin caused separation from God and love brought reconciliation. But the law is the same--one must live by God's Spirit. Accept Jesus and you are born again of God's Spirit and He helps you live by the law of love.

Gen: 2:16-17: And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (They made a bad choice--a selfish choice, an unrighteous choice.)

**Any** sin is stopping you from having more life. **The plan of salvation** is not a way for God to renege on Adam's punishment, it is a way to restore your choice. You can choose spiritual life or carnal life. You can choose righteousness or selfishness. You can choose God or your own way. You can choose to listen to God or the liar.

Adam chose self instead of God. His choice brought in sickness and death and all the bloodshed that has taken place in the world. Jesus chose God and denied the flesh and shed His innocent blood for the world--atonement.

**The** first Adam chose selfishness instead of righteousness and lost the kingdom to the one he hearkened unto--the liar--devil, Satan.

The second Adam chose righteousness and love and denied self's desires thereby taking the kingdom back from the liar by obeying the truth, therefore He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Now we have a choice. We can choose the Adam way, the flesh way and let the devil run our lives or we can choose Jesus--spiritual life, the high life and let Him run our lives. If you choose Jesus, you will be sorely challenged to please your flesh. You will have trials and temptation, but when it's over you will enjoy the victor's crown of life. If you choose the Adam way, you may have many pleasures here, but you will end up destitute of all pleasure and goodness forever after.

**God** is love. His justice is full of love. No, He did not have Jesus go through all that and shed His blood to satisfy His demand of death for sinning against Him. God's justice included all that Jesus did because God is love. The wages of sin is death is why we die. Jesus had to do all He did in order to counter all that Adam and Eve had done in the fall. Adam committed selfishness. Jesus committed the supreme act of agape love. Adam's choice causes innocent bloodshed. Jesus shed His innocent blood for the world. Adam hearkened to the lie and liar and disobeyed God. Jesus hearkened to God and obeyed. When we receive Jesus, we receive restoration in our relationship with God and restoration back to spiritual life. Our choice is restored. We can choose the Adam way and die or the Jesus way and live. The grace that

goes with this theology is offered only to those who choose righteousness.

Yes, one of those two--God or the devil is going to be your god. We are spiritual-beings, we are not a spirit as some teach. There are two spirit's--love and hate. Love makes choices that benefit all, the other makes choice to benefit self at the cost of others. A spirit-being has a spirit, but it is subject to either the spirit of life or the spirit of death.

**W**hat do people really want? Love, good health, pretty treasures, abundance of food, attractive shelter, safety, a fair deal, peace, joy, happiness, to be useful, to understand, to have something to look forward to, to enjoy themselves--all these things are from the Lord.

Now if you want lying, cheating, ripped off, gossip, illicit sex, aids, venereal disease, abortion, sickness, diseases, immodest attire, rape, lust, hate, violence, viciousness, drugs, emaciated body, fried mind, poverty, heartache, then you want to join the enemy, Satan and be his servant.

**G**od's power is in His Holiness--in His "absolute" goodness, love, light, and life. That's why the devil has worked so hard to cause people to fear and avoid being extreme or fanatical. To be extreme in an area that is already harmful to you is definitely bad, but to be fanatical about the things of God is a good thing. I know that because God teaches diligence, uncompromisingly righteous and Jesus was extreme about God--so extreme that He willingly went to the cross because His Father told Him to. Jesus taught a fanatical religion or way of life. Check it out.

**J**esus saves your soul--that's your mind, your will, and your emotions. He does this by changing your heart and direction in life, thereby giving you power to deny your flesh and do what is right even when it is really hard to do. Then in James 1:21 it says the engrafted Word saves your soul, because making right choices will save you from sin and death.

**J**esus was tempted just like all humans are tempted--tempted to disobey God, tempted to do what He wanted to do. The devil tried hard to trip Him up with the Word of God. But Jesus had on the full armor of God. He was ready. He had His lions girt with the truth. He had His



sword of the Spirit sharp and ready. He kept God on the throne in His heart and ruled over His carnal nature.

He loved the Lord His God with all His heart, mind, and soul. He hearkened unto God and not the liar. He believed God and not the lie. That is how He was able to take the kingdom back from Satan and that is how we reign in life and overcome.

Why was it God's will for Jesus to suffer, be ridiculed, and scorned? He had to be tempted to the max in order to deny the carnal nature to the max in order to set all those free who believe in Him. He had to totally put the flesh under because Adam and Eve gave into it--giving it ascendancy. It must never be in control, we must always walk by the spirit of love--the God kind of love. And so that all those who speak the truth of God's Word and thus inevitably suffer these things can know that Jesus suffered it also and overcame completely. He is our example.

I would imagine Jesus' suffering started when He came to know His heavenly Father and had to listen to the teachers misrepresent Him.

He suffered when His disciples were dense and could not absorb what He wanted them to know.

He suffered slander and ridicule, because the world and especially the religious leaders hated the truth.

He suffered as we all must in denying the flesh and obeying the spirit.

Then came the day of atonement and Jesus suffered all the hate and envy--the rejection, the slander, the ridicule, the spitting, the crown of thorns, the fists pounding, the knocking around, the leaded whip turning His back into a bloody mess and then the cross. That was the physical suffering the worst part was when He had to take the sins of the world on Himself after He had spent His life resisting sin and having nothing to do with it. And the very worst part was when He had to give up His Father's Spirit--the Spirit He had cleaved to all of His life.

His suffering had to be maximum in order to provide maximum atonement. It had to be radical--thorough--so that the one saved from sin can know that the price was paid in full and

nothing was left undone in the atonement. All that Adam and Eve ruined Jesus fixed. It had to be maximum to thoroughly take the kingdom back from Satan. He had to reverse all that Adam and Eve did. They gave in to unrighteousness, to the liar, to selfishness, and to the carnal nature. Jesus had to resist all of these to the max and commit total agape love and righteousness to take back the kingdom.

He shed His innocent blood to make atonement. He did an act to selflessness. He denied Himself and loved the world. Adam and Eve's selfish choice started or brought on all the innocent bloodshed in the world. It is all due to selfishness.

In the plan of Salvation, God provided everything that Adam and Eve didn't have and all that they did have to resist the enemy. We have Jesus, our Savior, High Priest, our Shepherd, and our example. We have the written Word---the ultimate instruction book. We have the five-fold ministry. We have the knowledge and experience of all those before us. Adam and Eve had none of this. Let's get er done!

Ÿ He provided the way to be born again.

Ÿ He provided the cleansing from sin.

Ÿ He provided the light to walk in.

Ÿ He provided the example.

Ÿ He provided spiritual empowerment.

Ÿ He defeated the devil. All those who hide and abide in Him will defeat the devil too.

Ÿ He is now seated at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest, interceding on our behalf, silencing the accuser.

We can do it!

**In** Jn: 16:11 Jesus said; the prince of this world is judged, He was referring to the fact that He, the Savior, by conquest would take back the kingdom and be ordained King and Lord by God. Therefore all stealing that the devil has done since then in trying to overthrow the Word of God will be held against him. He is judged. He did not get Jesus to sin. He therefore cannot be King on the earth. God has produced a righteous King. The devil is a defeated foe. PTL!

**God's** love is more wonderful than other loves, because God gives His children His all and He wants His children to give Him their all. His life is not separate from the believer's--He and the

believer work together to serve one another. He wants them to be fulfilled in every way and they want to share Him with others. He wants to live in and through them and they cannot live except in Him.

**No** one can earn eternal life, it's a gift from God. No one can work themselves into love. Love is eternal. Love is a spirit. It cannot be earned, it must be received. God gave His Son. One can have eternal life by receiving His Son. Then the receiver must rule over their carnal nature and subdue it. That's not how you can earn it, that's how it will be manifested that you have received His Son. It is the evidence.

**Good** and thorough teaching is very necessary, but if the hearer does not have a heart to please the Lord, it is in vain. Therefore if the call to salvation does not prepare the way for the hearer to receive a new heart, God's purposes cannot be accomplished.

What **true salvation** produces: Isa: 66:2: ...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

The true gospel of Jesus Christ creates in us wholehearted, sincere, and pure devotion.

2Cor: 11:2: For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

**The** Old Testament teaches that we cannot overcome temptation, but by His Spirit. Then at the perfect time--the beginning of the New Testament--God sent His Son so that we can overcome by His Spirit. God was received by the Jews and the Gentiles were shut out, then the Jews rejected Jesus and the Gentiles received Him and obtained mercy. Now the Christians are in unbelief so the Jews will obtain mercy. The Christians had everything going for them and still they did not rule over the carnal nature--they were fooled just as the Jews were fooled. The Jews and Gentiles will be on equal footing -- all of us are foolish.

Since all have messed up or missed it--Jew and Gentile, we are all in the same position--there is only one way to stop messing up or missing it and that is to receive Jesus into your heart

and let Him be your Lord. Why? Because He did not miss it and He did not mess up. Your merit will be Jesus in you. Your demerit will be your rejection of Him. Jesus will be our only criteria on judgment day.

**A**dam was a spiritual being in an earthly body. Some say we were put in this body to humble us. This is not so, we were put in this body to humble it--subdue it--bring it into agreement with God's will. 1Cor: 15:44-45

Mankind was given an earthly body and told to do righteousness. God intended for man to rule over his earthen vessel and bring it in line with God's will. Instead Adam and Eve did what the earthen vessel wanted them to do and in yielding to its desires, they gave it power in their lives. Jesus, on the other hand, did not yield to it--He kept God on the throne in His life. He ruled over His earthen vessel and that is why He is King and Lord. All those who rule over their earthen vessel will rule and reign with Him.

**There are decisions to be made when one considers salvation.** They must decide:

- ÿ To believe God.
- ÿ To receive His Son as their Lord, Savior, Shepherd, and High Priest.
- ÿ To give up the flesh rule.
- ÿ To step out into the deep.
- ÿ To trust God in all things.
- ÿ To seek God wholeheartedly.
- ÿ To set their affections on things above.

**J**esus is the believers' advocate--pleads their case

**J**esus is the believers' propitiation--paid their debt

**A** true Christian is always looking for a way to keep God's commandments, not for a way out of them.

**A** Christian's relationship with God and all the benefits involved are based upon a mutual trust, mutual agreement, and mutual co-operation. And in order to have good fellowship with

other Christians there must be mutual acceptance and respect for one another. This is another good reason why it should be evident and should be important who loves God and is trying to be a good child and who just wants to go to heaven when they die. The latter category are not eligible for this acceptance and respect that I am talking about. The bond is in being true children of God.

Mal: 3:15-18: And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered. 16: Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17: And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18: Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

**A** famous Christian Pastor writes: "The message brought by Jesus is; Tell everyone I will help them live. Tell them I love them and tell them they will never die." He says that is what Christmas is all about. And so it is, but so many are telling this and the world is not saved, why? Because there's a cross in there too and it is not talked about much except in terms of Jesus bearing it. But the gospel message is for those who will bear it too. **To follow The Way, we must start with the cross.** This is so important because this is where we die to self and are born of God, resurrected a new creature that will never die. Notice, the resurrection comes after the dying on the cross. No cross, no new creature--no salvation.

**The** Father image is all but eradicated in America. In the Bible we see a strong father figure among the Jewish culture. And we see God portrayed at a loving, but uncompromising most high Father with all authority and power. But in America the father figure image is not very impressive, not very powerful, not very forceful, and not very assertive. Therefore the generations that grew up under this father figure image relate God to that kind of father--one who says one thing but might mean another. One who promises bad consequences for disobedience, but then provides a scapegoat so that His children don't have to pay the price. It's no wonder the last few generations look at one who refers to the Bible as "the authority" as one who has two heads or something.

**Many** Christians today seem to think God sent Jesus so He could be handy if anyone needed His help. I read Christian Romance and in today's books the antagonist is usually mad at God

because of some tragedy in their life, until he or she needs God's help and nothing else will do and then they decide to be on good terms with Him again.

There is usually no mention of the antagonist repenting or being ashamed of their self for being mad at God, when He has told us that He is love and is totally trustworthy and that the Bible is totally trustworthy and that we are not to distrust Him nor to test Him. It is true that modern man is often tempted to distrust God, what with the traducer--the devil always lying about Him, but God is God and we are told not to live in unbelief and that He is what He says He is and He does what He says He'll do. To mend the relationship with God they need to comprehend their transgression and be broken and contrite about their behavior.

Jas: 4:7-10: Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9: Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

In the books, the antagonist simply picks his relationship with God back up and goes on. No one even knows if the person has met God's requirements needed to have a relationship with Him in the first place. It doesn't sound like it. God requires repentance and submission--a true Father/child relationship.

What I want to object to is the irreverence and lack of piety in this behavior. The true believer is dependant upon Jesus Christ for salvation, for a true relationship with the Father, and for their promised obedience to His Word. Yet Jesus is seldom if ever mentioned in their stories. There's no hint of man needing an intercessor or a savior.

God sent Jesus to save man from sin and death. His idea was to live in the believer's heart to enable them to live godly. His idea is far bigger than helping one person here and there now and again. He is creating sons so that He can save many, help many, and produce good fruit in an evil environment.

**M**any people think surely they will not go to hell, because they look around and see that they are more kind and less of a law breaker than others. But we shall be judged according to whether we would that Jesus reign over us. You say, "What about all those good deeds I did and what about all those times I resisted temptation to sin?"

Lk: 19:27: But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

2Cor: 10:7-12: Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's. : For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: 9: That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. 10: For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. 11: Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present. 12: For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

I say, "Verily, you had your reward." If you are not whole-heartedly endeavoring to make Jesus Lord in your life, then you do not desire Him to reign over you. And if you do not desire Him to reign over you, then you did those nice things for the earthly reward, such as men's approval or your own approval and you already had your reward.

**W**hen explaining why Jesus had to come and die for mankind, people are always trying to figure God out and figure out what He's getting out of it. But Jesus died to fix us, not Him. What God is getting out of it is to be reconciled to His children. What a believer gets out of it is to be born again back into the kingdom of God--back to being God's child.

**M**ankind will have no excuse for misinterpreting the gospel and scripture in these last days for God has already revealed His will for us in the books of the prophets. He did it before He gave us the plan of salvation.

Salvation from sin and all oppression is God's will. Getting the impure in heart into heaven is not God's will. The blood of the Lamb buys mankind back from death to life in God--it does not buy salvation for ungodly people.

When one gets saved, they enter into covenant with God. Heb: 8:10 is the answer--if God has put His laws in your heart, you are born again of the Spirit of God. If God's laws are not in your heart, you are not born again.

Likewise it is stated in 1Jn: 5:11: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

**Man** can never be righteous by obeying the law because the law is spiritually produced and must be done by one who is spiritually empowered. The law is love in action. Man who trusts in himself for righteousness is manifest as one who loves self first, selfishness cannot obey the law at all times. Only love can obey the law consistently. He who has the Son has life. Westley discovered this after many years of seeking.

**Here's a better one:** 1Jn: 3:7-10: Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8: He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9: Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10: In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

**God is no Indian giver** was the statement given to me when I stated that a person must walk out their salvation. The statement throws a person because Indian giving is not righteous. We shy away from answering because we don't think God is an Indian giver either. But salvation is conditional. Lev: 26:15,42, 1Sam: 2:30, Isa: 63:8-10, Jer: 7:10,15, Ezek: 20:37-38, Matt: 3:11-12, Hos: 2:9, 4:6, Rom:6:5-6, 8:9,13,17 10:9, 11:22, 1Cor: 15:2, 2cOR: 5:17, Gal: 4:7, 6:7-9, Col: 1:23, 1Thess: 3:8, 1Tim: 2:15, 6:12, 2Tim: 2:12, 4: 7-8, Heb: 2:9,3:6,14, 4:6, 10:39

Gal: 5:3-4: For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4: Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. (In context, this is talking about adding something more to what Jesus has done and is doing for the believer. If you add something more to salvation than repentance and receiving, you fall from grace. This means you are trusting in works to save you, rather than trusting in Jesus.)

**Saved by grace:** I have been washed in the pure blood of the lamb, therefore I am sinless under grace. This means as long as I am under grace, my sins are not imputed against me. I remain under grace as I will to obey God.

I turn away from the transgression and endeavor to walk in love in whatever area is giving



me trouble. Under grace my failures are not imputed against me. This means I am protected from evil, for sin causes separation from God. The inevitable result of being separated from God is that evil befalls you. Acts 2:38, 13:38-39, Rom: 3:24-25, 5: 17-21, 2Cor: 5:17-21, Heb: 9:12

This reconciliation not only means everlasting life, it also means I can reign in this life. Rom: 5:17, Isa: 34. Being reconciled to God means I am blessed as in Deut: 28, 2Chron: 6.

**Grace** works like the parent/child relationship. The parents are long-suffering and patient as they endeavor to teach the child, but they do insist that the child learn obedience. It's the same with God--some seem to think that under grace they can disregard God's Word and still belong to His kingdom.

You fall from grace when you harden your heart and refuse to turn from your sin or when you seek to get into heaven another way other than by Jesus Christ living in you.

These distinctions should be made by the church leaders every time they teach the gracious message. If this had been done and were being done, the above problems would not be prevalent.

**W**hen an indisputable sinner dies, most Christians put kindness on the throne instead of the love of God--they talk and act as if the sinner is probably or definitely in heaven. This behavior causes many to fall or never deal with eternity. Man cannot love better than God. He said the way is straight and narrow. If our behavior or speech suggests that the way is broad, we are not on God's side. Many stumble because well intentioned Christians will not speak the truth, because they don't want to make waves or appear cruel. Better to appear cruel to some and save souls rather than to appear righteous to men and cause many to be lost.

**G**od showed grace to the Israelites too. The difference is that in the New Covenant, God put this grace in us so that we can walk in it and operate in it toward others.

Grace was intended to give Christians the power to do God's will, instead for the most part it has been turned into a way to beat the odds--a way to get to heaven without doing right--a way to cheat and still win.

Grace is not a legal loophole. It is a way to heal that which is broken, to rescue that which is perishing, to save that which is lost, to give life to that which was dead, etc.

**Heb: 11:40-12:1** talks about the perfect time for Jesus to come. God had to wait and give man a chance to overcome by themselves, before He could send the Savior. He knew they could not get out of sin by themselves, but it had to be played out in order for man to get the message and doubt not.

Ÿ God had to give us the message of eternal life in no uncertain terms. He could not just say, you can't have eternal life without me because first of all man didn't comprehend eternal life and second they wouldn't know how precious and costly it was and thereby crave it without all this being played out as the Bible portrays the drama of man's struggle after sin entered and with it the devil.

Ÿ God had to let it play out in order to demonstrate the cruelty, deceptiveness, and hatred of the devil and the how, why, when, and where man could obtain and expect divine intervention.

Ÿ He had to show man the pattern of their thoughts and folly.

Ÿ He had to establish a record of His care for man despite their rejection of Him.

Ÿ He had to establish His great and precious promises.

Ÿ Then He sent the Savior who walked out God's instructions, showing mankind how to overcome and proving it can be done.

## Section Three:

### Living by Faith or Living Spiritually

#### **The Prodigal**

Love is not something that can be earned, it just is. Forgiveness is not earned where love is, it's the natural result of repentance. The Father's attitude of love and forgiveness, joy, and acceptance toward the repentant sinner was not deserved, but it was demanded by the Father's loving heart. The Father, by His nature, would not respond any other way. The Father did not dwell on thoughts of how His son had mistreated Him. He dwelt on hoping he would learn better and he longed for him to come home.

This is Father God's attitude toward all of mankind. He watches with love and longing for even the most hateful and cruel person in the world to realize the truth and receive His Son.

The attitude of love does not condemn, but it is ever urging us to do better, it is forgiving when we repent and joyous when we succeed. Many today think love is to overlook faults, shortcomings, immaturity, and ignorance, but there is no promotion of deliverance or growth in overlooking.

**G**od wants to give Christians His glory and in order to do this the recipient must be emptied of self. Be emptied that you may be filled. But the Christians are going downstream instead of paddling their way upstream. They say, "God understands. He's okay with this." He isn't okay with it. He provided life and the devil is robbing them of it. Then, in time, they feel robbed and then the devil tries to tell them that God let them down. It's the other way around. They let God down by not receiving what He provided for them.

Some people think that God has made a way for people to come in and I am trying to keep them out. But the truth is that God made a way for them to come in and I am trying to get them to take it.

**G**od is a Spirit. He is the creating Spirit. He works by creating. He takes any circumstance or

person that is placed in His hands and He begins to shape and mold and build, construct, design, and quicken, etc. While the object or circumstance is left in His hands, He works at the pace required or permitted by the amount of submission or opposition.

**Love** is eternal life. God's kind of love always does what is needed to give life, to build, to restore, etc. It is eternal because there is no death, no sin, nor harm in it. God's love in a person's heart enables them to see clearly. Selfishness is what clouds a person's vision. Love for sin darkens the mind. God's love in people shines forth giving light and promoting, producing, and projecting goodness, warmth, and marvelous energy.

**Jealous God** does not mean that God experiences negative emotions as mankind does when they are jealous. When mankind gets jealous, fear takes over and causes irrational thinking and behavior. God's jealousy means He demands our loyalty and obedience for our safety, for our good, therefore when we listen to the wrong voice, the wrong advice, He is jealous for us. He wants us to listen to Him and not to worship or hearken unto any other god or teaching.

**God** is the good Spirit and He lives forever and reigns supreme. But there are other spirits and they come into our heart and mind when we disobey the good Spirit or act in unbelief of the good Spirit.

The good Spirit created us to do good and spread love. He wants to express Himself further and share Himself more, through the "born again" process. That's where the person invites Jesus into their heart to be their Lord and Savior. When they do that, they are "born again" of the Spirit of God. Adam and Eve were spiritually alive until the fall. That means God, who is true life, lived in their Spirit. When they chose the lie and disobeyed God, they died spiritually and everything bears after its own kind, so all are now born spiritually dead. So by repenting of the Adam way of life and receiving the Jesus way of life, we get God's Spirit back and we have the same mandate--to do righteously. This is done by walking by God's spirit and not by the flesh or carnal nature.

Goodness, such as love, joy, peace, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are incomplete without being shared. They do not do good while suppressed. They must be expressed.

On the other hand, evil spirits can't do evil while suppressed either, so they too are seeking expression. But the good Spirit must give freedom of choice, whereas the evil spirits will use deception, bullying, or force to get in. This is why when man lives a merely physical life, he is affected by what his soul is experiencing. So when he or she lusts for something or gets afraid or aggravated or angry the evil spirits have opportunity to move in and express themselves.

A spiritual being, which is what people are, is not an entity unto their self. The spiritual being must choose what spirit they are of--the good Spirit or the selfish spirit.

The truth is that God created mankind a spirit being in an earthen body. He created mankind in His image and gave them a choice. If they would choose righteousness--walk by His Spirit, they would be His children and live forever. Rom: 5-8

If they chose to do what their carnal nature or earthen body wanted to do, they would surely die. In order to please the carnal nature or earthen body a person must either rebel against God or believe a lie. Those who listen to the liar have the devil as their Father. Those who listen to God have Him as their Father. Jn: 8:35-59

**The enemy:** When one gets down, the devil temps them with discouraging thoughts to get them way down. When one is up, he tries to get them way up--thinking too highly of themselves and their works. When one is afraid, he aggravates, encourages and incites fear in them. When one is disgusted, he agitates and encourages their disgruntled thoughts and coaches them into negative actions. When one is grateful and appreciative for what they have, he tries to convince them that they will lose it. He always tries to keep Christians off balance and/or double-minded.

Christians must learn to recognize these thoughts as being from the enemy. When God ministers it's like this--if one is down, He ministers thoughts that lift them up. When one is up, He reveals Christ in them as the only worthy one--to help them keep their balance. When one fears, He urges them to have faith in Him and His Word. When one is disgusted, He encourages them to remain faithful. When one is grateful, He reveals His glory in which they can trust. God tells us to be single-minded on the His Word, to be stable, and faithful. Now you can tell who is talking to you.

**Evil** spirits are spirits that do not operate in love. Since they don't operate in love they cause harm and since love is eternal and evil spirits do not operate in love they cause death.

**Your** attitude is affected by:

- ÿ What you see, so keep your eyes on God and His Word.
- ÿ What you hear, so remember what God has said, so you can combat evil influences.
- ÿ What you feel, so make sure you are practicing spiritual life.
- ÿ What you experience, so make sure you make God's Word final authority.
- ÿ What you learned previous to salvation, so renew your mind with the Word.

You must make an effort to be ruled by the Spirit of love, for the devil desires to have you and he makes an effort to get you to walk in selfishness or hate.

**Angels:** Angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister unto the heirs of salvation. Heb: 1:14 It works like this: when a believer speaks words that are in agreement with what God has said, they have angel power behind them. When they speak God's words, angels go into action to bring His word to pass for the believer. When they speak against the Word or contrary to the Word angels do not respond--at least not good angels--perhaps demons will respond and do whatever they are released by your words to do.

Notice in Rev: 17:1 John recognized the angel as being one he had seen in a certain group. Ps: 34:7 says the angel of the Lord is handy to the believer to deliver them. In Jn: 1:51 Jesus talks about angels being active because of what He was going to do.

If angels only respond to God's Word and the enemy is enabled to do his thing when people speak contrary to God's Word, this would explain why people confess so many things pertaining to fear and death--because the enemy has their tongue. Words such as: You slay me. I'd kill for that. I could die for that. I'm mad enough to die. I'm just tickled to death. I love her to death. I'm afraid I won't be able to. Doesn't that just kill you. I'm starved to death. I'm scared to death. I'm froze to death. He'll kills me. ...

## Spiritual warfare:

The Word does not say just put up with the devil, it says put on the full armor in whatever area you are being attacked, oppressed, or kept back.

Some teach that the devil is trying to get you to curse God and die, but really all he has to do is get you to believe that the promises are not for you and he has you beaten.

Eph: 6 tells us to put on the full armor of God. This is not a suggestion it is a must. If you plan to win, you will have to put on the full armor of God. Let's look at the believer's equipment:

- ÿ The helmet of **salvation**--You will not have the faith or strength you need to overcome if you are not sure of your salvation. When the enemy comes to you and tells you, you are not worthy of salvation or you are not worthy to be God's child or that you are messing up and God is ready to kick you out of the kingdom, you better have your helmet of salvation on. Why are you saved? Why are you God's child? Because of Jesus. He bought us. He intercedes for us. He represents us before the Father no matter how bad we might have messed up. I'm not talking to people who want to go on sinning and still go to heaven. I'm addressing children of God. These are people who have asked Jesus to come into their hearts and be their Lord and Savior and then they give Him the opportunity to do so.
- ÿ The breastplate of **righteousness**-- goes with the helmet--2Cor: 5:21 tells us that we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. We have not arrived at perfection, but we must hide in Christ--that is we must know that God has made the way for us to walk in righteousness and He sees us as righteous. He has cleansed our heart from sin. You are not to be sin conscious, but be Christ conscious. Trust in Him. Heb: 9:14
- ÿ You must have your loins girt about with the **truth**. This means you must familiarize yourself with what the Bible says about sin, about God, about what we have in Jesus, and about truth and error. The devil will try to hoodwink you, you have to know the truth.
- ÿ You need your **feet shod** with the gospel of peace. This is so you can have peace and live in peace with others. You walk in love, not fear. You walk in forgiveness, not holding anything against anyone and not allowing yourself to get offended.
- ÿ You need the **shield of faith** to quench the fiery darts of the wicked--these are the lies that the devil and those he incites use to stop you and destroy you.
- ÿ You need the sword of the Spirit which is the **Word of God** to fight back at the liar with the truth.
- ÿ You need the **prayers** of the saints too. This gives you added strength, protection, and deliverance.

**T**he power of deception only works until the person doesn't want to be deceived anymore.

**I** would sum up growing up as the time when you begin to understand and accept things the way they are, instead of how you thought they were.

**I** used to think that if I felt bad about something, I might as well share my feelings and thoughts with others. But that is foolish and can put you in disobedience to God. God tells us not to complain, but instead to be grateful and to praise and give thanks. He knows that complaining brings us down in spirit and puts us in a vulnerable place with the enemy. Whereas being grateful for what we have and giving thanks lifts our spirit and keeps us out of the vulnerable position. Remember that things we have were not owed to us, they are gifts and that the bad things are only temporary.

**C**hristians fail when their self desire rules over Jesus' desire in them. Selfishness is always lurking. Jesus has given us a Word to ward off all destructive desire. When a Christian overcomes, it is because they acted on the Word. When they fail, it is because they acted upon their own desires.

**E**very evil temptation has a counter victory in the written Word. The Christian's love from and to Jesus give them the power to apply the Word.

**T**he power is in God's words. If we speak according to His words, they will work for us. When we speak contrary to them, our words work against us.

**I** was going to draw a picture of God the giver and I realized that God already had. The sun always shines, always gives warmth and light and energy. The sun does not take life, but if the earth does not have sufficient rain, it may cause withering as we will wither spiritually without spiritual rain. If something is exposed to the hot sun for a while without a proper covering, it may melt or fade or dry out, so with us spiritually--the sun is good, but it is also



very powerful, so we have to learn how to approach it and how long to stay close to it and what the rules are to getting the best out of it and not getting hurt. So the sun is all the time shining and giving off warmth, light, and energy, but there are rules to be followed for safety's sake. The harm comes when the sun is not given proper respect and one does not obey the rules.

**F**reedom and victory cannot be found in making the Word of God say what you want to hear, it is found in wanting to hear what God has to say.

Also, you will never know God as long as you read the scriptures according to your experience.

The tempter couldn't approach Eve until she began to entertain her own desire which was in opposition to God's will.

**W**hen Christ was crucified, bearing our sins, sinful flesh was crucified for all those baptized into Christ. So they don't have to appease the flesh, for they are to consider it already dead and they are to live in the spirit. They do not wait until they leave here to act as if the flesh was crucified and themselves resurrected.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Mk: 16:16 The act of being baptized in water is to signify your death as you go under the water and your resurrection as you come up out of the water. You are, from that time forth, to consider your lower nature, the one that wants to do earthly things without regard to God's mandates, dead and know that you have been raised to new life--a life hid with Christ in God. This way of thinking is absolutely necessary in order to live in victory. Rom:6-8, Col:3:3

**C**hristians' main problem in trying to live victorious is that they divorce themselves from sin, but not from their carnal nature which is subject to sin.

**W**hy does He nail the written code (The law) to the cross? Eph: 2:15, Col: 2:14

Eph: 2:15: 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;--the written code was for the flesh.

When one becomes a believer, they enter into the crucifixion and resurrection --the crucifixion is to do away with the old man or the old behavior ruled by the carnal nature. The flesh is crucified and so is the law which calls for self-doing. For in Christ is the law fulfilled. When one is raised in Jesus, they will obey the law of love without the written code. So the law dies with the flesh, so it can be fulfilled by the Spirit. Rom: 6:4-11

Jesus told us to take His yoke upon us and He will give us rest. His yoke is to minister to people, meeting their needs--to destroy the works of the devil. It was an easy yoke for Him because He cast His personal needs upon God and depended on Him to be His source in all things. He took no thought for tomorrow and He was not entangled in the affair of this world. That is because He is meek and lowly--He does not try to do what He is not equipped to do. Matt: 11:29-30

### **Living Spiritually**

If you still want to sin after you received salvation, your baptism was a lie.

If you are looking for ways to get away with sin, the seed of God has not germinated--it did not take root.

If you're born again, you are seeking ways to avoid sin.

One must determine to love God with all their heart, mind, strength, and understanding to be enabled to stand any test. It is the key to faith.

A bumper sticker read: 1 cross, 3 nails, 4given. This message is not the truth. This simplified message leaves out one important facet--repentance. (Turning away from your carnal ways to walk in God's eternal ways.)

Faith in the Word of God transports the one who exercises it out of carnal thinking and into spiritual thinking, out of natural thinking into super-natural thinking, out of temporal thinking

into eternal thinking, and out of self rule and reliance into God rule and reliance.

**O**ur covenant with God is actually--you give me yourself and I'll give you Myself and together we will have it all. God gets the joy of loving, giving, blessing, and building and we get love, blessings, protection, safety, security which flow into all those around us, so we get the joy of blessing, loving, giving, and building and God gets a love relationship with His children.

**T**oday is always difficult, so the devil uses fear and despair to encourage us to make choices that will cause us to throw away our future. God works through faith and hope to urge us to make choices that will give us a good future.

**T**he devil does not have the power to take from us, he has knowledge of how to get us to pervert God's laws. When we do that, we find things being subtracted instead of added to our lives. We must acquire the knowledge of God's laws and how they work to defeat the enemy and stop the subtraction and implement the addition.

**T**o live the new life which is walking by the spirit and not by the flesh, you have to arm yourself with the full armor of God in Eph: 6:10-18. And then after you've renewed your mind with the Word of God and you've practiced having an awareness of Christ in you, then you're ready to let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify the Father.

In your daily walk, you are always conscious of being a good example and are always seeking opportunities to witness and/or minister to people--witnessing, teaching, encouraging, and praying for them. You find yourself shooting up prayers for people and about situations all day long.

When your mind is renewed by God's Word this is the way you think and walk as naturally as before you sought to please yourself and attract people and have them like you and make money to buy nice things.

With your mind renewed you will still be seeking to have things and to lay up treasures, but

you have learned that there isn't any use in laying them up here--laying them up in heaven is where they count. The new creature with the renewed mind dreams of the day of success too, but the day of success comes when you stand before the Father. This new life is by far more satisfying than living for temporary things for a temporary time--knowing all of it will someday be gone. Living the spiritual way . . .

ÿ You are pleasing God instead of yourself.

ÿ You know that you are gathering treasures that wax not old--will not perish or vanish.

ÿ All of life has meaning, there is no futility in it.

ÿ Your satisfaction is rewarding because you know you are doing good and giving life.

The flesh will still try to influence you, so you will still have carnal desires and impulses, but the spiritual person turns away from that way of thinking and being and walks the way the Bible has taught them to.

To be in Him is to enter into His life in God and to live and abide there. You can go in and go out as need be, but all your decisions and behavior is based upon your life dwelling in Him. You don't make decisions when you are out in a worldly state.

**T**he attitude produced by the Spirit when someone offends you with their sin or shortcomings is not to put them down or to have self-righteous indignation as the devil would have you do, but to think; there, but for the grace of God go I. I must add that this is the attitude to have to keep one humble and charitable, but it is not to keep them from speaking against sin or from speaking in love to the offender about their misconduct in the hope that they will turn from it and walk by the Spirit of God.

It is right to recognize others disregard for the scriptures, but now you must be retrained on how to handle disapproval. You must be led by the Spirit of God, not by the spirit of condemnation that you received from men.

It is not wrong to abhor evil in any form, but it is evil to deal with it in the flesh. One must deal with evil according to the leading in their spirit and empowered by faith in God. This can be done by believing and receiving God's love shed abroad in your heart and then obeying all of what the Bible says about love.

**W**isdom is to choose to do right., Understanding and knowledge is seeing the importance of a certain position and its relationship to God, eternal life, and the course of nature. These cause you to be more determined to keep God on the throne in your heart.

**T**ake no thought for the morrow--this is the winning way and it is a directive from our King. Take no thought--the devil is going to try to give you apprehensive thoughts about tomorrow. Your job is to reject all worries about tomorrow. It is true that those apprehension are possible in the natural realm. But you have access to the super-natural realm. Love (God) can change any situation. Faith in and obedience to God's command to take no thought will surely change the 'what ifs' in your favor.

**H**umans are dimensional--spirit, soul, and body--past, present, and future. This is the reason they can't stay at top performance at all times. The past does affect their thinking. Their level of hope for the future is important. But they must make the most of now. Their spirit must be in control, but their soul and body have a powerful influence on them. The Bible is black and white, but humans are not. God and the Word are the same way all the time. Humans are not. Christians must strive to walk by the Spirit, so they can be the same way all the time.

**T**he spirit and the flesh may agree on the problem, but they will not agree on the answer.

**O**ne can have a real concern or calling coming from the spirit, but deal with it in a carnal or fleshly way.

**O**ne can confess their obedience and faith, but if they are not doers of the Word as well as hearers, God is not able to work in them or on their behalf. When one is yielded and submissive to God's Spirit, He is truly their God and is able to work, create, restore, shape, build in them. Those who are hearers of the Word, but not doers are deceiving their own selves and will not benefit.

**S**o many times our circumstances cause God to be obscured from our vision just when we

need Him the most. It's easy to believe in Him in church. We must meditate on His Word day and night, until it is more real than our circumstances.

**We** become partakers of the divine nature (able to walk in charity) when we do the Word, showing that we believe the promises that deliver us from high pressure. 2Pet: 1:3-4

**God** comes and goes as a reality to most of us. We bring Him close by meditation upon Him, His Word, and His promises and then we become moved by what we see and He fades into the background and we are weakened in faith. Praise will put things back in proper focus.

**There** is no pat answers to how to react or deal with a given situation in ministry or witnessing. For love does whatever is the best thing to do or say at the given time, for that particular person or persons.

**Talk about upside down!** It is phenomenal how we get sorely tempted to destroy ourselves. I mean we get tempted to get into strife, or unforgiveness, or complaining, etc. and yet if we give in we are the loser. To obey God means we win. If we give in to temptation we lose. God told us how to walk in order for 'us' to win, not Him. He has already won. We are tempted to destroy our self. We must struggle and fight to do right and live. We are never sorely tempted to do right and live, we are sorely tempted to do wrong and die.

**So** often we read the things we are to do in the Word and we think that we personally cannot do it. Someone else can, but we can't. That's a lack of faith in God's Word. We are as much a candidate for God's glory as anyone else. This is how we receive God's glory--by faith that Christ in us can do the Word and then we walk it out--we obey the Word, always depending on Jesus for the ability to do it.

**Ezek: 39:4-29 and Rev: 19:20** lead me to believe that the sure way to be protected from captivity is to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. But many Christians receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and then relax, expecting godliness to just "be" in them. It is, but the flesh has power with

mankind and the mind thinks fleshly until it is renewed by the Word. Rom: 12:1

Many also receive the baptism and then relax expecting God to do all the work. He is to do the works, but we have work to do too--such as putting off the old man and old garments and putting on the new man and new garments. And then there's studying to do and resisting the enemy and temptation, remaining steadfast, avoiding certain people and things, protecting your heart, departing from evil influences, abhorring evil, submitting to God's teaching, laying aside old ways and old thinking, forgetting not God's admonitions, working the soil of your heart, planting the seeds, keeping the weeds out, and getting the required amount of sunshine and rain. Sunshine is walking in the light as He is in the light and rain is biblical teaching by the Holy Spirit.

**Walking** in agape love comes from submission to God. Agape love manifests after the recipient surrenders to God's way of thinking and doing. It comes especially sweet when it's in a area that the person really didn't want to submit at all. When they submit to God, agape love enables them to cheerfully do that which a moment ago they abhorred the thought of doing.

## **Boundaries**

Freedom cannot be enjoyed for very long nor can it be beneficial unless it stays in its boundaries. Today, we are seeing the United States being destroyed because people wanted freedom to do all manner of sin. They are tearing down the boundaries that love and truth established. In an expose of 2010 one can now see that in the U. S. citizens' haste and relentless determination to push back the boundaries, they have come to the place where, out of fear, they are ready to accept even more government intervention and control. They are giving up their God-given freedoms in order to be free to practice their evil desires. This will end in oppression if allowed to continue.

A parent must set boundaries to keep a child safe. One must stay in the boundaries of a free country in order to enjoy the freedoms. Health has boundaries. The sea has boundaries. Freedom has boundaries.

For God to live in a person, He has to be the spirit by which the person lives. When selfishness lives in a person it stops the flow of love and then the person will do or say

whatever their unhealthy emotion tell them to, within the boundaries of that one's particular training or culture. The devil is trying to do away with boundaries, for freedom without boundaries makes people useless and destructive.

Water without boundaries is useless for good and can become a nuisance or even deadly and destructive. Fire without boundaries is destructive. Fire within boundaries--under control can be used for many good things. Radio, TV, internet, CDs, all communication needs boundaries or there will be harm, confusion, and destruction. There must be rules and there must be leaders in any society or there can be no safety.

The United States' boundaries were based on the Bible and we had a very good form of government and we were useful to others and we became great and strong and prosperous. Oh, there were problems and faults because Jesus is not Lord of everyone in America. Selfishness instead of agape love rules many people, but because our government and laws were patterned after God's, we prospered. The enemy tries to get people to misinterpret the Bible and the constitution. Because God is no longer God in America, evil men are misinterpreting the Bible and the constitution and America is spiraling into more and more trouble and difficulty. All we need to do is turn back to God and do it His way and He will restore America.

God is the giver of all good things. He does not withhold His good, we get out of the blessing boundaries or something interferes with them and so evil happens. We, His children are not to withhold good either. God is able to keep the amount of suffering and destruction down through His people doing good and praying for people who are not in a position to receive directly from Him. Even little things like bake goods are needful. When we have no words of comfort and deliverance at least we can show we care.

A lot of worldly people do good works too--some because they are good hearted, some because they feel they are good people because they do good things and it's true that they help alleviate temporal suffering, but any works done by the flesh are dead works. Those who worship God seek to give eternal love and life as well as temporal help, thus God's people are making a difference.

**Benevolence** is for the ignorant until they have had opportunity to learn, for the saved until they have time to grow, for the oppressed to help them out of oppression. To be benevolent



does not mean that you don't call sin, sin. It does not mean that one should not inform the ignorant because the truth may offend. Nor does it mean that we keep the truth about illness, etc. to ourselves, because it may hurt someone. The truth may be a double-edged sword, but it is the thing that will set people free. We are to speak the truth in love. That means benevolence, in the case of truth, shares what is needed in the most kindest and gentlest way that it can be put.

**Kitchen Witches** were a fad in the 80s. Some churches even sold them to raise money for "good causes." They think they are just harmless superstitious relics from the past.

Perhaps churches today think kitchen witches are okay, because of the "law of liberty". But the "law of liberty" is to love God first and to love their neighbor as themselves. To hang a kitchen witch in your kitchen who claims to protect your kitchen is flirtation with the enemy. It is like a wife wearing someone else's ring instead of her husband's. It's a smack in the face to our Lord whom we are in covenant with--He is our protector. It's adultery. God said witches were evil. He said to have no other gods. Why would someone who was set free from evil and was reconciled to the true and living God want a witch to protect them. Is God too weak or small to protect them? God is a jealous God.

It is the flesh that makes jealousy wrong. God's jealousy is not sin, because it is an agape love response to a negative situation--God does not want His people to listen to, worship, serve, or spend time with the enemy or those who belong to the enemy. A jealous response by the carnal nature is sin, because fleshly jealousy is a selfish thing.

God says in Ex:22:18: Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live and in 1Tim: 4:7: But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

Oh yes, in the Old Testament, God did not tolerate witchcraft. Today, people who think witches are harmful and should not be tolerated are made out to be the bad guys. But the truth is that it was a loving God's idea that witches should not be tolerated.

It is true that the witch-hunt turned evil and people who were not witches at all were put to death because people thought they were witches. That's where witch hunting got a bad name.

**D**id you notice that the good things in life must be shared in order to be enjoyed? Love, joy, knowledge, understanding, wisdom, beauty. How about riches, a beautiful home or car, culinary skills, other skills, whatever--where's the joy, if the person who has it does not get to share it with someone? This too shows us the true God who is life. The God who created us, created us in His image--one of the needs of one created in God's image is to interact with others in a give and receive relationship.

## **Government**

After mankind has tried every form of government except agape love, (even Christian government is faulty unless Jesus is reigning all the time), then will come the end. But mankind will not choose to submit totally to the one true God until they have tried them all--until the liar cannot lie to them anymore. When mankind is made to submit to Jesus' reign, the true and perfect government will be setup forever. PTL!

The devil chose iniquity. Mankind chose to yield to temptation. God provides deliverance, but one can only stay delivered by implementing God's defense system. Therefore the devil helps people build their own defense system, ignoring God's way and then the devil lays it waste, because it is a lie and only truth will stand. Thus God uses evil happenings for good. Since mankind chose evil, God has to let them learn that they can't have it both ways--they can't have their own way and safety both. So the devil either pushes the person into God's arms or he destroys that person--it's mankind's choice.

**T**he greatest setback to spiritual growth is the false implication that you can receive salvation without dying to self and living for God. So all these people come into the kingdom of God and never obey the laws of the land. They are given a hope of eternal life through Jesus without any intention of becoming radically saved. Therefore they stumble in the dark for years and years until their desire to be truly saved surpasses their desire to have their own way and do their own thing and then God is able to help them. At this point they are where they should've been when they thought they received salvation. Obviously the workers in the vineyard are harvesting too soon. (Refer to Isa: 28) Does one harvest as soon as the green shows above the ground? Does one harvest as soon as the ear or grain appear? No, one harvests when the crop is ripe--ready to be used.

**G**od sees the future through His eyes of faith, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and experience. When He decreed the last days in the Bible, He was calling the shots--He was putting controls on the events that were coming on the earth--the inevitable result of man's disobedience and rebellion. He saw what would happen and put boundaries in place, thereby limiting evil and using it for good. The good is that all those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

### **Why the millennial reign?**

God has allowed every conceivable form of government to rise and fall to show that only the reign of agape love is everlasting. A thousand years ought to be enough time to prove that. That's why there will be carnal people during the millennial reign. It will be an earthly kingdom. It will be successful, because Jesus is incorruptible and He will remain in charge the whole time because He is undefeatable. The kingdom will still be growing and prospering the whole time because Jesus always rules by agape love.

There have been kingdoms that started out good such as David's kingdom and America, but always the enemy brings in corruption. He always does it by using greed, lust, or hate. But when Jesus reigns the enemy will be in prison and furthermore he already gave Jesus his biggest shot and Jesus overcame. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He can no longer be tempted with sin. He will always make the right choices.

The key word in this lesson from God is "eternal." Only a love government is eternal because only love is eternal. Mankind became carnal when they chose something that cannot be eternal. They chose a way of life that leads to death. So to become eternal, mankind must choose the way of life that is eternal.

The love of God can and does flow from anyone who allows it to. When Adam and Eve made their selfish choice, they died spiritually--love was not welcome to live in them continually, but only when they chose not to be selfish.

History proves mankind's ineptness in every generation. And history proves God's love and Jesus' success to every generation.

It's almost impossible to live the high life without the help of others. I've learned, over a period of time, that if you can't pull those you must be around up to your level, they will inevitable take you down some. Even though you spend quality time with God, your surrounding influences will have a positive or negative affect of you. What can you do? Wait for and expect the Lord. Trust in the Lord and do good. Ps: 37:3, 7 Having done all, stand. Eph: 6:13 That's the game plan.

2Cor: 12:9-10: And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient** for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul is talking about this experience: I glory in my weak flesh because when I realize that it cannot do God's will, then I seek God more diligently. I depend on Jesus more eagerly. I submit to God's way more quickly.

As I sought the kingdom of God and His righteousness, I begin to have a deep desire for Jesus to take over my whole life. I saw that He is the winner, the Lord of all, and life more abundantly.

As I quit struggling to do what I can't do and begin to desire single-mindedly for Jesus' Spirit to live and reign in me and do the works, I learn to rest in Him, instead of wrestling with my carnal nature all the time.

It is easier to forgive someone for what they did than it is to forgive someone for what they are doing. Having done all you can to forgive, you must stand--refuse to give ground, having on the full armor of God.

Emotional fears cannot be reasoned with. You must use tough love or brute force--let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Give it no place. You may not feel free, but

believe it--you are free in Jesus.

### **Cycle of Life - Seasons of a Christian experience:**

Spring - a new understanding takes root--the person comes alive- grows

Summer - full bloom--produces

Autumn - enthusiasm wanes, production dwindles

Winter - downtime

Spring - another new understanding or rejuvenation of the old

### **What does the Bible mean to you?**

If you believe God and seek to renew your mind and be recreated into the likeness of Jesus, it's your life. It's the place with the answers, if you want to know God

ÿ It's your letter from God about Him.

ÿ It's your hope for tomorrow.

ÿ It's your strength for today.

ÿ It assures you of forgiveness for yesterday.

ÿ It tell you how to succeed in life.

ÿ It teaches you how to be holy.

ÿ It has the answers that will set you free from bondage.

If people believed God they would be lapping up the words of the Bible because God says:

Rom: 8:6-7: 6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

How could you claim to walk in the light if your mind is at enmity with God?

**I** have searched for sanity in many places and the Bible is the only place where I found something to believe in and true hope for tomorrow.

**We** are not to excuse the "it is written"--we are to accuse and excuse according to "it is written".

**A**lthough we have the whole Bible--a balanced picture, yet the mass of people always pick the fruits that look good to them and leave the rest.

**T**he Old Testament is the foundation for the New Testament. It is the vesture dipped in blood--the lessons learned in it were at the expense of the Israelite--their blood was shed for our learning.

**C**ould one of the problems with Christians be that their perception of God is based more on who they are rather than on who God is? The remedy is for them to get their perception from the Bible and not from their own resources or understanding. And one must be familiar with the stories, teachings, and history of the Old Testament as well as being well verse in the New Testament in order to have an accurate perception.

An accurate interpretation of what God is saying is acquired as one practices living by every word of God. Matt: 4:4

**W**isdom from the Bible teaches you about life..

ÿ How to handle it.

ÿ How to have it.

ÿ How to live it.

ÿ What it is all about.

## Section Four:

### Sowing and Reaping or Faith

**T**he Word is the seed.

The Holy Spirit is the rain.

Love is the light, warmth, and energy.

Faithfulness will insure an abundant harvest.

**J**esus says, My words are spirit and they are life. Jn: 6:63

God says, My words are life to those that find them and health to all their flesh. Prov: 4:22

God says the engrafted Word will save your soul. Jas: 1:21

God says the Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation. 2Tim: 3:15

God says the Word is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts: 20:32

Why do so many Christians think they only need to go to Sunday School and Church to be safe from evil?

**T**here is a weeding out in the church that must be done. 1Cor: 5:11 and Matt: 13. Zech: 14:21 tells us there will be the insincere among us, but we are not to tolerate the sins of 1Cor: 5:11.

Jesus did teach us that there would be tares in the wheat and told us not to root them out now, lest we do damage to the wheat, but 1Cor 5:11 and 1Tim: 3, to name a couple of places, tell the church to weed out the intentional sin.

**W**hy don't people want to hear these precious truths? It is because if they believe them, they must also do them.

**In** order to reap a glorious harvest you must sow abundantly in all areas.

ÿ Sowing the Word in your heart.

ÿ Sowing your money into the gospel and to the poor.

ÿ Sowing good deeds among the needy.

ÿ Sowing the truth in the hearts of others.

ÿ Sowing God's love in all that you touch.

Jn:12:24: Except a kernel of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit.

Mk: 4:26-29: And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27: And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28: For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29: But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

One must receive the love of God in order to give love God's way. In order to walk in charity at all times, one must love their neighbor as their self. This can only be done in fullness when one knows that God loves them, that He is in complete control of their lives, and that He is lovingly caring for them in every circumstance. That may sound easy, but it's not. It takes planting and reaping. Experience as well as knowledge. Jn: 17:11

## **Due Season**

A half-grown ear of corn does not have the power to attract, power to please, power to nourish, and the power to increase profit that a full grown ear of corn has. I am relating half-grown faith or knowledge or whatever to an ear of corn. I never thought of an ear of corn having power until now. I always thought of power as being judicial, legislative, or executive.

The half-grown ear must abide in the sunshine and rain and fertile ground and it must have someone to keep the weeds and the thorns out in order for it to grow up into a powerful ear of corn. And it must have time to grow to due season, then it will have power. So it is with faith.

Getting into the Word--spending a lot of time listening to God gives you power to go into



action about loving and spreading the gospel, because through faith you can see positive results in your situation because you read God's promises and encouragement and about like situations, in the Bible.

When you are away from the Word for a while the experiences of the flesh causes faith to subside and you begin to think carnal about situations and endeavors--the Bible way begins to seem unreal, your faith is weakened, and you begin to doubt or waver about what action to take. Doubt causes you to sit tight and do nothing.

**Don't** expect to defeat the devil without putting on the full armor of God.

**The** veil of the flesh must be rent in order to see the truth. When this is done, you can see plainly through God's Word that many things people do are wrong. The more you are in the Word the more you see of truth and the more radical to the world, you become. It is what happens when one is sanctified by the truth. Jn:17:17

Still, when you try to proclaim the truth and you meet with opposition, their reasoning sounds good and you are tempted to see it their way. You may go through doubt, such as--maybe you are being unreasonable.

You are vulnerable despite your sanctification, because you are united with your own flesh and it is carnal. Also because you are flesh and blood, you desire to be like-minded with others. This is the reason why you must meditate in the Word day and night.

The flesh is at enmity with God. Rom: 8:7 Every time we let our flesh control our thinking we become blind to the truth. The liar is the ruling power in the flesh realm.

**T**here are many people who have decided to do what is right, but because they are so busy they never have time to spend with God and His Word and they are therefore not trained in the things of the Lord, so they practice man's ideas of what God wants done and how to do it.

**If** you do not take time to sit in God's schoolroom, you will not be trained in righteousness. The world is training all the time. No matter where you go or what you do the philosophies of the world will be being proclaimed or spoken, but to hear from God you must set all that aside and listen to Him in His Word.

**If** a person truly believed that the Bible would give them the living way and life more abundant, would they not dive into it?

**If** a person believed that God wanted to and would give them truth and understanding and that these things are vital to their well-being, would they not dive into it?

**If** a person believed that they could get all the answers to life and living if they studied the Bible, really wanting to know what God had to say and how it works, would they not dive into it?

**If** you believe that God is your provider, you will go to Him and ask for His provision and follow His instruction on how to receive His bounty.

**If** you believe God is your Savior, deliverer, healer, He will be the one you seek when you are down.

**If** you believe God is the source of life, light, joy, peace, satisfaction, strength, etc., you will seek Him.

**If** you believe that God will teach you His ways and make you a winner, you will study and apply His Word.

**If** you believe that Jesus did combat with the devil and came out the winner and is therefore

King, then it's only smart to serve the King rather than the defeated one.

**I**f you believe the carnal mind is at enmity with God and that God is life, light, and love, then you will be glad to have it crucified so that you can have resurrection life with Jesus, the winner living and reigning in you.

**I**f you don't believe these things, then you must seek these benefits from other sources and work to obtain them some other way.

**G**od lives by faith and we have to learn to live that way. God and the devil both told Adam what would happen if he acted a certain way. Adam had to choose who he would believe. God believes His word will come to pass because He knows the power of love and the laws of life and He speaks within them. He has the formula, He expects it to work and it does. We have the formula through Jesus. We must live by faith in God and expect it to work.

**T**he following is in this sowing and reaping section because it is dealing with sowing to the flesh and what happens if you do.

The world's entertainment is merely a perversion of the truth. In the world men are heroes and utopia is man-made and the super-natural is conjured up at man's desire and so forth, but in the real world--God's world, God in three persons is the hero and the utopia is the place here where all trust and obey God and the super-natural does good as the people of God beseech God to act in the situation.

The difference is that the world wants to run their own affairs, but the truth is that God is good and man is subject to a higher power, whether it be the good power or the bad power. Man is not an entity unto themselves. The sooner this truth is learned the sooner one can get on with the real dream of utopia, that being a heavenly earth because God's will is done.

Christians need to have a mindset of taking everything to God in prayer and trusting Him to see that righteousness and justice prevail. Entertainment has wet their appetites for "getting even." Many plots are about "getting even" and they feed their base nature by having the bad

guy exaggeratedly do things that people hate and showing the pain of the victim graphically, arousing their sympathy until the audience lusts mightily to see the bad guy or gal get theirs. The victim's efforts to get even are dramatized, feeding the incited lust and the climax is so satisfying.

Rom: 12:19: Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Actually, the getting even mentality is a pride thing. Pride is the liar who causes people to think they can play God. To practice doing your own thing, to be unforgiving, to judge others, to get even, to make everyone live as you think they should, to try to be your own god--deeming what is good for you other than what God has said or deeming your ideas more attractive than God's--all these things are from pride--that idea that you are the one who must take care of it or should take care of it. Thinking you know more than you do. Believing you are qualified to carry out actions that only God is qualified to do righteously and justly.

**A**ll the new thoughts of the day, all the so called enlightenment that we are experiencing in this day and age are not new at all. Every one of them is a rejection of God's Word. Sexual freedom, don't discipline your children, animals are as important as people, vain philosophies, manipulate to get your own way, the list goes on. All of it is to alienate mankind from God and His Word. All who believe that stuff think the Word is archaic.

**T**he world hated Christians for thinking black and white. Then, they were accused of being small-minded. And now global condemnation comes saying they are exclusive and prejudice. Jesus answer:

Matt: 10:25: It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

We are exclusive and prejudice. We want to exclude sin, suffering, and death. We are prejudice in that we believe God knows what He is talking about, so we received His thought before even hearing the world's side of the issue.

**P**eople born of the Spirit of God must get their nourishment and training from God and His

Word. They need more than just a snack or a treat of the Word. Just as a baby is endangered by foreign matter that it is exposed to or fed in the womb, so the Christian must be careful not to eat spiritual food that is not from God. Food can poison the body that God made and teachings that are not from God will poison the Christian. Also if a person eats mainly junk food for a length of time their body will become weak, sickly, deformed, and or retarded. So it is with the Christian who feeds on junk and neglects the banquet table that God has provided--every Word of God. The Bible must be their main and frequent food.

**T**hose who hearkened unto the call of God to get ready have been in combat training, while the ones who chose to continue sleeping have been going through the nightmares along with the rest of the world. The world's bad news strengthens fears and weakens faith. The ones in combat training are in the Word and therefore see what God is doing and how He is doing it and what they are to do and how they are to do it and what the devil's doing and how to beat him.

**Y**ou cannot administer God's love without ministering His word--all of it.

### **Stumbling blocks:**

When we counsel others we must be endued with the spirit of love, wisdom, and knowledge. It is not good to minister truth without all of these present. Isa: 11:2

In Matt: 16:2 Jesus said: Get thee behind me Satan. Thou art a stumbling-block unto me, for thou savorist not the things that be of God but the things that be of men.

Isa: 57:13-15 says: When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain; 14: And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people. 15: For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Therein lies the key to walking in God's ways--savor the things that be of God. Savoring the things of men and not of God is a major stumbling block. Eve fell because she wanted to taste that fruit and she wanted to be wise. Adam fell because he did not want disharmony

with his wife.

**T**he fruit of the Spirit is not something you get for always because you subjected yourself to God. It's something you get each time you subject yourself to God. As one grows, one gets this fruit in a greater measure each time until at last they show mature fruit.

### **Faith:**

You believe for the manifestation of your healing, deliverance, whatever you are believing for. You wait for and expect it. You've been planting and watering the Word in your heart. You look for the answer at any moment, but nothing happens. That's okay. Get back in the Word, trust God--He is teaching you and preparing you. He is working to enable you to receive your answer. When the moment comes, you'll know it. A lot could be happening, but it's behind the scenes and you can't see it.

Jesus said in Mk: 4:26-29: And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27: And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28: For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29: But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

Faith is a seed. It must be planted in good, well-prepared soil. It must be guarded, weeded, watered and be given lots of sunshine. There is a time for planting and a time for harvest.

With faith comes: endurance, hope, long-suffering, action, godly speaking, a calm spirit, and words of encouragement.

With fear comes hate, distrust, jealousy, envy, violence, inaction, illness, ungodly speech, frustration, anxiety, and meanness.

**T**he powers such as atomic energy, fire, gas, electricity and so forth are a blessing, if the laws concerning them are obeyed, but those same powers can do much harm and even kill, if the laws that bring blessing are not obeyed--it's the same with God's love.

God's love and blessings are offered to all, but the laws concerning them must be obeyed in

order for the blessings and benefits to be received. This is why Jesus urges people over and over to obey God. That's how it works. God's laws are given so that He can give the blessings. The blessings are the inevitable result of obeying the rules of love. The wrath is the inevitable result of refusing to obey God's rules of love.

**G**od confirms the Word with signs following. This means His disciples proclaimed His truths and He saw to it that the evidence manifest.

The devil has counterfeit miracles to convince you that he is telling the truth.

The way to be protected is to know that it is all about the Word, and God had the truth written down in what we call the Holy Bible, so our anchor is the written Word. Know that if what the one doing the super works is speaking is contrary to the Bible, he is a con-man. He is not for real.

**N**o matter how mature you are or how many victories you've had, the devil still tests you or challenges you to deny the Word in each faith requiring situation.

**F**aith is the substance of things hoped for--the evidence of things not seen. Heb: 11:1 You must become a child of God, then act like a child of God and eventually it will manifest that you are a child of God. This applies to many faith challenges in life.

**M**any times enlightenment or confirmation comes after you have gone through a period of doubting and have settled down to trusting in the Lord again.

**A** difference: If you receive only the God being taught today, you might make it, but if you seek God diligently in the spirit of truth in His word, you will find a God who makes all things possible to him that believeth. Soon, you'll not only believe you can overcome, but no one will be able to convince you that you can only muddle through, because you know that complete victory has been provided.

**Y**ou must have faith in the crucifixion in order to defeat the carnal nature. You must have faith in the crucifixion and resurrection in order to walk by the spirit and not by the flesh.

**I** cannot be fully obedient to God because He brought me out, but I can be fully obedient to Him because He is bringing me into fullness of life.

**T**o handle situations the way God does, you do not call things that need changed as they are. You do not call things that are, as though they are not. But you do call things that are not as though they are, if God has said they are. For example, God called Abraham the father of many nations before he was even a father.

**T**he law of faith is--Be it unto you according to your faith, and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto you, and all things are possible to him that believeth. Paul is saying; if you receive your gift of righteousness and believe that you are made righteous, you will act as if you are righteous instead of acting as if you are a "mess-up". Rom: 3:27

**S**ince I worship one God--the most high God, I win in every test and trial. That's the message, but there is a dilemma. There are evil influences, forces, and spirits in-between us and the most high God. That is the problem. But the answer is that God came down and raised us up to sit with Him in the heavenly places.

Eph: 2:4-6: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6: And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

The battle must be fought by faith. The principalities and powers of darkness want to come between us and God. They want to separate us. Jesus reconciled us to God. The enemy wants to separate us from God. So do not be appalled or surprised that there are fiery trials. The liar is trying to come between you and God.



**F**aith works by love. Just as a machine must be plugged in to work, we get plugged in to God's supply by exercising faith in God's words. The faith is nurtured by our love relationship with God. Often we are tempted to faint, but we think about who we are believing and what He has done and we go on trusting Him. We exercise faith in God's words of encouragement and comfort and in His promises and commandments. We then behave in a manner that shows we believe God's words, instead of our circumstances, instead of our emotions, instead of our friends, and instead of the liar who incites to worry. Gal: 5:4-6

When we do this the love commandment is easy to obey--we have a vision of growing more like Jesus and we have high hopes of overcoming and prospering in all areas. This gives us power and energy and causes us to seek more diligently to see God and see how to overcome and then we apply what we see to our lives.

**F**ear comes from perceiving things with our five senses and believing mainly in our own resources. It's perverted--we were created to perceive a situation through spiritual understanding with God as our source. This perception quickens faith.

**I** believe that God responds primarily to our faith, especially when it is verbalized. I believe Heb: 11:1 teaches that faith is the substance of things hoped for. Substance is what you use to obtain what you desire--such as money is the substance to buy what you desire to buy.

**J**esus said if we are ashamed of Him and His words, we will not be joining Him in His kingdom. We show that we are not ashamed of Him and His words by speaking out and standing for the truth.

**J**esus teaches us in Mk: 11:23 as well as other places that we can have what we say, but we must be living in the kingdom of God by faith to have this empowerment.

**I**n 1980 the hyper-faith bunch was warned by the general presbytery that to teach that we can have what we say makes it appear that man is sovereign and God is subject to us or is our servant. Gordon Connelly, in a 1979 Evangel, called their teaching an alien gospel.

But the Bible says: Prov: 5:2, 10, 19, 10:13, 14, 13:3, 14:30, 17:27, 18:6, 7, 18:21, 21:23, 22:12, 15:32, Ps: 12:4, 15:2, 17:4, 19:14, 34, 37:30, 39:57, 54:64, 100:5, 145:21, Isa: 3:8, 14:32, 44:26, 50:4, 58:13, 59:13, Jer: 8:6, 17:16, Lam: 3:37, Hos: 7:16, Matt: 36:37, Mk: 12:13, Rom: 4:17, 21, 10:10, 1Tim: 5:13, Jas: 3, 1Pet: 4:11

I don't know how man can figure that it takes God's sovereignty away to obey Him and live life by His rules that He gave us so that we could rule and reign in life as He told us to. Rom: 5:17

**I**f our Christian faith is not exercised, it wanes. Demands and opportunities give it exercise. We must seek opportunities to tell of God's glory and to have it displayed in us. If events distract us from the glory of God, the wonder of salvation, and the Lordship of Jesus, our excitement wanes. If we do not get to share our discoveries, we lose interest in them. If we do not take a stand for righteousness and against sin, we get weak. If we do not resist unrighteousness, we succumb to it.

**T**True rest comes from knowing that God is your Father and trusting Him in that role. It comes from knowing that Jesus is your Shepherd and trusting Him in that role. It comes in knowing Jesus is your Savior and trusting Him in that role, etc. True rest is in knowing all the offices of God and Jesus and trusting them in their role. They fulfill their offices, the Christian's job is to trust and obey.

**A**s long as mankind relies upon his own resources, they will never get to the place where they can receive the Holy Spirit power to do it.

**W**hen God is on the throne in a Christian's heart they can and will walk by faith. When self is on the throne they will lose heart every time.

**A**s one draws nigh unto God, they are drawn out of the world. Some come out of the world without drawing nigh unto God, but they have nothing to offer.

**A**s long as mankind relies upon his own resources, they will never get to the place where they can receive the Holy Spirit power to do it.

**C**hristianity cannot be rightly practiced unless the practitioner is willing to give up today and live by faith in God's promises for tomorrow. If you do not center up on God's Word about the future, you cannot be an overcomer today.

Upon conversion, a Christian must immediately start living and acting according to their hope for the future, instead of how they feel today.

The thing to note about mankind is that they are mortal. The thing to note about the sons of God is that they are eternal. The former are led by the dictates of the flesh, the latter are led by the Spirit.

I could not receive the renting of the veil, nor have victory over sin, nor did I have a whole-hearted desire to please God His way, until I found that His way would not only get me to heaven, but it would bring me out of Egypt and into His kingdom now. Then the Bible became a "How to win" book instead of a "Thou shalt not" book.

**To overcome you must believe:**

- ÿ God is the only God and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- ÿ Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ--the Savior and that He remained sinless and bore our sins and died and was resurrected from the dead and is sitting at the right hand of the Father, representing believers..
- ÿ Jesus overcame under temptation and that He lives in you and will help you overcome temptation.
- ÿ God provided salvation from sin and that you are under grace.
- ÿ God's Word rather than your circumstances and surroundings.
- ÿ Man has been corrupted and that the heart is deceitful and that all flesh is grass, meaning that you don't have it in you to be righteous without God's Spirit within you.
- ÿ You must be 'born again' of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God.
- ÿ God is love and love is eternal and that eternal life is given to you through Jesus living in you.
- ÿ Jesus is the great High Priest, the good Shepherd, the forerunner of your salvation, the

Way, the Truth, and the Life, the sacrificial lamb, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Ÿ Sin doesn't pay.

Ÿ God is your Father.

Ÿ Your body is dead due to sin, but you have been quickened by God's Spirit.

Ÿ There is a fierce battle going on and you are a soldier in the battle and must put on the full armor of God.

Ÿ You can resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Ÿ You cannot be tempted above that you are able to resist.

**The Bible gives us a vision of future success. The vision must be received by faith and fulfilled by obedience.**

**As** the light of the world, Jesus clarifies (shines light on—gives understanding to) God's commandments, precepts, and teachings. He interprets them—He brings them to life. Jesus is the bridge between the Old and the New Testaments. He confirms the Old Testament and forms or molds the New Testament out of the Old Testament and His atonement.

He has proclaimed God to be a loving, caring Father who desires to have a Father/child relationship with each and every one of us. The New Testament is developed from this new and old information with the light, Jesus, in the middle shining on both of them.

With that understanding, I would like to magnify Jesus' Words, because they are Spirit and they are Life. (Jn: 6:63) Jesus' Words should rule and I believe that the devil has all but obscured them—meaning I don't think very many people are taking Him seriously these days. Watch out! Because Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! (Jn: 14:6)

## Section Five:

### God is not the oppressor or Where Does Trouble Come From?

**M**any people think God is responsible for their calamities because He has all power. If they get sick, He had a reason for it and so forth. The Bible teaches that God wants to keep people safe and well and blessed. The Bible teaches that calamity comes when circumstances are not under God's management. He is a loving parent. I have the power to throw my child in front of a car, but I don't, because I love him and because it is an unrighteous act, and because I don't want to, and because that would be immoral, and because it is against the law.

God is love. God is the author of morality. All the above reasons are the reasons that God is not the one putting hard times on us. Hard times are the inevitable result of choices--yours and other peoples'.

God is good. Good is from God. Perversion of God's creation and/or plan is evil. Evil is harm. Outside of God's boundaries there is perversion and harm.

Isa: 3:10: Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Micah: 7:13: Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

**O**h Lord, break us. I always hated that prayer, thinking it meant that God had to treat us harsh and mean. But the true meaning is not asking God to break our spirit, but to break us of thinking we can judge whether or not we are required to obey God's Word. Break us of playing God. Bring us into submission to God's thoughts and ways by showing us how foolish ours are. Break us of running on ahead of God.

**G**od is trying to show us that living outside of agape love (holiness) is weakness and vulnerability to evil. How do you abide in agape love? Trust and obey God. Satan is the father of lies. If you get out of agape love, you get out of truth and you can't get a life unless you find a lie that suits you.

**T**his God who oppresses in order to teach lessons can be understood in the mind, but the heart can't comprehend him, because we were created by agape love and taught to share agape love. We are taught in the Bible not to ever oppress.

Those who believe God puts, for example, cancer on someone, will never have a true love relationship with Him. They will always be leery of what He might do next. If a human dad takes a child and leads him to the stove and puts his finger on it to teach him that it is hot--a dad who does such things will never have the child's full trust.

**I** cried out, "God why must I be kept hanging on by this thread?" Implying that God might be being mean, then I realized that God is not the one keeping me hanging on by a thread, He is the one who provided the thread for me to hang on to. The devil and my ignorance are the reason I needed something to hang on to.

**W**hen the Bible talks about God disciplining us or chastising us, it is referring to things that come on us because of our own poor choices and He doesn't shield us from the consequences, He uses them to teach us to make the right choices.

There is another discipline and that's the one Jesus endured and that is where the enemy finds opportunity to cause those trusting and obeying God, trouble. God does not remove the trouble, He uses the trouble to teach patience and endurance. And to teach submission under all circumstances.

The Israelites' suffering in the Old Testament was always for disobedience to the one they had covenanted to obey. The suffering that is called for in the New Testament is in being obedient, which calls for denying the flesh and breaking the power of the enemy in the believer's life. And in enduring perseverance and persecution for the gospel's sake.

So the Old Testament suffering was from hearkening to the liar and the New Testament suffering is part of the process of resisting the liar.

The suffering in the Old Testament was done by victims of error. The suffering in the New

Testament is done by the overcomers who are taking advantage of what Jesus has provided and are taking back the kingdom in Jesus' name.

**G**od does not make people sick, He is the healer. A house divided cannot stand.

A lot of times a person finds themselves in a dilemma, needing to understand why bad things are happening to them. As they ponder the matter, a thought comes or someone suggests a theory that seems to answer the questions and at the same time not put any burden or blame on the person--it clicks with them and they apply it to their trouble not even considering whether the thought agrees with what God has said or not. Some do search the Bible to find a verse to back up the theory, but the Christian's understanding should agree with the central message of the Bible as well as an isolated verse here and there.

Getting a wrong concept of God always comes from trying to explain God through the text instead of explaining the text through God. The text is to be read in the light of love. God is everything that He has commanded us to be. He is all that Jesus is. He does not renege on His promises and He is always the same way. God promises health to those who abide in His Word and eternal life to those who abide in His Son and keep His commandments and long life to those who obey Him, with the exception of suffering and dying for the gospel's sake. God promises life, health, prosperity, safety, shelter, weapons, a shield, and deliverance to those who obey Him and seek Him wholeheartedly. So if one of these promises does not come to pass, it is a given that the fault is on man's part, not God's.

Jesus has been given power over all powers and principalities. This does not mean that He sends the evil powers--the devil does that. It means He overcame all of them, so He is therefore greater in power. He can take anything the devil means for harm and turn it into something good for a believer. The devil causes people to make bad choices that cause harm. His intention is to destroy, but if the person is under grace and therefore learning from God, Jesus can use the difficult time to teach and build the person.

When hardship comes in resisting the devil and speaking the Word, we overcome by submission to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. We discipline our bodies to obey Jesus instead of the devil. The hardship is there because sin wants to reign and Adam let it and now we must follow Jesus and refuse to let it reign anymore. Heb: 12

**I**t is now being said by some, that we are called to a life of suffering. The truth is that we are called to a life of victory, but in order to get there we must give up the carnal life and this causes suffering. Notice that Jesus endured because of the joy that was set before Him. You do not center up on the suffering, you center up on the victory. Heb: 12:2

These teachings got started because someone believed God and expected their healing, maybe they waited a long time and then they finally, while thinking about it in bewilderment, found an explanation that made so much sense--it didn't put the blame on them and it was such a relief not to have to want it so badly and look and look for it to manifest--such a relief not to have to fight the good fight of faith, not to have any more doubts about God failing them. All they had to do was relax and put up with the pain or inconvenience and consider it suffering for the Word's sake or maybe God was teaching them something. Some go so far as to believe that when they testify that they still love God even though He didn't come through for them, they are bringing glory to His name. People admire them for such a good attitude and they give God the credit for it and everyone is happy--except . . . They have to endure a malady or infirmity that Jesus paid the price for them to be healed of and He wanted the testimony about His goodness and His power. And except . . . God is revered in His great power and they will not see His caring love or His power, they see His hardness and subconsciously avoid Him or at the very least give up asking Him for very much.

**G**od allows evil in? NO! People's disobedience allows evil in. God is the one who controls how much of it you have to suffer in order to learn better. That's discipline.

"Well, what about Job?" Job offered sacrifices for his children over a long period of time because they were indulging in wild parties. Job: 1:5 That tells us that they were in a vulnerable position. The long period of time, tells us that God deemed it time to back off, despite Job's sacrifices and let them suffer the consequences of their disobedience and rebellion. All of Job's material possessions were in the hands of his oldest son. That made all his goods vulnerable.

God was pleased with Job's integrity. The devil used first, Job's wife's words to hurt him and then his three friends. Job said a few things wrong because of his ignorance, but he didn't sin. His three friends sinned.



God couldn't answer Job's questions because he was going through a storm and was too confused to hear God. So God used the fourth man, Elihu to calm Job down by having him testify of God's reliability. Once that was accomplished God could talk to Job.

Job 36:16 tells us why God allowed Job to be so sorely tested. He wanted to bring him into a broad place where Job would never be moved again by the enemy's fiery darts. He wanted Job to know Him better and also to know his own limitations.

Job 36: 23-24 tell us that God is totally trustworthy in His justice, righteousness, and power. It says men or mankind can reverently fear Him because He is just, righteous, and the one with the greatest power.

"Well, if He had the power, why didn't He spare Job all that suffering?" He deemed it good to deal with the sinners and He deemed it good to bring Job to a higher level. He put controls on the devil and He restored Job's peace and joy.

The Book of Job is an excellent picture of what I am declaring about the Lord, but ignorant men have misread the book and made God out as a person who can just yank your hedge away at His discretion. But God does not do that. He is the one who told us how to have a hedge and how to stay in our hedge.

**Y**our trials are not to teach you patience--you have need of patience, because of your trials. This life is full of trials because the devil is god of this world. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Fruit starts as a seed and grows into full maturity. When you are going through a trial, you must apply patient endurance to the situation, as troubles come for the Word's sake.

Mk: 4:17 says that trouble comes for the Word's sake. That means anywhere your are vulnerable, anywhere the devil can cause you trouble to get you to quit believing God's Word, he'll cause you trouble. That is, your trials test you as to whether you will obey God or the god of this world.

My issue is that patience is a weapon against the enemy. The devil sends the trials, not God. And you have to develop patient endurance to withstand the fiery darts of the enemy, but trials are not your teacher, trials are why you need patience.

They teach that storms and trials are to make our faith stronger. But faith is begun as a seed and nutrients from the soil, sunshine, and rain make crops grow. No one desires storms to come upon their crops. It would uproot them and destroy them. But if the storms are prevalent in a certain area, those crops must grow deeper roots in order to survive the storms. As usual they have things backwards. We need stronger faith because of the storms. The storms are of the enemy to destroy our crops and God helps our roots go deeper to withstand the storms.

Jesus said: I am the **good** shepherd. There's absolutely no indication in the Bible that the shepherd ever changes his ministration. He looks out for, he provides for, he prepares for, he lead and guides, he protects, he bind up and anoints, he soothes and encourages, he teaches. He must be followed and obeyed if the sheep wants full protection. It may be scratched or skinned or it may slip and fall, but the shepherd is there to rescue and doctor it.

My point is that the shepherd never deliberately lets a sheep walk into the lion's den. He never ignores the sheep's bruises. He never leaves them to find their own way. If the shepherd breaks a sheep's leg, it is because the sheep would not obey and follow and it is done as a last resort to cause the dependence and bonding needed so that the sheep will follow and obey. So make up your mind to always follow Jesus and you won't end up with a broken leg or some other adversity that comes from not following the shepherd.

People say their adversities are for the purpose of teaching them something, yet they never learn to do any differently than they did before. If the adversity is to teach them, it is because they were not obeying and following Jesus. They need to start obeying and following Jesus now--not their friends--not their Sunday school teachers--not even the church leaders, unless they have left all to follow the Good Shepherd. Lk: 14:33, Heb: 13:7 And then they are to follow the leader's faith, not their every word. Jer: 17:5

I take the position that God does not break legs to teach you something. Your leg got broken because you did not follow the shepherd. God's heart is set on teaching His people to trust and obey Him so that their legs don't get broken. Prov. 1 If your leg gets broken, He is hoping you will turn to Him and learn not to wander off.

**S**ickness, trouble, poverty, enslavement, etc. are always a result of not being in a position to receive from God. God is giving blessings to the earth all the time. He gives life, health, love, success, wisdom, light, prosperity, safety, etc. The same as the sun shines all the time, but sometimes clouds block it's warmth, light, and energy. Sometimes the earth blocks the sun and it is dark. So it is with God, He is giving good things all the time, but sometimes or many times, things get in the way and we can't receive the good--the inevitable result of not receiving good is bad.

I'm not saying the trouble was not beneficial to your spiritual growth. I'm saying God didn't send it. He will, if we are in His will, find a way to use it for our good. He can turn any trouble into a blessing. He wants to teach us through the Father/child relationship, but if you have to learn the hard way, He will use the trouble to teach you not to do whatever got you into it in the first place.

### **Allegory**

You see a young boy, dirty and glassy-eyed lying along the road where the evil gang left him. His life is ebbing away. You say, "Where are his parents?" Don't they care? They should be ashamed--they have neglected him."

The truth is that the boy had a rebellious heart and he did not listen to his parents. He did his own thing and put himself in danger and the unthinkable happened.

This is what happened in many of the sad cases that are blamed on God. He promised to take care of them and provide for them, but that was because they promised to trust and obey Him. They do their own thing and then when harm comes they say, "It was God's will." and/or "Everything happens for a reason." The inference being that God was responsible for the evil, but He was not.

**D**evil means traducer. Traducer means one who speaks evil falsely of another. That's what the devil did in the garden of Eden, when he told Eve she would not surely die, that God just didn't want them to be wise like the gods.

The devil did this to Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, when he lied on God again and said, "Surely your loving Father wouldn't ask you to be the sacrifice."

The devil has done this all through the years and he is doing it now. He tells people that God causes their problems, but the Bible tells us that problems come from wrong choices on man's part.

He tells people that because they didn't get healed or delivered when they asked for it, that God does not want them healed, at least not at that time. He has scriptures to back that up like Paul's thorn and 1Thes:5:18 that says whatever you are going through this is the will of God for you.

But the Bible also says, be it unto you according to your faith and by Jesus stripes we are healed and the prayer of faith will heal the sick and many more like verses. The truth is all these verses and that God is trying to teach us to trust Him and to make right choices and to deal wisely in all the affairs of life.

It boils down to obeying all His instructions because He wants us well. He has provided healing and if we are unable to receive it, we are required to continue to ask and thank Him for that which He has provided--trust and obey--and it is His will for us to have patience and learn of Him.

"Well, what about Paul's thorn?" If you read that as most do, it looks as if God said, you keep it, I'll help you through it, but that doesn't fit with the rest of scripture. What does fit is that He told Paul that he was not to despise or fear the test or trial, but that He (God) would give him the grace to overcome it. God is telling us all that in whatever area we are weak, His strength will be our strength, if only we will trust and obey.

Though Paul had weak eyes, it does not say that was the problem, it was most likely his great concern for the churches. He may have prayed for God to take the burden and God assured him that He would not let him fail, that in fact, He would supply what Paul needed so that the burden was transformed into one of his greatest assets.

**1Sam:** 12:20-21 teaches that vain things are sought after because the seekers think that they will bring them happiness, satisfaction, deliverance, or fulfillment, but they will not. They will blind their eyes and help them lose their way. They will not promote submission to agape love, they will promote selfishness, sin, and death. They are vain, useless in saving, useless in

healing, useless in building them up, useless in helping others, etc. It is evident from this message alone that God is all these things and He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. God is what the vain seekers really need to be seeking because they desire happiness, satisfaction, deliverance and fulfillment and He is the supplier of these things.

**D**id you ever notice that it takes much less time, money, and effort to destroy than to build? This is part of the curse that God was telling Adam about after he and Eve hearkened to the liar, exposed themselves to evil, and perverted human love by indulging in selfishness. There is a negative force in the earth. There is resistance to good. There is an unyielding will about the earth itself. It takes longer to build than to destroy, longer to heal than to get wounded, longer to earn money than to spend it, longer to grow food than to consume it. It's easier to fall into a ditch than it is to get out. Building, healing, helping, earning, and growing are precious because they must be desired and worked for or believed for--the more effort the more precious.

Hardship unfortunately, is something that humans need to go through in order to get to where God wants them to be.

**T**he suffering that Christians are asked to do is not like the suffering that comes from sin and sickness. In their suffering, God is with them and He encourages, comforts, and strengthens them. And they have the assurance that it is all worth-while. They know that it is for a good cause--they are being created into the image of Christ. They are assured of the victory if they faint not and they know that God is in control.

The Bible teaches that God gets the glory when He heals, delivers, saves, and helps mankind. The trouble that God allows to be attributed to Him in the Old Testament is actually the inevitable result of disobeying divine authority. Nowhere in the New Testament does God reveal Himself as the one who gives us trouble. He portrays Himself as the Savior, the one who will get us out of trouble.

Many people today have limited God to buckler only, but He is everything to us. All that we need, He is.

Rom: 8:35-37 and the parable of the sower make it clear that trouble comes to separate us from the love of Christ, not as many teach today that it is to make our faith stronger and to teach us patience. It is true that if we obey God's Word, we will reap in these beneficial areas. The difference is who sent the trouble and who is responsible for it. The trouble was sent to separate us from the love and yet they are teaching the very thing the enemy wants us to believe--that God is our problem.

Problems are not from God to cause us to run to Him or sent so we will realize our dependence on Him. They are not sent by God to teach us lessons.

Problems come from wrong choices. Wrong choices come from ignorance or disobedience. Some may say, "What about the weather, it can cause all kinds of problems?" The weather can cause problems, because when sin entered into the earth, even the weather was perverted. Many believe God sends all weather, but do not err my brethren, every good and perfect gift is from above, from the Father of lights in whom is not variableness nor shadow of turning. Jas: 1:16-17

"Well, the Bible says God sends the rain."

Yes, it does and in the Bible, rain is always referred to as a good thing. God did use it to destroy the wicked world one time, but even then, though it was destructive it was used for good.

"Yeah, that's where we're coming from--God uses bad things for good."

Yes, He does, but I'm saying He doesn't send the bad. He is not responsible for your troubles. He is the one who wants to teach you so that you won't have so many troubles and He is the one who can get you out of your troubles.

Jn: 16:33: 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.

**How Can One Have Safety?** Ex: 9:20-21, Job: 1:10, Ps: 23, 25:12-13, 27:5, 37:3,33-34, 94:12-13, 119:117, 147, Prov: 1:33, 3:23, 11:14, 18:21, Isa: 54:14, Jer: 7:23, 32:27, Ezek: 28:25, 34:23-31, 39:26, Dan: 6:22-23

**Oppressions Come When One Neglects God:** Num: 33:55, Deut: 8;10-20, 29:20-29, Judg: 1Kings: 8, Job: 34:11, 36, Ps: 07, 119:121, Prov: 27:12, Isa: 11, 65:12-16, Jer: 2:19, 5:23-25, 6:6, 19, 32:23, Lam: 3:33, 39, Ezek: 39:23, Dan: 9:11, Joel: 1:17

**Does God Withhold Good From His People?** Ps: 84:11, Prov: 3:27-28, Jer: 5:25, Dan: 9:4, Matt: 7:7-14

**Fruit of Our Own Ways:** Ex: 24:12-14, Job: 34:11, Prov: 1:31, 14:14, 31:31, Isa: 3:10, Jer: 6:19, 17:10, 21:14, 32:19, Hos: 10:13, Mic: 7:13, Gal: 6:7

“What about sickness and disease? That isn’t always from someone’s choice.”

No, it isn’t, but it did come in with the wrong choice that brought sin. And all sickness and disease is the result of sin and Jesus paid the price and the Word says believers have been healed. Sickness prevails because of wrong teaching and wrong choices. You choose what you will believe, you choose what you will feed on, what you listen to and what you eat, whether you will exercise, where you will live and so on. That does not cover everything--there are people who seem to do everything right and still suffer from sickness and disease and I can’t tell you why, I can only say what the Bible says, and it says God is the giver of life, the healer of diseases, the high tower for the believer.

If you are following the Shepherd, abiding in the vine, putting on the full armor of God, and standing against the enemy and are still suffering from sickness or disease or some other infirmity, please do not get down on yourself. Do these things and stand in as much faith as you can muster. Jesus said in Rev: 3:7-11 that He understands that we have but little power and that we are to hold on to what we have till He comes. If you read that portion in the Amplified Version, it will be clear to you. It is a letter from Jesus to encourage you. The devil is the one who wants you to feel ripped off or like a failure.

The Bible gives many reasons for our troubles--there’s Deut: 28, 30:19-20, 1Kings: 8, Ps: 81:8-16, 91, 107, Prov: 1:20-29. Isa: 53, 61, Jesus said, Matt: 9:22, 29, 15:28, 17:20, 21:21, Mk: 10:52, 16:15-20, Lk: 7:50, 13:1-5, 1Pet: 2:24.

## Section Six:

### The Church - Setting the Record Straight

The whore teaches that humility is considering yourself a worm or a sinner. But God says in order to reign in life, you must accept your gift of righteousness. Rom: 5:14-21 And Rev: 1:6 says Christians are kings and priests. Most importantly the Bible says they are children of God.

The whore puts ifs and buts on God's Word and promises, but a double-minded person cannot receive from God.

Jas. 1:6-8: But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7: For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8: A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

The whore says it's not important to teach the people to keep their heart with all diligence. She has church leaders believing that they shouldn't say much about the importance of being careful about what the congregation is watching, reading, and listening to.

The whore says you can't understand God's Word, especially those who don't take Bible courses, but God says He has given us His Spirit--the unction to teach us and we can understand. 1Jn: 2:27

The whore says as long as you read a verse or chapter of the Bible a day, you will be all right, but God says: put on the full armor--one of them being loins girt about with the truth. God says meditate in His word day and night and then you will have good success.

The whore says we all sin, even Christians, but God says He has provided a way out--Rom: 6-8 esp. 8:3-4 and 1Jn: 3:8-9 says he that doeth sin is of the devil.

The whore gives many reasons for unanswered prayer, but Jesus says if a believer asks in His name, He will give it to them--if it's in His name and done in faith, it is theirs. Mk: 11:23-24, Jn: 14:13-14

The whore assures people that the way to eternal life is very broad because Jesus paid the price for sin. But Jesus teaches that the way to eternal life is straight and narrow and few



there be that find it. Matt: 7:13-14

Isa: 8:20: To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

### **The Church --Getting it straight:**

They were singing: "Jesus, you are welcome in this place." I would ask this:

If Jesus came into your church and said, "If your eye offend you, pluck it out. Better for one member to perish than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." Would He be welcome?

If He said, "If your hand cause you to sin, cut it off. Better for you to lose a member than for your whole body to be cast into hell." Would He be welcome?

If He said, "You will give account for every idle word that you speak." Would He be welcome?

If He said, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things that I say?" Would He be welcome?

If He said, "Enter in at the straight gate for broad is the way that leads to hell and many there be that go in there at. But the way is straight and narrow that leads away to life and few there be that find it." Would He be welcome?

If He said, "If any man strike you on the right cheek turn to him the other also." Would He be welcome? I could go on and on with the things that Jesus taught and that the church is ignoring.

**M**any church leaders acknowledge that there is something wrong with today's Christianity. The following are inspired thoughts that came to me and I recorded them in my journal. I do not wish to attack church. I very much believe that this is a case of breaking up fallow ground.

Jer:4:3: For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

Hosea:10:12: Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Ps: 78:1-8: Hear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2: I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4: We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5: For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: 8: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

I believe that the Bible teaches that God established the church. That He established it for:

Eph: 4:10-18: He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. 17: This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18: Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

But I am saying that the church in America is not functioning as it should. If it were, we would be well on our way to being the church described above. It is my opinion that the present church has no potential to become the glorious church described above because she is off course. Her wine has been watered down and her message is short-changed and adulterated.

Thus it is harmful to keep telling people that they must go to church that that is where their spiritual nourishment is. And they say that that is where Christian fellowship is and that that is where one goes to worship God. But I maintain that in her present condition, she cannot perfect the saints, she is not under the leadership of the head, Jesus, and she is not headed toward the unity in the faith that God has established, nor in knowledge of the Son of God.

In the Old Testament, God reveals how He feels about the assembly when the people are going their own way and doing their own thing.

Isa: 1:13-14: Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. 14: Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

Amos: 5:21-22: I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

22: Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. 23: Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

I didn't say all of that to berate the church nor to justify not going to church. I said it to stick up for the multitude who cannot find a church home because they want to grow in the Lord and have better understanding and they cannot find a church that is growing in the Lord or one that has good understanding, yet the passage from Eph: 4 above says God sent anointed men to help the people grow and understand. Where are they?

They will be men who have spent much time with God and His Word in meditation and prayer. They will have sat at the feet of Jesus and been taught the Spirit of Christ. They will speak Bible and they will speak it in the same balance and measure as the Bible speaks.

The devil, masquerading as an angel of light, has stolen all of the church's treasures, but he did it in such a way so that the church does not even know that a swapping has taken place. The devil stole, but he replaced the items with fakes and the church does not know that she is poor, blind, and naked. Now, as the princes of the church seek for Bible teaching, they read that Christians should rejoice and be content. So they preach this to a people who have been robbed of all that they were to rejoice and be content in.

This adds to the church's burden and bewilderment. It is actually a time for mourning and sorrow as in Jn:16:20-27. For Christ has again been done away with. It's the time of Zeph: 3:18 where God says He will gather those who mourn for the solemn assembly and to whom the reproach is a burden.

Those who see this truth will mourn and weep. The world is rejoicing, but the intercessors are in travail and the child shall come forth and their sorrow will be turned into joy and no

man can take if from them.

One of the first things the devil had to do in order to convince the church to believe a liberal gospel was to bring her faith level down to the place where she was as sickly and diseased as the world is. Then he could convince her that liberal theology was the correct theology.

As long as she revered all of the Word of God, she had a good measure of health and walked in the fear of the Lord that comes from knowing He will meet your needs, if you meet His standards. But when she lost the fear of the Lord--the knowledge that His way was the winning way and there is no other winning way--she became vulnerable to sickness and disease just like the world.

Why? Because it is faith in God and obedience to His Word that protects the church from sickness and disease. And it is these same two requirements that make healing readily available to the church.

Jer:7:23: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Deut: 28--Christians are still under the blessings written there. Gal: 3:13 says they were delivered from the curse of the law, not the blessings of obedience.

Once the church had all the same problems as the world and were told that God doesn't heal everyone and that God answers, yes, no, or maybe and that everything happens for a reason and that sickness and disease is part of Christians' test and trials, then there could be no distinction between those who serve God and those who do not.

Therefore liberal theology could be taught because there was no physical evidence that the church was not under God's wing, for they were not taught about God's provisions for His people.

Mal: 3:13-18: Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? 14: Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? 15: And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered. 16: Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of

remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17: And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18: Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Everything God taught in the Old Testament--all His teaching and precepts are forever. The written code is only done away with for those who are led by the Spirit of God.

**The "redeemed" are not under the curses--Gal: 3:13:** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: **The redeemed are those who put on the wedding garment.**

Matt: 22:11-13: 11: And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13: Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**The redeemed are practicing:** Rom: 13:14: But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Matt: 7:21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22: Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

I know many church goers have never heard this before and if they read it in the Bible, they paid it no heed--it was foreign teaching to them, but this is the truth. The Truth spoken about over in:

2Thes: 2:7-13: For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8: And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10: And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11: And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 13: 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 to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Now you see why I proclaim that the church is off course.

**S**hallow believers heard the message saying God is offering them something good, but they did not grasp what it was or how to receive it.

They heard the good news that God sent His Son to pay for their sins so that they can be delivered and saved. They did not hear God declare that all flesh is grass and passes away--to be saved from sin and death, one must receive and walk by God's Spirit. Isa: 40:6

They envisioned themselves blessed and heaven-bound, but they never saw their abomination nor their release from it.

They never set their affections on things above, so they have no spirit or power to deny the things of the flesh.

They know that Jesus saves, but they continue to see their old man and never put on the new man.

Eph: 4:21-24: If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23: And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Col: 3:10: And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

**T**he church has given place to the human factor. She has dwelt on her weakness, instead of her strength. The way to live as an overcomer is for one to get their eyes on Jesus and keep their eyes on Jesus. The devil knows that as soon as a believer starts looking at their own weaknesses and shortcomings, he has them where he wants them. But if one takes their eyes off their infirmities and trusts in Jesus' strength, rests in Jesus' work, and follows Jesus' example, they will overcome.

They heard the message that if you believe that Jesus is the Christ you shall be saved, but

they cannot believe that the New Testament is a picture of how a Christian behaves--that it is a mirror for the Christian to look into and then apply what they see to their life.

Jas: 1:23-24: But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23: For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

**M**uch leaven has been sown by well-meaning Christians who were disappointed with something in their faith walk and so they sought a good healthy attitude about it to avoid bitterness and then they taught it to others because it sounded so right and made the hearer feel better. The Word of God is true and anything that does not glorify Jesus or that clouds the Word is not accurate--it's muddy water.

Ezek: 34:15-18: I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. 16: I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment. 17: And as for you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats. 18: Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet?

**I**t is impossible for those who make the plan of salvation a simple matter of having their sins washed away in Jesus' blood once and for all, to see the hidden things of scripture because in order to understand the scriptures and be enlightened and delivered by them one must walk as Jesus walked. Jesus is the fore-runner, the captain, the example--everything He did is what must be done to overcome. Grace makes it possible for the believer to keep at it and grow until they are a mighty overcomer.

Since it is impossible to see the enlightenment of scripture while believing in this simple salvation theory, the scriptures are misinterpreted so that suffering becomes any suffering they go through, whether it be of their own making or of their own ignorance, or of their own lack of faith, or misplaced faith. So faith becomes something that carnal people can achieve, thus diminishing its power and effect greatly, so that holiness beyond the concept of God considering us so in Jesus, sounds unattainable. "In Jesus" to them simply means to have been sprinkled or immersed in water, rather than the spiritual meaning of living in His

presence and in His Word. This is one of many deceptions going around today.

The Bible says in Eph: 3:18-19 that comprehending the love of Christ will cause the believer to be filled with the fullness of God. Col: 1:19 says the fullness of God dwells in Jesus. Eph: 1:23 says the church is the fullness of Christ. Eph: 4:13 tells us that knowledge of Jesus and unity of the faith will perfect the church in the full measure of the stature of Christ.

Since we do not have the unity of the faith and are not experiencing the fullness of God, maybe, just maybe what is being taught is falling short and/or is in error. I contend that the church should be taught who we are in Christ Jesus and that we ought to act like it.

**1Jn:** 4:1-3: Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2: Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3: 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.

This statement perplexed me for a long time, but I think I have it now. It perplexed me because the false prophets teach Jesus too. I believe it means all their truth must come from the knowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This means salvation and deliverance from sin and the law.

ÿ It means to be reconciled with God through the indwelling of His Spirit, making us children of the most high, having access to the super-natural, when the believer prays in His Name.

ÿ It means He bore our sicknesses and carried our diseases and by His stripes we are healed.

ÿ It means all things are possible to him that believeth.

ÿ It means we can walk as He walked.

ÿ It means we are delivered from the curse of the law, etc.

Therefore anyone who teaches any defeat, hopelessness, puniness, or lack to Christians is not speaking by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God teaches the Christianity of the New Testament.



Francis Scheaffer said, "The Bible is being bent to the culture instead of the Bible judging our society and culture."

The fellowship that brings joy is fellowship with those who love and obey the gospel. I am not looking for the perfect church, I'm looking for a church full of converted hearts. A place where the people have repented of doing things their way and they gather together to learn His ways and how to walk in them.

**Poem in church bulletin:**

I think that I shall never see  
A church that's all it ought to be.  
A church whose members never stray  
Beyond the straight and narrow way.  
A church that has no empty pews,  
Whose people all pay their dues.  
A church whose members always sing,  
And flock to church when bells a-ring.  
Such perfect churches there may be,  
But none of them are known to me.  
But still we work and pray and plan  
To make our own the best we can!

**My answer:**

I know there is no church that's all it ought to be,  
and down here a perfect one we'll never see.  
I'm not looking for a church without empty pews,  
nor one where everyone always pays their dues.  
But my heart has craved to see the people saved.  
Saved from selfishness and sin;  
see them letting CHRIST live within.  
A people who are surrendering all,  
counting other 'things but dung' is their call.

They've been given a new heart and a sword.  
They live to love and serve the Lord.  
Their old life has been crucified.  
With their new life they're satisfied.  
They don't need to grasp for life,  
and they flee from things like strife.  
The life of CHRIST is their life now  
and how to live--HE tells them how.  
© Sylvia Huffnagle

**I**t's time for the church to be in the prevention business, instead of just being the mop-up crew.

**T**he church needs a vision of who she is, how she operates, and what she does. It's all in the New Testament.

**T**he churches are working on natural hope, natural faith, and natural love. If they would live spiritually and feed their spirit and let the Spirit of love control them and work for the real life, they would receive God's hope, God's faith, and God's love through God's Word.

It isn't the lukewarm Christians resisting the message, that is so disheartening, it's the serious Christians who have already been well taught, wrongly. They believe that stuff and staunchly resist anything that goes against what they think they understand. I admire their loyalty, but their first love and first loyalty must for to the Living and written Word of God.

It's interesting to note that the same people who believe they are lowly creatures who cannot understand God and only hope to make it through, are the same ones who refuse to even consider that their leaders could be wrong or not have enough faith.

In Sunday school, I heard fellow believers speak in bewilderment and claim they had no understanding in many spiritual matters. They appeared to be lost and helpless, so I began to seek for opportunities to share the truths that I had found in the Word. Quickly, the situation changed. When I claimed to know more than they and told them that some of their beliefs

weren't so, all of a sudden they knew what they believed and I was a sower of discord for teaching differently.

**I**n order to be a glorious church, believers need to believe they can be like Him and they need to strive to be like Him. 1Jn: 3:3

Believers need to consider the flesh crucified so that love can rule.

Rom: 8:14: For as many who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.

Believers need to get rid of the idols.

1Jn: 5:20-21: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. 21: Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Believers need to believe, receive, and walk in their gift of righteousness.

Rom: 5:17: For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Believers need to believe that being a friend of the world is being an enemy of God.

Jas: 4:4: Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Believers must come out from among them and be separate and touch not the unclean thing, so that God can be a Father to them.

2Cor: 6:17-18: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18: And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

**J**esus is the only way to minister. The true body of Christ walks as Jesus walked, they talk as He talked, and they minister as He ministered. It's the only true way to minister or witness. It is by far the most powerful and effective way. Jesus' ministry always manifest the love, glory, and power of God. What else is there? All these gimmicks and ingenuity used today to attract people are an abomination in God's eyes. He sees it all as riding on horses of flesh. We are a white-washed wall. A broken cistern.

Isa: 31:1-3: Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because

they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD! 2: Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity. 3: Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

Jer: 2:13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Can you picture Jesus' using rock music to draw a crowd, healing people by sending them to the doctor and paying their bill, setting up therapy groups to help people with their problems, etc.? I think even if He had, He still would have drawn a crowd, He still would have helped people and developed a reputation for helping people. He would have shown the mercy, goodness, and love of God. He would not have manifest the power of God, nor delivered man from drawing their resources from themselves or other men, instead of the true source--God. Since God is the source, shouldn't His ministry have His resources?

It makes no sense to me that the church of God, (body of Christ) must do God's work using the beggarly element of the world. They do their healing, teaching, delivering by worldly techniques and equipment while God has the power to do these things super-naturally, thus manifesting Himself as the source. Jesus said, "All power in heaven and in earth is given unto me, therefore you go . . . I will never leave thee or forsake thee even unto the end of the world. The work of God is to believe in Jesus. Matt: 28:18-20. Jn: 6:29

No wonder modern science and technology are the dominant voices in the world--heeded as Jesus used to be. The Christians go into areas to evangelize and they proclaim that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and they proceed to minister through science and technology. Man produces temporary fixes. Jesus ministers with the power of the Holy Spirit and the fix is complete. They proclaim that Jesus has come in the flesh and then they show them the power of man.

I believe there is only one way to evangelize, have church, and preach--through the power of God.

Jesus brought the eternal way back to earth. We do not have to have only temporary salvation.

**You** can have as many doctrines as you like, as long as they don't interfere with the Word of God.

**I**t was explained to me that we need rock music to win the young and this would be true, if God had just given us a Savior and told us to get the good news out any way we could. But God not only gave us the good news, He also gave us the blueprint for the building, the plan of action, two great examples to follow, and the power of Himself to do the Job.

We do not need the world's junk cleaned up in order to attract people to Jesus nor to hold their attention. Jesus is the attraction. If only we could show Him to the world as we were told to do.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Why won't Christians believe that Jesus wants to minister just the same way He did when He walked on earth. We are His body. The attraction should be a God who saves, heals, delivers, and provides.

**J**esus has already defeated pornography, communism, hedonism, humanism, abortion, sexual sins, drug addictions, cruelty, selfishness, etc. It is the Christians' job to stand against them in His name and God will put them down. Where is Jesus' army? Let us make our profession.

Jesus has already defeated evil. It's like having a powerful and miraculous piece of machinery, but it is not in use, so no one believes what it can do or benefits from it. It's like having a law on the books that will do the job, but no one is enforcing it.

**T**he Bible says we should walk worthy of our calling. Who expects that?

We are to present ourselves as living sacrifices. Who expects that?

We are to put on the full armor of God. How many have done that?

We are to strive for all purity. Who expects that?

We are to protect our heart from evil influences. We are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh. Nobody expects any of this from anyone, but let them not go to church and... yeah. One time in the whole Bible, it says, "Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together..." and it is exacted of Christians. But on issues of life and death, no one

wants to go there.

The idea is that we will be better Christians if we worship and fellowship together, but if when we do, we are not held accountable as doers of the Word, what profit is there?

The actions of the body show the spirit behind it.

**We** will not become an effectually working body by each one determining to live right. We will become an effective body when each one determines to receive the Holy Spirit, and be led by the Spirit and not by the flesh, and to treat the other members as a fellow member of Christ's body.

**When** we are one in the Spirit, we will speak the truth to one another in love in the common bond which is charity. What is truth? Truth is what God has said and what God has taught. The truth will always glorify the Father. It will never justify man's discrepancies. Truth always agrees with the Bible. It never explains away the promises.

**Christians** don't hate evil and love good enough. Because of this, their judgment is off--they love grace, but not judgment. They love to be excused, but not delivered.

Ps: 97:10: Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Prov: 8:13: The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

**I** don't see how they can call themselves the "body of Christ." The body does what the head directs. If the body does other than what the head tells it to do, it is out of its mind. If the body does not react to the commands of the head, it is paralyzed. The church should act just as Jesus did when He was here as a man. Most would agree to that, the problem lies in bringing these result about in the church and that can be done if they would teach all of the Bible in the spirit in which it was written.

One might say, "But Jesus was perfected and none of the church is." That is true. That's why God ordained church and called it the body of Christ and said that we are all members one of another. His intent was where one is weak others will be strong and where one is unable another will be able. Through the commandment to love one another, He intended to blend the members so that He would have the effectual working of every part--that is how we can be one perfect man.

Eph: 4:16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**J**esus is the Head. The church is Jesus' body on earth. A body that does not take orders well from the head will be shown to have functional problems. One example is Cerebral Palsy. The person with cerebral palsy cannot get their limbs to do what they want them to do. Some times they can get one or two limbs to do what they want, but all in all, their body cannot be controlled and must be strapped down or strapped in and they must have help to do the most basic functions.

Then there is the person with mental retardation to various degrees. This happens when the recipient cannot take in or will not take in the called for information in order to function properly. The church that does not promptly obey Jesus' every prompting and instruction is a church that is too malformed to function properly and is therefore one badly in need of help.

Jesus tells us: If your hand offend you cut it off . . . Do you think He will not do the same with His body? Matt: 5:30, 18:9, Jn: 15:5-6

Jn: 15:1-2: I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2: Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Many will say, "Well, we're not puppets." or "The church members are at different stages of growth and this is why we can't function as an adult body." Those two reasonings are not biblical. The adult part of the body is to be in charge. God supplied all that was needed for the body to be fully equipped to continue Jesus' work. Matt: 28:18-19

Eph: 4:13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Col: 2:10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Christians aren't puppets, they are people who repented of doing their own thing. They have received God as their Father (authority figure) and Jesus as their Lord (authority figure).

**J**esus is the fullness of the Godhead bodily. This is why we preach Jesus and Him crucified, and not the Holy Spirit. Jesus is our role model. He is the one who was guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit and therefore did overcome. He is our example. The Holy Spirit was sent to reveal Jesus to us. It is Jesus that we need to proclaim and manifest to the world. We need to receive and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, but it is His job and ours to manifest Jesus. Christians are to live as the body of Christ. It is Christ who went about doing good and destroying the works of the devil.

**J**esus cannot have a middleman. The church--the body of Christ--will never grow up into Jesus in all things, as it was meant to do, until Jesus is the head of the body. As it is now, Jesus is the head of the pastor and the pastor is the head of the local body. This means the local body only gets as much Jesus as the pastor is able to perceive, comprehend, and convey. This also means that the local body get any distortions that the pastor may have also. Then you have each member of the congregation's distortions, misconceptions, and half truths, etc.

But if Jesus alone were the head of each member and they were developing a personal relationship with Him and the pastor was just the leader or under shepherd, Jesus would be able to fit all the members together to form one body--His.

To me, at this time, church is a religious organization, not the body of Christ. When we make Jesus Lord in all our lives and activities, the church will be Christ's body. Christ's body loves what He loves and hates what He hates. Christ's body acts just like Jesus does.

In many churches Jesus is thought of as one who did a work, but they need to see that He is the one who does the work or else the work will have little effect and is not eternal.



**The church in the New Testament** was a body of believers who came together to fellowship with one another, to learn God's ways together, to worship God together, to build one another up in the Lord and urge one another on to love and good works. They had rules and standards for the common good.

The body of Christ is made up of individuals that are bound together in and by the love of Christ. That same love of Christ respects and values each individual and their contribution. The concept is not put above the individual, but the individuals work together as one for the common good and for the completion of Jesus' work. I'm saying there is a balance in God's love always. The body works as one unit, but the individual is an important component in that unit. Body work does not eradicate the individuals. No--no individuals--no body, just a mass.

**The church today** is a group of believers and non-believers, a mixture of light and darkness unequally yoked that come together for many different reasons--to appease conscience, to get help, to worship, because they have to, to spend time with a certain someone, to fellowship with church-goers, etc.

Ÿ There cannot be unity because self rules for most of them.

Ÿ Not many of God's precepts are emphasized, because it is now up to private interpretation.

Ÿ There are no guidelines because we can't legislate or judge or impose our beliefs on others.

The church cannot be the safe haven that God ordained for her to be because she is a mixed multitude. She cannot boldly proclaim truth because she is so afraid of offending the uncircumcised. All the benefits that were supposed to be derived from God's setup are done away with. I know that there are those who think she is still doing a lot of good, but I urge that group to compare the present day church's fruit with the New Testament church and the fruit that God calls for.

**Some** are teaching that God doesn't manifest His power in the church today because it isn't necessary. But the truth is that God doesn't manifest His power in the church today because they don't think it's necessary.

When you follow the world's view of things the extreme gets more and more reasonable,

while it's actually getting more and more extreme and God's reality and truth look more and more extreme.

**A**ll the devil needs in order to corrupt government, media, church, or a nation is a few evil men who look good and/or many good men who rely on their own wisdom. The only men who will stop them will be a few God-fearing men who follow the Shepherd wholeheartedly.

**C**hristians will judge others because of their idiosyncrasies and because they do or do not do as those judging them have been taught to do, but no one dares to judge others according to the Word of God. They will judge others according to what they would've done in their shoes and about what they wouldn't have done, but they will not dare to make righteous judgments.

**S**ometimes church people lay responsibilities on Christians that they cannot handle. Some things depend upon their level of maturity. God is Father and all believers are His children. He is perfect. Which means there is nothing in Him that is destructive or erroneous. Christians, on the other hand, are very flawed from the start in all areas.

God has given the sincere Christian a new heart--one that deeply desires to please Him. He's given them a clean slate. He's given them His Son to be their inner guide. And He's given them grace, so that mistakes are not stumbling blocks, but stepping stones. But all Christians are still little children to God who is the perfect grown-up.

A child should not be expected to handle things as an adult would. When you hear a teaching and find that you cannot apply it and you know your heart is right with God, it may be that you are not mature enough for it. If you don't have the urging to do it in your spirit and you don't see how to perform it with your spiritual eyes, you will not be able to do it. Don't let teachers put a guilt trip on you. The teaching may only fit the more mature. I am not talking about what the Bible tells us to do and not do, I'm thinking of the teachings that are in the solid meat category--such as only confessing good things, or being able to discern what TV shows are harmful to you and which ones it would be okay for you to watch, and many things of this nature.

Jas: 3:2: 2: For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

**M**aturity in Christ is not receiving Jesus one time and then enjoying His fullness from then on. Maturity in Christ is reached when one has learned to abide in the Vine at all times. It is having a high and perfected level of flow coming from God to the believer's heart consistently. The evidence and result of immaturity is frequent interruptions in the flow.

**I**t's not enough to be born again--be made spiritually alive and have access to the love of God in order to overcome, one needs the Spirit and mind of Christ--His attitude in every situation. The New Testament, understood from the background of the Old Testament, is the mind and Spirit of Christ. Jn: 6:63, Rom: 12:1-2

**B**efore one can be taught, they must be caught. Before we can teach people to be biblical Christians their hearts must be captured and be given to God. This is why it's not working well today. The call to salvation is too puny. Today's truth is too puny. Modern Christians' God is too puny. The truth, the gospel, the biblical teachings, and the God in the Bible are not puny. They are all consuming.

**O**ne can have the spirit of submission and yet not have the spirit of love or long-suffering or kindness, etc. One can have the spirit of joy, yet not have the spirit of self-control,, etc. So in order to submit to God, we need the Spirit of Christ. You see, only Jesus had the Spirit in its fullness in every area all the time. We cannot manifest one characteristic of God isolated from the rest. We get into trouble that way. For instance, if we are being kind without the spirit of wise counseling, we could and probably would do more harm than good. If we operated in the spirit of self-control with out the spirit of love, again we could end up ministering death instead of life. On and on these examples could go.

**F**irst the church tried to carry out the mind of Christ without the Spirit of Christ--love, joy, peace, meekness, goodness, kindness, gentleness, long-suffering, patience. Now they are trying to apply the Spirit of Christ without the mind of Christ--rather to suffer than to fail to

please God.

**I**t is written used to be our defense against the devil. Now it is: the church says or my pastor says, because of this we have no defense against the devil. For he masquerades as a messenger of light and he goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour and man is fallible and the Word of God is not.

**E**ach critical problem of society reveals a definite need which is truly only met by Jesus. It reveals a failure on the church's part and it reveals an excellent opportunity to spread the gospel. To take advantage of the evangelistic opportunity, you take the topic of the day, relate the glory of the gospel to it, and give it out every chance you get.

**I** think I put my finger on why the old-time Pentecostals had such a wonderful reverential fear for God. It was because they were called to make a radical change in their lifestyle in order to please God. This gave them a sense of separation from the world and made them feel like God's peculiar people. Alas! Over time their separate lifestyle turned into legalism.

The charismatics gave up too much discipline in order to dispel legalism and alas! they ended up in liberalism. As they kicked out the rules, they kicked out the Spirit of discipline that came from being holy as He is holy.

**M**any teachers and church leaders thought the Holy Spirit gave them a truth or told them to speak something and it was not God at all. It came out of their spirit, but it came out because it was put in. They thought it was truth coming from their spirit, but it was teaching they had accepted coming from their spirit. This is vomit as in Isa: 28:8

For example: Someone speaks from his or her spirit, in church, that God is pleased with their worship and He has good things in store for them. That came up in the speakers spirit because that is how he or she was taught. The congregation was anticipating a word from the Lord and that message came up in someone's spirit because that is what they thought God was saying.

But would God really say that to a church that has spent the whole week in worldly pursuits and in listening to sinful music and watching sinful shows and had just sung a song that most of them didn't even pay attention to the words or didn't weigh them to see if they were true for them--and you think God is pleased? That's not what the Bible says and God would say:

Isa: 66:2: ... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

I think the church today thinks that the Old Testament is irrelevant, but it is not. All that God communicated there is for us today. When you read it, read it as if it were a letter from God to you because that's what it is.

2Tim: 3:16-17: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

I understand that many, almost all churches in America think that God sees the church as described in:

Isa: 54:8: 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. 9: For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. 10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee. 11: O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. 12: And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. 13: And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. 14: In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. 15: Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 16: Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. 17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

But God is only talking to "the redeemed". I know, the pastors and churches think they are "the redeemed", but as I said before, "the redeemed" are redeemed. They have been saved from sin and death through repentance, a heart change, receiving God as their Father and Jesus as their Lord and becoming doers of the Word. It's all there in the New Testament.

Check it out. Matt: 3:8, Acts: 2:28, Ezek: 36:26, Rom: 8:14-23, Lk: 6:46, Jas: 1:21-22

**T**his is a must teaching in every church--right up with teaching that you should go to church: Christianity means giving up this life so you can find the high life. It's crucifying the flesh rule and letting Jesus rule in your life. It's obeying God by living spiritual life, instead of carnal life. It's resting from your labors, knowing that the fleshly way is condemned and allowing God's Spirit to work in you. It's being faithful to Jesus, the church's betrothed, at all times.

Matt: 16:24-25: Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

**T**he Words of Jesus give us the Spirit to obey and carry out the rest of the New Testament. The Old Testament testifies of the results we will enjoy.

Jn: 6:63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

**A**ny gospel that implies that a person can confess Jesus with their mouth and therefore have eternal life, though in reality they reject the Spirit of Christ by their choices and actions, is a lie.

Matt: 7:21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Any gospel that give people salvation without giving them Jesus' Spirit is not the gospel

**C**hurch folk want to trust in the blood. They want to trust in the cross. But how many want to trust in Jesus?

**T**he grace of today, instead of being a power to produce good fruit in our lives, has become a covering over of our sins so that we can be luke-warm instead of hot, foolish instead of prudent, disobedient instead of obedient. This grace of today has made the straight and

narrow much broader and many believe that is what grace was meant to do. The truth is that it was meant to give the believer time to learn the straight and narrow way and power to walk in the straight and narrow way.

**C**hurch is bent on teaching--be kind, be good, be benevolent, be churchgoers. That was what the law was for--to teach the Israelites to do right. In the New Covenant, God gave believers a new heart and the Holy Spirit and teaches them to be worshippers of Jesus, to be responsive to God's Spirit, to be diligent seekers of the Lord and His righteousness, and to be obedient children. The difference is that the latter will lead you to God and the former is merely works.

**T**rue Christian work can only be done by the power of the Holy Spirit in yielded flesh.

**T**he covenant between God and believers is based upon the crucifixion and resurrection. Yes, it was Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection that initiated the offer, but it is the recipient's crucifixion and resurrection that enables it to work for them. Rom:6-8

**T**he evidence that one is saved or born again is a change of heart from determining to do their own will to desiring to do His will.

**M**an has brought the gospel down to their level, but God was trying to bring man up to His level.

**T**he rules of the game--God is not playing a game, but attaining God's provisions can be compared to a game in that one must obey the rules in order to win fair and square. 2Tim: 2:5

I insist that the church must not only proclaim and teach what the winner gets, but they must also teach the rules of the game.

For example:

In order to be delivered from darkness, one must walk in the light as He is in the light. 1Jn: 1-7

In order to be safe from the devil's wiles one must put on the full armor of God. Eph: 6

In order to prosper, one must give. Lk: 6-38

In order to secure eternal life, one must sow to the spirit and not to the flesh. Gal: 6:7-8

In order to be a glorious church, the members must do all for the glory of God. 1Cor: 10:31

In order to have peace, one must be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. Phil: 4:6-7

In order to resist temptation one must submit themselves to God and resist the devil, and he will flee from them. They must draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to them. They must cleanse their hands and purify their hearts and refuse to be double minded. James: 4:6-8

If I give up the idea of a thorough housecleaning of the heart at the time of the new birth, I must also give up the idea of the church being glorious. For if it takes the Holy Spirit 20-30 years to get each soul in a position of submission and dependence upon God, there will never be a glorious church.

**T**he reason I have more strength and zeal than the others in any given church is because I have received a higher called--the biblical way--and I have higher goals--the biblical goals. This is also the reason I cannot be content with church as it is. I think I would lose my higher calling and end up a mediocre Christian if I came down to where church is content to stay.

Some will say, "Well, God cleans His own fish. We're just bringing in the harvest." But I say, God uses His Word and His disciples to get the fishes' attention and start them off on the road to the knowledge of God. Jesus said, "Feed My sheep."

**B**ecause the church is not in a state of revival they turn out to be the persecutors of those who would live godly rather than being their comforters and encouragers.

**T**here is another very subtle and tremendous lie being believed and spoken today. It is that Jesus came to give us peace and love. That sounds right because He did come to do that, but it can only be accomplished by receiving Jesus himself. The focus must not be on receiving peace and love, it must be on receiving Jesus. The truth is if you receive Jesus and obey Him,



you will enjoy peace and love. Note that human peace and love practiced by confessed believers who have not put on the Lord Jesus Christ is not real and lasting peace and love.

**M**ost of the church seems to think that because they claim Jesus, they are exempt from following God's admonitions and precepts, but the truth is that God gave us Jesus so that we can follow His teaching and ways.

Jer: 32:17-19 reveals that our great and mighty God rewards everyone according to their ways and fruits. Church today seem to think that God sent Jesus so that man won't have to reap what they've sown, but the truth is that God sent Jesus so man can change what he sowing so he can change what he's reaping.

We have not been given Jesus in order to be excused from obeying the Word. We have been given Jesus so we can carry out the Word. Just quit looking at mankind's frailties and look to God's greatness. Quit using mankind's shortcomings as an excuse for sinning and messing up. Use the power of Christ within you to overcome them.

**S**alvation is a change of heart and mind--a change of gods. To start, one must turn from their self being god in their life to God being God in their life from that time forth. One cannot serve God and self.

**M**y responsibility is to study, meditate, seek God, practice the Word--make Jesus, Lord in my life. It is God's responsibility to shape me and mold me, to sanctify me, lead me, teach me, and use me. I mess up when I get too concerned about what kind of pot I am and how big I should be and what shape I should be, etc. It's when I look at me instead of Him that I get out of whack. Church teaching must change to help us look to and at Him and not at us.

**T**he church lives in a constant state of "we should, but we can't", this is because leaders are supposed to teach, live, and speak the written Word of God, not their own take on it. They teach "we ought" and "we try" and then they find out they can't. The power is in the Word. The power is in faith. There is no power in man's take on the Word. There is no power in "we ought".

They need to teach what we have and who we are from the Bible. The Bible focuses on God's help. Today's teachers are focusing on man's weaknesses and shortcomings.

The church has adapted to her surroundings. She has evolved into what she is today. It is therefore accepted, even though it does not look or act like the church in the New Testament. The church is now based upon "I believe," rather than, "it is written." This is why one can't convey the unacceptability of her doings. She does not comprehend when you say she is wrong because she knows only the church of today and the way of reading the Bible so that it backs up the adapted church. The Bible has been adapted to the church's logic.

**T**he church teaching today, for the most part, is centered on the New Testament--mainly Paul's writings, as if he was the chief cornerstone. The church must realize that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the Light of the world and His teachings are the center--all other scriptures must be understood in the light of the gospels, not the other way around.

**M**any people dig in the Bible and ponder and listen for answers to their dilemmas. But many finally get an answer that makes sense to them and they accept it without making sure it agrees completely with Bible teaching. Others do check their answers out with the Bible, but they liked the explanation so well that they allow the enemy to explain away the differences.

I spoke some of these truths that I have written in this book to a small group of true Christian women today and was further educated. The one who does most of the talking had just declared that she no longer told people she was a Christian because the term no longer establishes what a person believes. She said now she tells them she is a Bible believer. But when I spoke these biblical truths that are far above today's teaching, she balked. She gave her opinion which was not biblical.

I pointed this out and she would not submit to the Bible. She declared that God was sovereign and that, I guess, was supposed to mean that she didn't know how, but she was right anyway. The others kept quiet.

I learned that even good Christians have some Bible truths, some opinions and ideas of their own, of their folks, and of their church all engrained in them. It's a potpourri of information.

And furthermore most of them will not yield to this teaching that I have been pointing out from the Bible because they are very comfortable with what they believe. They have even been molded into the person they are, through what they have been taught and believe and they are unwilling to admit that any of it is error.

**T**oday when trouble comes many Christians grab some healthy attitude that is floating around to find comfort rather than making sure they have on the full armor of God so they can stand against the fiery darts of the enemy.

A lot of what the church teaches children today are worldly healthy attitudes, not God's teachings. This all came about because Christian attitudes have infiltrated the world's thinking and the world's thinking has infiltrated the church, thus it's hard to decipher, in a lot of cases, where the attitude or way of thinking came from. But, again, the one who sticks with what the Bible teaches and does not go off to the left or to the right is the one with the truth.

For example: The world can pick out the good reports and make light of the negative ones because they have no guidelines but themselves and no power but their own, so there's not much they can do about it. But the Christians have a compass to keep them on the right track or to bring them back to the right track--Deut: 28, 1Kings 9, Isa: 1 to name a few. These and many other chapters in the Bible tell us when we are missing it with God and how to get back on track. Therefore Christians ought to check with a the manual when things are not up to snuff and make the necessary adjustments, rather than close their eyes to the signs of decay.

Along those lines--when a Christian kid says, "I hate myself." or "I could kill myself." The Christian teacher or parent shouldn't say, "Oh, you shouldn't hate yourself, because you were created in God image." The truth is that that's exactly why they should hate themselves. What they are hating is their carnal nature. They are dissatisfied with themselves because they know they should be godly and they are not. No one is teaching them that in order to live godly, one must choose to have their old man crucified. What they hate in their carnal nature is that which is not in the image of God. It's the perfect time to share the good news of the crucifixion and resurrection. It's the answer to their problem.

If they don't like themselves because of the way they look or their clothes or something then it's a good time to teach them the difference between worldly desires and godly desires. This may not take the frustration completely away, but it will help them to keep things in

perspective.

The Bible offers all people, Jesus and in this package they are offered freedom from bondage and sin, deliverance from harmful habits, fear and so forth, knowledge of the truth, joy, peace, love, a glorious reason for living, a God that can defeat any enemy, a rock to stand on that never changes, to have all their sins washed away, health, long life, safety, prosperity and eternal life.

Most churches today offer eternal life through asking Jesus to save you. Some will say, "They teach being clean from sin, the solid rock, deliverance, peace, love and joy."

I say, "No, they don't.

Ÿ Their rock changes as their so called wisdom grows.

Ÿ They teach that you are clean, but they don't teach you how to stay clean, such as: Avoid feeding the flesh and be diligent to feed the spirit. Know that you are known by the company you keep and ungodly company rubs off.

Ÿ They have peace that they are accepted by God, but what about the peace that comes from understanding that you are the victor in every battle? They don't have that because they rarely do battle. They only exact that which is humanly reasonable rather than seeing Christians as anointed of God, given the full armor, endued with power from on high, having a high Priest who can't mess up, having the mighty conqueror living on the inside, having the great and precious promises and the Spirit of Truth.

Ÿ They confess that they are only human and they live that way. The love they make an effort to show is only human.

Ÿ This group of people believe one thing and do another. Their God is good, but He does evil, says one thing, but means another, He can't be understood because His ways are higher than ours, and they explain His mandates and promises away in their teaching and literature. Their God is more unpredictable than humans are. He's less compassionate than humans.

How could this have been avoided? By teaching as the Bible does. It teaches radical obedience to God, single-mindedness on seeking God, steadfastness in trusting God, whole-heartedness in devotion to God. They don't insist on these things because they think they are only human.

They don't believe those teachings are for the average Christian. They don't believe it can be

done. They fear taking such an irrational stand. But the power is in the Word.

Let me tell you what the Word says the church is: It is the place to go if you need any kind of help. It is made up of people with godly wisdom and knowledge. God has provided for her (the church) to be well, happy, victorious, strong, prosperous, godly, caring, and empowered to heal the sick, cast out devils, raise the dead. She has been given self-sufficiency and sufficiency for every good work. 2Cor: 9:8 Amp.V.

The church is in control and that is why we have this big mess. Instead of healing they are shedding blood. How? By telling people they are okay with God when they are sinning. By telling people God doesn't heal everyone. By telling people that Christians are only human. By telling people that God doesn't necessarily operate as it tells us in the Bible that He does.

They have no power, because they claim Jesus' name which is the Word of God, but they don't know Him. He is exactly like the Bible. But Christians, for the most part, don't know right from wrong. They don't know what God has called them to do. They don't know who they are in Jesus. They don't know what God has said. They don't know because they don't spend the time and energy that it takes to know and practice the Word. Their own interests, their own desires, their family, their jobs, their homes, and their friends all come before God.

Another reason why the church is responsible for the condition of things today is that Jesus ordained the church to loose and bind. If the church does not declare sin, sin the devil runs rampart. Christians by their confessions have bound themselves and unbound sin. They have bound God's Word and loosed oppression. And all this is taking place while they claim Jesus as their motive and church as the place where God is.

About taking a stand against soap operas, hard rock, scandal sheets, flesh magazines, etc.--it is of the utmost importance that Christians do so. That is take a stand against harmful pastimes so that people can choose between good and evil. The public, including many Church goers and professing Christians are not even aware of the evilness of these things because these things have been socially accepted.

If there's anyone who doesn't want to take issue today, it's the Christian, the very one who must speak the truth in love. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord raises up a

standard against it or him. Isa: 69:18

**T**he pastor preached on Mal:1. It was about dedication and would have been a very important message if it had been applied to dedication to God and the Word of God rather than dedication to church. This means faithfulness in attending and giving and in serving the church. If the church were unadulterated the message would still have been very useful, but when you preach dedication to church and church has morphed into something other than what God had in mind, it is not a very helpful message.

**T**he Pharisees worked hard at obeying the law, their problem was their flesh. Jesus said in Matt: 5:20 that our righteousness must exceed theirs. He then goes on to describe a righteousness that only God can achieve. Then He goes to the cross and is resurrected to give the church that He has just taught the righteousness and power to walk in it.

**O**nly the Bible can give us the correct mindset. It tells us who we (Christians) are, what we are to do, and how we are to do it. But the church gives it out like this-- this is what we should do and we are trying, please allow for our humanness. The difference is that in the Bible mindset, it is a fact and reality to be believed and received (walk in it). But the churches' mindset is that these things are what we hope to become some day (never quite get there, always in the future)

**T**hey cry, "No one fears the Lord anymore", yet they teach that their afflictions are not of their own doing. They think they are either from God to teach them something or that they happen to give them opportunity to witness to someone or sent by the devil to get them to curse God. Prov: 1, Isa: 29:13-14, 30: 12-1, Jer: 2:19:

**T**here is a teaching going around today that we shouldn't think about getting, but only about giving. That sounds so pious. There is a place to emphasize giving, but God gets great joy from giving to His children. He is a giver. How arrogant to think Christians can do without receiving good things from God. What are they going to give, if they don't first receive? Jesus

does not rebuke His disciples for wanting treasure, health, and security, He teaches, as does the rest of the Bible, that the way to get these things is to do things God's way.

What they are teaching robs God of His glory which is that He loves us and gives us His best. And it robs the church of her glory which is to believe God and receive His best.

I know they were trying to deal with selfish Christianity. The way to deal with that and all the other problems is to teach all of the Word in the context and balance that is already in the Bible.

**A**nother problem in the church is that even in the most serious and sincere churches there is a prevalent spirit that says, "You put the food on the table (You teach the Word) and I'll decide if I want to eat it or not." This is wrong and causes much harm. The true call to repentance does away with this spirit.

Because this spirit was not dealt with in the church, it eventually took over. Hag:2:12-13 teaches that pollution spreads and multiplies. Discernment is needed. If you are teaching or preaching what the Bible says, believers must submit to it. If it's just your own take on something, they can mull it over in a spirit of prayer and decide whether they will accept it or not. The key phrase here is if the Bible teaches it, it must be accepted and lived by all confessing Christians.

But instead of putting on boldness, firmness, and truth in love to deal with this spirit the church leaders have been putting on humility towards it. There is a place to put on humility to deal with church matters, but this is not it. The leaders must understand that this spirit has to go. But it won't go until the congregation is crucified with Christ and resurrected Christ in them. That is not a condition that must be given a time of growth. That is the condition of a "born again" believer.

A powerful subtlety in the church in America today is the thinking that Christian's progressive growth is in the area of learning to obey God. This is a lie. When a person comes to God on His terms--Jesus Christ--they come repentant and prepared to obey God. The progressive growth is to be in learning God's will and learning how to do it.

## **Has God changed His ways or has the church changed gods?**

In Acts 8 the gospel was spread by the Word being confirmed by God's presence which resulted in signs and wonders. In today's church, their word is confirmed by the infirmed and sick praising God anyway. And in Acts 26 God sent His servant to witness, by an angel's message, but today God has them struck by lightening or hit by a car or something so they will be in hospital at the right time to witness to someone.

I testify that the Bible way is God's way and is suppose to be the way of the church, but if the church will not play hardball with God, she will not have access to God's glory. These new testimonies about God being happy with people's maladies and that they are unique and He is using them that way and it is His plan were all born in people's minds because they thought they were in covenant with God and had no other explanation for the sickness and disease among them. They have been taught a watered down gospel--not the true wine.

You want a clue to why the church isn't walking in the miraculous? What else is in the church besides sickness and disease? Sin, that's what. And disobedience and ignorance and illiteracy.

**T**he church demands that we assemble. They know that unity is essential in the body, yet they don't seem to understand at all that the unity and the body working effectually all come from individuals being crucified with Christ and resurrected Christ in them. I mean they need to teach that a lot more, if they want unity. Unity does not come from preaching unity--it comes from preaching Christ and Him crucified.

The unity sought after by the church will come as "unity in the Spirit". When we all get in the Spirit and the Spirit lives in us, we will unify. God does the making us one--we do the seeking His kingdom.

Beware of giving up the Spirit of truth for the spirit of unity.

The common and fertile ground for a church to join together, grow, and prosper is a church made up of people who are seeking to make Jesus Lord in their life.

**C**linging to faith that God will fulfill His promises to the church without obeying Him is



foolishness. Fearing that God will not fulfill His promises even if we do obey Him is foolishness. Knowing that if we carry out God's instructions, follow His blueprints and building plans for the house it will be built and the promises fulfilled is wisdom.

**We** are born of the Word, but it is the witness that brings forth the fruit. The church--the bride--the fertile ground must be a witness to Christ's resurrection in order to produce the fruit and bring forth young. As the earth itself is witness to the resurrection by the casting of seed which has died into the ground-- it comes to life and then brings forth fruit--this is a witness to life after death.

It will never work for church malcontents to break away and form a new church because it is done in a spirit of contention and strife. But for people to gather naturally to where the fountain is flowing--this is good because it is done in a spirit of seeking and hope. So God must be the one to provide the leaders before there can be a following. The leader must be called of God and led of God.

**When** you make God's laws out to be flexible, the inevitable result is that His ways and promises become flexible too.

**Since** the church is not following all of God's rules of protection, the congregation in turn is not following the individual rules of protection either. As a result, I must follow God's rules of protection and in so doing I need protected from them. (Bad company. Disobedient to God's instructions. Not a safe place.) When they obey 1 & 2Tim. & Titus then they can talk to me about obeying Heb: 10:25.

**They** say, "You can't expect the church to be perfect." No, I expect the church to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness with their whole heart. I expect them to put on the full armor of God. I expect them to reckon themselves crucified with Christ and resurrected Christ in them. I expect them to protect their heart with all diligence, walk worthy of His calling, and put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to sow to the spirit and not to the flesh and to remember that bad company corrupts good manners.

I wasn't going to church to hear the Word, for I knew they didn't have it. I wasn't going to feed the sheep because I knew they wouldn't receive it. I wasn't going because I love to go, I abhorred much of what I heard there. I wasn't going to fellowship for they insisted upon speaking darkness. I was going because of one Bible verse--Heb: 10:25 and I hoped for an opportunity to be a blessing to someone.

But the pastor started to preach going to church often and insisted that he could not believe a person could be dedicated to God and not come to all the services and love to come. He did not state this once or even once a year but often and finally suggested that it was doubtful if a person was going to heaven if they were not faithful to the services.

This is truly the same as declaring the jubilee and then forcing the people back into servitude. This high esteem for a low living church is a tradition to me. Many will not stand against Christians doing the things listed in 1Cor: 5, yet they will preach over and over about the so called sin of not coming to all the services. The same passage that tell us to assemble is the same passage that tells us to exhort one another-- not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. The second half is not done and the first half is the major part of the law, according to their preaching.

No where in the Bible does God say that a person can't be sincere if they don't go to all the services, yet this message is often preached, whereas what you sow you will reap and you can't serve two masters are two messages of many that are sadly neglected.

There are many verses that are rarely, if ever, preached such as:

Eph: 5:18; And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

How many times have you heard a message about living a life filled with the Spirit? That scripture is taken as a good suggestion or a goal for somewhere down the road, whereas do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together is handled as a law. This is the danger of the traditions of men--some scriptures are blown way out of proportion and others are made of non-effect.

The bottom line is that there is no use to going to church if we are not going to be serious

about the crucifixion and resurrection in us because we will never grow up or be perfected or be "one" for long without it. In fact, without it, all a "body" can become is religious and develop their own religion instead of developing into the body of Christ.

**T**he biggest difficulty in the true church is a lack of knowledge about being crucified with Christ and resurrected Christ in them. Oh, the people have heard this and acknowledge that it is so, but it is still an abstract instead of a reality. It is also true that this is not the spirit in the church nor in the average Christian's life. Oh, there is a spirit of submission, but without the knowledge of how to apply it in their particular strong temptations, they continue to agree in their minds, but lose in their daily battles. For the crucifixion and resurrection power is God's answer to mankind's dilemma of how to live godly, of how to rule over their carnal nature, of how to resist temptation, and how to submit to God.

**T**he church must be delivered from this present natural gospel which is escape from hell, but not from sin, and be instructed in the super-natural gospel which is Christ in us is our hope of glory. Believers are empowered to crucify their carnal desires and live the resurrected life of Christ in us.

**T**here is a mighty difference between making Jesus Lord in your life and trying to do the right thing. The church needs to get back to biblical teaching on making Jesus Lord in their lives.

**J**esus is everything we would like to be, He can do everything we would like to do, He knows everything we would like to know, He has everything we would like to have, and God has given Him to us so that we also can be complete and do and be and have and know.

**T**he church is still trying to teach children and young Christians to do right. But what they need to do is teach them who Jesus is--show them His Spirit in the Word over and over and teach them how to put on Jesus. Jesus should always be the star. He should always be the example.

**If** you don't spend quality time in fellowship with God and in the Word daily, your feelings will many times overrule the Word in your life. Most of the churchgoers today don't even know what God has said. Others don't even care what the Bible says, yet they wonder why God seems so far away or why they are not making more progress--they depend on church for their soul supply of spiritual food.

**The** written word of God is not legalism, it is the Spirit and mind of Christ. If the church carried out the teachings in the Word, in the Spirit in which it was written, they would not get into legalism, they would be enabled to walk in love which is a balance of true caring, affection, and wisdom.

**In** the books of the prophets, God says He is going to send Jesus to fix our hearts. It seems to me that the church thinks Jesus' mission was to fix God's heart. They seem to think that what Jesus did changes how God feels about things--like the book of Isaiah for instance.

**The** church seems to have lost the calling to be the light of the world and instead wishes to spread grace around like peanut butter through out the land. It's a grace with no deliverance in it. It does not heal our wounds. It does not cover our nakedness. Jesus is changed from the Way, the Truth, and the Life to a salve to rub on your hurt and into a ticket to heaven. It is a perverted gospel that null and voids the Old Testament.

**You** can determine to not be judgmental, but if you don't have the mind and Spirit of Christ, you will judge the situation wrongly.

**Those** who are ministering by faith that it is God in them doing the instructing because they feel it strongly while praying for the person in need are making many mistakes because what they are feeling strongly is their own conviction or belief about the subject. We have all been fed wrong information. We all have fears, prejudices, false concepts, religious teaching, and family junk in our computers. We must walk slow, seek much, and be open to correction by being aware of our condition. That open to correction is not just from those over us in authority, but from the whole body or any part of it.

Christians have given messages that they testified came from God while they were in meditation and prayer. They were sure they were to share it with the church, yet the message was lacking in power and glory and I perceived it as incorrect. I asked God what was going on and I believe He gave me the answer. They did their daily reading and were thinking about it and the inspiring message came up out of their spirit--they felt blessed with understanding and wanted to share. But the message actually came from the teaching they had had, usually from little up, and it was really more human than divine.

**W**hen God works, His people have been praying. When man works, there is some prayer mostly asking God to bless their efforts. When God works people see His power and worship Him. When the church works they feel a spirit of unity and accomplishment and interpret the good feeling as God, mighty among them. When God's Spirit is truly mighty among the people they become more aware of His person and His will and are broken of depending on anything but His Spirit.

**T**he protection from pride or any other fleshly sin is to walk by the Spirit of Jesus and not by the flesh in anything. Pride cannot be combated in the flesh. Pride cannot remain in the Spirit of Jesus. Gal. 5

**I** am totally dependent upon God. Without Him I am just flesh and blood, but having Him as my Father (which encompasses God, Savior, High Priest, Master, King, Lord, and Shepherd) I am a child of God.

**I**'ve heard a Christian leader talking as if his opinions and ambitions were as important as God's in the ministry decisions. That is very ignorant. If God isn't in charge of a person's affairs, then there can be no hope of super-natural intervention or guidance of the affair. Who wants that? We are not partners with God in the decision-making process. Either we get our guidance from Him or we wing it and hope for the best. I'm trying to say that though children of God are elevated, they are not in the God class when it comes to knowledge, understanding, wisdom, goodness, nor power. If a Christian has any or all of these, they came from God. People do not have the resources within themselves to make quality

decisions pertaining to doing Jesus' work. Why would one talk to God as if they might go His way or they might go their way?

**I**f all that were preached and practiced in true churches were the unadulterated Word, God would be able to prepare hearts for great salvation from the time the believer was a little child. But since the church is compromised, most Christians receive a compromised gospel therefore it takes many years for God to re-teach them the truth and be able to do a great work in their heart. So over the years, church leaders and church people were conditioned to expect no more than that. They expect it to take 20 or 30 years for them to learn to walk the walk and talk the talk. But if this continues, there will never be a glorious church. The church will never be a safe place, a good witness, or a pillar of truth until the Bible is taught as it is written.

We are poor, blind, and naked because we have cast aside the written Word and teach Christianity instead.

**T**hat instruction to be charitable toward others--overlooking and excusing was to be applied to their faults, shortcomings, and failures, not to their ignorance and lack of faith. These things are to be dealt with by applying the Word. Yet when I try to speak the Word to cure this, I am judged as not being charitable.

**T**he reason one does not see more excellence in churches is that no one expects to see excellence anymore. The theme is we are only human. That is incorrect--a child of God is indwelt with the power of the Godhead.

**B**efore you make allowances for human feelings and weaknesses, you must establish the covenant and the written Word. The church is allowing for the human element from the time of repentance, through the covenant, through the teaching of the Word and so people never get past go. The allowance for human weakness and error are for after the person has received a regenerate heart, a renewed mind, and is endeavoring to walk it out.

**I** think one of the church's problems is that they endeavor to build one another up, but they missed the 'in the Lord' part. They are building up the carnal man instead of the new man. The inevitable result is strife, selfishness, and lack of the Spirit. Had they built up the new man the result would have been love, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit.

**P**erhaps nobody is well-rounded in the body of Christ, that's why they need every part. Even if every one of the body is missing some essentials, operating together in respect and cooperation, they can be the fullness of Christ.

**T**he pastor is not supposed to be like a father to the flock, nor their leader as Moses was-- that's Jesus' job. The pastor is the eldest brother. To understand his role one can study the role of the eldest brother in Jewish history.

How did the pastor get to be in the dominant position that they are in today? In the past people were illiterate--little education, few Bibles--often, only the pastor went on to higher learning and had the opportunity to study the Bible, so he became their source for instruction and Biblical understanding in the local church. The inevitable result was he became head honcho.

This is also why pastors still think they are way out in front in learning and understanding. In fact, I think they found that they had more unity and control if the congregation got their instruction from them and their elders so they encouraged the congregation to depend upon them and they did not encourage them or did very little to encourage them to study the Bible for themselves.

And the leaders must understand that each precious stone must be free to be the effectual working part that they were designed to be. They must stop trying to build God's house with hewn stone.

Pastors will need to understand that their vision is incomplete without the rest of the body's vision, their direction and knowledge are incomplete without the rest of the body. Jesus is the head and leader not the pastor. The pastor is top in authority in their particular body, but they must not lord it over the rest and demand that the body follow them in exclusion to their Holy Spirit leading. (This sharing the calling and work of the Lord is about the redeemed, not

about church-goers.)

The pastors demand a spirit of co-operation from the whole body towards their leadership and they don't show the same spirit of co-operation toward the body. Those scriptures about submission were for them too. The mutual spirit of co-operation is--we will work this thing out because we must work it out. Instead, the pastors have an attitude like a domineering husband demanding the wife's obedience or else.

**O**h that people could understand that Jesus was taking back the kingdom from Satan. He was restoring spiritual life. He was countering what Adam and Eve did. He was reconciling us back to God--restoring our Father/child relationship.

In the testimonies I hear today, often sin is spoken of so lightly and explained as if it were inevitable. To non-Christians sin is inevitable, but Christians are fully equipped to resist sin and that is what God expects them to do.

The impression I'm getting from the church these days is that the most ungodly thing you can do is to consider it important to live godly and to expect other Christians to live godly too.

**I**'m saying, if you have made Jesus Lord in your life, you are renewing your mind with the Word, you are putting off the old man and putting on the new man, you are seeking God diligently, you are a doer of the Word which includes putting on the full armor of God and you always do things God's way. If you sin or miss the mark there is only repentance and forgiveness.

If a church's nucleus is not made up of Christians that are doing these things, it will become humanized. The congregation can be well-meaning, it can be seeking God earnestly, but if the nucleus does not have a deep personal relationship with Jesus, if they have not experienced a personal crucifixion and resurrection the church is going no where, but down.

**I**n my Christian training I was taught guidelines in dress and behavior. The reason for decorum was to remain in a safe place and be a safe place. Today, I am disapproved of for making an issue of dress and various behaviors--told that I'm being judgmental.



The church leadership co-operates with this new freedom and refuse to teach wisdom in the name of tolerance and diversity, but when people fall because of the lack of wisdom and safe conduct, they will try to help the person clean up their mess. But my point is that we must teach wisdom and safety to greatly reduce the number that fall and to shine as good witnesses. It is very important to live a life guided by wisdom and consideration.

Those who confess to be godly used to dress godly. Why isn't it an important part of their testimony today?

**T**he reason Christians who are progressing cannot move on to a higher level or life in God is because they feel compelled to stay with the rest of the church and since the church is not moving up higher, they don't live and walk on higher ground either. They are taught to "go with the flow".

The most important thing in life is not church fellowship it's not witnessing, it not Bible study, it is not praise, and it is not feeling good about ourselves. The most important thing in life is to have a close personal love relationship with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. I am saying this is where the emphasis should be, but it is always on these other things. Those other things are actually the result of our fellowship and love relationship with the trinity. As usual people put the cart before the horse, therefore they cannot go anywhere.

**M**any experiences in life overwhelm people and cause them to misbehave. But God has given His people grace. This does not mean that they are excused for their misbehavior, it means they can receive grace and love and by abiding in them, they can escape the high pressure that overwhelms so they don't have to misbehave.

**G**race is tangible--it can be felt and influence the believer just the same as emotions can be felt and influence people. When a believer feels high pressure, he/she needs to back off and submit to grace. Grace is unmerited love and favor. It will enable the believer to walk in love even when their emotions are pressuring them to do otherwise.

**T**his spiritual walk through life can be compared to a blind man who needs to be led by someone who can see. God leads the believer, but sometimes the believer forgets to let God lead and then they stumble and grope for something to hold onto, something to tell them where they are and which direction to go. After a time of turmoil, the believer realizes that they have not been following God and they chastise themselves and wonder how they could have missed it.

One big reason this happens is because there are many other spirits trying to lead them besides the Holy Spirit. There is the spirit that causes the person to want to be in control. Then there's the spirit of "doing it my way". How about the spirit that deceives the person into thinking they are responsible for what only God should be responsible for. This is where humility comes in. The winning way is to always bear in mind that "we can do all things through Christ," but we cannot do much of anything the way it needs to be done without His help and direction.

Another hindrance to spiritual growth in the church is an attitude by the leaders that all the congregation must be treated as if they were on the same level of knowledge and understanding. This also, is addressed in Isa: 28.

Isa: 28: 23: Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech. 24: Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground? 25: When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and rie in their place? 26: For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him. 27: For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod 28: Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen. 29: This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

What does that have to do with treating all adult believers as if they were on the same level spiritually? God is teaching that there is to be intelligence and discernment in handling crops. In this case the growth stage of the believer is the crop.

**S**educing spirits are everywhere today. To stay on the right track in your thought life, ask these test questions. Does this teaching agree with the Bible? Does this teaching agree with God's commandments? Does this teaching agree with God's methods, precepts, and truth?

**M**any know that it is Jesus that sets you free, but how many have heard that it is Jesus living in you that enables you to live free and you cannot remain free without Him.

**M**y spirit is the abiding place of the Holy Spirit. My soul is the servant of the Holy Spirit. My body is the vehicle of the Holy Spirit.

**I**t is because Christians have the Holy Spirit that they are the children of God. So the fuss about whether Christians are in the God class or the human class is near-sighted. The flesh is human. The born again Christian has the Spirit of God living within. How could they be children of God and not be in the God class as opposed to the human class?

**G**od looks at everything through the eyes of love. He not only sees the action, He also sees what's behind the action and He sees the short term and long term consequences of the action. That should help people understand why He deals with things the way He does. His eyes of love are not the kind that see no evil and they do not just see the sin. In the instant of the action or words, He sees not only the short term and long term consequences, He also sees the best course of action for Him to take toward the offender or toward the obedient.

When one has truly received Jesus and has made a true commitment to change, God sees them not only as they are today, He also sees the finished product- what He is going to make of the person. He sees them as they will be when He has accomplished His work in them. For this class of confessors, it is right to assure them that God sees them as sinless.

But what about the class of confessors who have not truly made the commitment to turn away from sin, turn to God, renew their mind, starve their carnal appetites, and be doers of the Word? Does God see them as sinless, just because they say they asked to be saved? No. A person cannot receive God's salvation until they truly repent and turn to Him.

This is another area where the church, by speaking God's words, should make it clear who the message they are preaching is for. This is part of nurturing and weeding the crops. Isa: 28

Matt: 7:21-23: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that

doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22: Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Lk: 6:46: And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Jn: 15:5-6: I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6: If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.:

**A** church that is worshipping and serving God exudes love, loyalty, and zeal for the Lord and His work. This love produces a mindset whereby the people, as one man, would not think of neglecting that which Jesus died to provide for them--such as a close personal relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And such as deliverance from sin, power to overcome wrong spirits, and lovingly being involved in Jesus' ministry as their top priority.

Whereas a church that is worshipping and serving church does not have these attributes that come directly from the Spirit of God and yet they pressure the congregation to serve the church which makes people slaves to church programs, church fellowships, and church worship. Slaves are in forced labor. God's children labor out of love.

In the present church atmosphere, when one becomes a lover of every Word of God, suddenly he/she becomes an accuser of the brethren. That is to say, they begin to notice things that are not right and if they say anything they will be considered an accuser of the brethren. Even if they only think negative things they will feel unloving and uncharitable, therefore they will adjust their thinking and become compromisers themselves and the power of the written Word is laid aside again.

**P**eople come into a stable church and say, "This is stability, I will be safe here." But little do they know that their adversary has other plans. They do not recognize that they are in a war. They all need to put on the full armor of God or they will be taken away. It's just that serious. But the church's emphasis is not on putting on the full armor of God, it is still on going to church and on grace overlooking weaknesses. My point is they are not preparing for battle, they think they are arming those already in battle. But it takes the "full" armor of God to defeat the enemy.

**I**t is a big mistake to treat Christians as if they were still sinner, instead of born again children of God. Salvation was supposed to change the whole ballgame for the believer. No longer is the believer a selfish, carnal individual stumbling through life, they are a new creature with a new nature, a new God, a new goal, and new life.

**S**unday school and church teaching should be from the biblical angle which means they should be addressed as members of Christ's body, who therefore respond to His leading and command. But today's church teaches individuals to listen to God for what they will get out of it. This should not be.

When they were sinners one talks to them about what they can get out of it. As Christians, the emphasis should be on what God has given them so that they can best serve Him. And what He teaches so they can abide in a safe place and be good witnesses. When one gets saved, they enter into Christ and He enters into them. What should be on the church's mind is how they can stay spotless and be good witnesses.

This is not to say that one should ignore the rewards of serving God. There are many earthly rewards for serving God and Christians can rejoice in these benefits. I'm just saying that that is not where the body of Christ's focus, emphasis, or motivation should be. They are the by-products of serving God, but Christians have been delivered from selfish ambitions to serve the living God, thus the message of encouragement should be addressed to a servant of the Lord.

For instance, if your finger needed to cooperate with the body better, you would not tell it to behave because it would feel better or it would get a better job or something, to get it to function properly. Non your finger would know that it was in the best interest of the body and the work that it is called to do, to respond to the head's commands without hesitation. That's the angle--serve the head, not the finger.

**T**o be created in His image means that He created us capable of functioning as He does--in unselfish, all caring love, having feelings, a will of our own, and the ability to make intelligent choices. God breathed on Adam and Eve and they became spiritual beings living in carnal

bodies. He told them to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. That is what He is telling the church to do too. To fill the earth with spiritually alive people.

Gen: 1:26-28: And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28: And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Gen: 2:7: And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

**T**he trouble with compromise is that there is no place to quit. One generation or one individual compromises and that causes issues to get a little cloudy. The next generation does not see clearly so they compromise a little more. The next generation or for an individual the next decision to compromise is a little bit to the left and before you know it, in the case of the compromisers being the church, the Bible becomes obsolete, old fashion--out of date.

**G**od made an ark. Too many are hanging onto the side. Get in!

**P**ilgrim's Progress excellently shows the pilgrimage of Christians except for one thing. It does not depict the fact that the Christian is enveloped in the love of Christ. We sort of live in a love bubble. The pilgrim looked as if he were on that hard and dangerous journey all by himself, but in truth the Christian's pilgrimage is wrapped in the bubble wrap of God's love and support.

**I** was with God's people Friday night, Saturday night, and two times on Sunday. Monday morning while in prayer, I found that I had no clear direction in prayer or thought. I also notice that when I give up my high expectations for the church, in order to get along with other Christians, that my fellowship with God has no clear direction, nothing is black and white anymore--all is in a gray area.

I think the Sunday and Wednesday night services are what keeps the church people somewhat a people of God. Without these services, they would be just people instead of church people. Thus church is very important to them because it reminds them of who they are. But they never become who they are supposed to be because there is no clear direction. It was probably thrown out with legalism, or in the name of tolerance, benevolence, and charity. Let me remind the church again that it is to operate in the Spirit of Christ and in the name of Christ. He did not tolerate sin and He has given clear direction.

Holy living was supposed to have reward in having attained higher ground, but again in an attempt to treat all who profess Christ alike, holy living had to be brought down and disobedient Christians had to be brought up by the blood washed doctrine. Now, there is a stigma against mentioning holy living.

### **As I walk through the valley of church dilemma:**

Church workers and leaders were trained by church workers and leaders. These people have very little time to sit at the feet of Jesus--they are busy shaping and serving church. They don't even have time to ponder issues and ask God questions, let alone tarry for answers. This is one reason the church does not stretch and grow upward. It's usually some insignificant quiet somebody who has the time and cares to find the answer who does these things and that person usually has no opportunity to share their findings with the church leaders, because they are not recognized as someone who knows what's really going on.

I believe that a few Christians are on the right track. They do have a knowledge of the holy. They are walking in the garden with God. They have a true personal relationship with the Father and the Son, but God has not signed His name to them because He is preparing a vessel. He is preparing each one of them to fit together and when this happens, He will sign His name to them and they will be His last and great witness before the end.

**T**he Word of God is God's vehicle to communicate power to mankind. It is medicine to those who are sick. It can be skillfully used if surgery is needed. The Word of God is the tool the church should be using in its role as God's hospital. There are words that are like anti-biotics, some are like insulin, some like radiation, even laser surgery. The church, at present, is using short-changed, watered down words that only mimic in part the true Word. All they can do is

apply band-aids and administer cough syrup.

One reason the church that desires to go on with God, merely end up spinning their wheels is the congregation's divided interests. They go to church and are admonished and encouraged to do right, and then on the way home they listen to secular radio, once home they watch secular TV or read secular magazines after their meal. Or they leave church, listen to secular radio, go out to eat and talk of carnal everyday things, and then go home and visit some more or watch TV, etc.

When they left church they were full of good intentions. By the time the afternoon was finished, they forgot all about them.

The second reason is that they (the congregation) is serving God and mammon--again divided interests.

Thirdly, the leaders have to lead as well as admonish. They must make sure they don't have divided interest and then they must not only be a good example, but they must point out the pitfalls of being entangled in the affairs of the world.

The church's strength in witnessing, in proclaiming God's precepts, and in resisting the enemy is in their unity--their standing as one, proclaiming Jesus as Lord, standing as one in rebuking sin, living godly and standing for righteousness, and praying for those who need help.

What I see at this time is a very fragmented church. Where is the church where the members agree on what the Bible teaches, how to handle members who are out of line, or even how to pray for the sick? Why is this? Because a church must be taught together, pray together, share together. Am I talking about shepherding? I don't think so. I'm not teaching that the leaders are to dictate what a member believes and how they live. But they are to take the Bible and teach the members what it says and how it works. The members are to be sharing their experiences with one another as they practice resisting the enemy and learn to be led by God's Spirit instead of their carnal desires.

In other words, the church needs to grow up together, being of the same mind through biblical teaching and member practicing and sharing. The family grows together. God is their



Father, Jesus is their head--their chief leader, and the Holy Spirit is their common unction.

This again calls for good leaders--leaders who not only understand how to lead, but they must also understand the Bible.

Blending the body together God's way is good. That would be for each person in the body to share what they get from God with the rest of the body--God does the blending.

Blending man's way is for the few dominant leaders to have their say and demand that the congregation cooperate with them. It's not really blending--it's cloning.

**T**he spirits around us affect our decisions far more than we know. If you are a church person and want to do right, those church spirits greatly influence what you believe is right, but they're not always according to biblical teaching.

Jesus laid the ground rules for this great commission and that is to love the Lord your God with all your heart. That's the first rule. You do not move on until you get that one right.

**T**hey exalt church for what it's supposed to be according to the New Testament. But God intended for the church to be what she's supposed to be and then He would exalt her.

The spirit in the church is everybody's beautiful in their own way and to each his own, but the spirit in the church that is on course is, Jesus died for all and all ought to live for Him.

The church tends to pamper and pet, whereas the Bible teaches that they should be busy cutting off and cutting out that which hold them back.

There was a day when Christians didn't just worship a Holy God, they lived a holy life.

The church makes light of God's teachings and mandates and they make much of His promises. But His promises are for those who have a new heart. They are for those who walk by the Spirit, They are for those who trust and obey.

**Mixed messages:**

The pastor preached on true Christians and false confessor and established that most people in the church were not truly saved. Yet at the end of his message he reminded the members that the world would know them by their love of the brethren and he urged his church body to go around hugging others. If most of them are not really Christians, how is the world going to see Jesus or God's love through them, hugs or no hugs?

First he teaches that most of the people there are not true Christians and then he says the true Christians have to love those in the church as brothers and sisters. This is very difficult. If we would discern as God indicates in different places that we should, including Mal: 3:11, we could carry out this mandate. The New Testament tell us who to count as brothers and fellowship with. Why can't the church speak Bible and operate as it teaches instead of taking some Bible and using it as they see fit?

This wouldn't have happened if the church had remained a place for believers to worship and grow together instead of making it into an evangelistic center.

The pastor preached on not spending so much time and money on the outward appearance and yet he and many other pastors are the very ones who make a big deal about a good-looking woman. They should connect the dots--it's because the speakers make a big deal over women's looks that women spend so much time and money to be among the good-looking.

He was telling the woman not to behave carnally--making so much of the outward appearance, at the same time as he and many other Christian speakers encourage the carnal male attitude toward attractive women.

**I**f the church were full of born again believers who have been transformed as a body by the corporate renewing of their minds with the Word of God, they would learn biblical attitudes toward all issues, such as--whatsoever you sow you shall reap, take up your cross and follow Jesus, love not the world neither the things of the world, if one died for all, all ought to life for Him, put on the full armor of God and stand in the evil day, protect your heart with all

diligence for out of it are the issues of life, you cannot serve God and mammon, etc.

The very teachings that would have kept the church on course are the very ones that have been discarded.

**T**he post-modern church has a very different concept of what God was doing and how it is to be done, thus they cannot approve of those who they call Bible thumpers.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with being a Bible-thumper, despite the messages that have come out against it, as long as the thumper walks in love and is led by the Spirit. I maintain that Jesus was full of grace and truth. He was a graceful Bible-thumper.

**T**oday in the church, one who is more mature spiritually is not admired, but is resented. Instead of an immature Christian desiring to achieve the state of holiness of the more mature believer, they have taken the attitude of, "We don't have to do that."

Instead of those who would live godly being an example for the rest, over time, they came down from their high horse, so to speak, and now there are no godly examples, just immature Christians acting like sheep without a shepherd.

**M**any believe that it is not possible to live as the Bible urges us to all the time in our present state. Maybe not, but when we all get together on wanting to live a Christ-like life and we work together to help one another and build one another up in faith and determination, we will be able to live as the church should.

The church does not acknowledge that we have an enemy. They talk about Satan and his powers as if he were as powerful as God and more to be feared but then when evil comes their way, they believe God did it. We will win when we learn that the devil is our enemy. He perverts God's laws and deceives us into causing them to work against us, instead of for us, as God would have them do. And that's the only power the devil has--to pervert and deceive. Jesus is Lord. We are to put on the full armor of God and resist the devil and be more than conquerors in Jesus.

**T**here is a difference between condemnation of the devil and conviction of the Holy Spirit, but improper methods of dealing with condemnation can and often do weaken conviction.

God does not want to hurt us. He does not want to condemn us. He wants to save us from sin and its consequences. He wants us to repent of evil and do good--that it might be well with us. Some teachers seem to have forgotten this and think the goal is to erase guilt at any cost. It started out as a goal to establish the joy of the Lord in our hearts. But joy comes from a love relationship with God--a oneness with Him that comes from repentance and turning to Him. Erasing guilt only, will not establish righteousness.

**T**here is a spirit in the church, considered most high, but I believe it is a counterfeit because of what it does. It causes great leeway whereas Jesus' Spirit is the Way and is straight and narrow.

**C**ovenant relationship is why Jesus could do all that He did and then He willed it all to us. In heaven they live by the same covenant without a need for it to be written out because they have God's Spirit which is the covenant relationship--"all that I have is yours."

**I** just read an article in a Christian Journal. This group is with it in that they are engaging in the battle against post-modern culture and trends in America. The article was about the decline of the church. They said it appears that Christianity is fading out, but that there are some sincere Christians still in the fray. (My words to sum up what was written.)

The line that got me was: Christians need to find a way to thrive in ... (He described the post-modern situation of today.)

Christians only need to heed the instructions in the Bible. They only need to be real Christians and the world will sit up and take notice just as they did over 2000 years ago.

