

Who We Are In Christ Jesus

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INTRODUCTION

Praise God! It is good to have the opportunity to share the Word of God with you! May God, our Father, give you revelation knowledge of who you are in Christ Jesus as we continue, in Jesus' mighty name! Amen!

Today, Satan is continuing his attacks on the Body of Christ. I notice that one of the most devastating tactics of the enemy is to keep believers deceived as to who they are in Christ Jesus. In Hosea 4:6, God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge". Satan comes to blind the minds of believers, to steal the Word of God.

Satan attempts to bring condemnation and guilt against the believer, to convince him that he still is an old sinner, a filthy worm, with no right to approach God. He desires to prevent the believer from coming boldly to the throne of grace in the time of need to receive the delivering power of God. He seeks to keep the believer from learning covenant truths, and to prevent the believer from walking in full manifestation of his sonship and delegated authority.

But praise be to God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus!

In this book, I discuss many of the facets of who we are in Christ Jesus. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, I have sought to clarify our position in Christ Jesus and the high calling of God in Him. It is my desire that we all come into the fullness of knowing who we are in Christ Jesus, and into full maturity as the Body of Christ.

Note: All scriptures are in the King James version unless otherwise noted.

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CHAPTER 1 - THE FORGIVEN

We who are in Christ Jesus are forgiven of our sins and washed clean by His Blood from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1.1 WASHED BY THE BLOOD

We have forgiveness for our sins by the washing of the blood of Jesus. We have to willfully receive the blood of Jesus and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

Rev 1:5

... Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Rev 7:14

... And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Colos 1:14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

1.2 THE BLOOD - WHY IT WORKS

To gain an understanding of why the blood of Jesus works, we need to define some terms. First, what is "death"?

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

2 Thes 1:8-9 (NAS)

dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power....

Death is "separation". Physical death is separation of the spirit and soul from the body. Marital death is separation of husband from wife¹. Spiritual death is separation of man's spirit from God's Spirit.

When Adam sinned, God's Spirit could not continue to dwell with Adam, in man's original state of intimate fellowship, unless the glory of God consume him. Hebrews 12:29 says, "For our God is a consuming fire." And Isaiah 4:4 calls the Spirit of God "the spirit of judgment" and "the spirit of burning". Sin in the direct presence of God's glory would literally be burned up.

That is why God instructed for bells to be made in the high priest's garments. If the priest did not cover his own sins before entering the Holy of Holies, where the glory of God dwelled over the mercy seat, or if the priest touched the mercy seat, he died! Remember the priest was supposed to "sprinkle" the blood on the mercy seat, not touch it.

The same effect would happen to an unbeliever today if he touched the physical glory of God. But praise God we, the saints of God, have been washed clean from all sin and are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus! We have nothing to fear, but can come boldly to the throne of God! Hallelujah!

According to the scriptures, the life of the flesh is in the blood. Your flesh and bone body cannot continue to exist eternally without the power of God, which comes from fellowship thru His Spirit. Adam was created eternal, but death and sickness entered in and reigned because of sin.

Lev 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

¹ which are one flesh

The blood is the only physical component in your body to flow to all parts or cells of your body, carrying life. Now there appears to be a spiritual essence associated with the blood. You could say that Adam, before the fall, had spiritually living blood. That is, he had intimate fellowship with God, spirit to Spirit, and was able to continue eternally because of the dunamis power of God flowing thru his blood, regenerating his body. After he had sinned, he had spiritually dead blood. That is, Adam was separated from God, and from the regenerating power.

Today, we know that the blood type of a child comes from the seed of the father.² If the remitting sacrifice for sin required spiritually living blood, then Adam and all of mankind after him, who came from his seed, could not produce the sacrifice needed, since they all had spiritually dead blood.

Therefore God sent His Seed, born of a virgin, into mankind, to provide the spiritually living blood for the redeeming sacrifice. Note that the difference between atoning³ and redeeming or remitting⁴. Jesus' blood did not atone; it remitted.

Hebrews 9:13-14

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:
How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:22

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

The "zoe" life of God in the blood of Jesus meet the moral standards of God, for the penalty for sin, and paid the redeeming price forever. That "zoe" life in the blood is what prevents Satan and his forces from crossing it, when you plead it over yourself and your family. Satan dares not touch the blood lest it consume him! Praise God forever more!

² This is emphasized in law suits for paternal support of a child whose mother was unwed.

³ covering over, but not doing away with

⁴ paying the price totally and thereby doing away with forever

1.3 THE BODY AND BLOOD IN COVENANT

It is extremely important to have a thorough understanding of covenants. We are in covenant relationship with God, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Here are some covenant basics:

1. Covenants are like contracts, except contracts are based upon distrust, and covenants are based upon trust and/or love.
2. Covenant terms, ability to call upon them, and responsibility to provide them, are irrevocable. The only penalty for breaking covenant is death!
3. There were two basic parts of a covenant, the body and the blood, symbolized by the bread and wine.

Gal 3:15
Brethren, I speak after the manner of men;
Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be
confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth
thereto.

A covenant was typically like this:

There would be two nations, tribes, or families, which had different resources or talents, and a desire to join together. The desire being based not only on need, but on love or desire to provide for the other.

The covenant included not only the ability to access the strengths and assets of your covenant partner, but also responsibilities for their weaknesses and liabilities. This is best seen in a marriage relationship today, which is a covenant between husband and wife, and is a divine image of the covenant relationship between Jesus and His Church.

Another example is a covenant made between a warrior nation and a farming nation. The warrior nation pledges: "I will stand in the gap between you and your enemies, to protect you, even to the shedding of my blood", that is, physical death. The farming nation pledges: "I will provide your physical necessities (house, food, clothing...), to the giving up of my body", that is, physical death. Each covenant partner volunteered and was thereafter obligated to lay down his very life to meet the basic needs of his partner.

When Jesus became our covenant partner, He took our liabilities and weakness, our sins and unrighteousness, and gave us His righteous and power and authority.

II Cor 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

I Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Lets see how the warrior and farmer example applies to our relationship with Jesus:

Matthew 26:26-28

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

I Cor 11:23-26

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Jesus stood in the gap between us and our enemies, Satan, sin, and death, to the shedding of his blood to protect us and to save our lifes⁵.

⁵redeem us from death/separation, and back to fellowship with God

He gave His body to be broken for us, that we might have all our physical needs meet. This is very graphic in the Jewish Passover supper. In the supper, there are three individual pieces of unleaven bread. Unleaven bread looks like a large cracker with holes and stripes, symbolizing Jesus being pierced and scourged. According to 1 Peter 2:24, we are healed by the stripes of Jesus.

The three pieces are placed into a bag with three individual compartments, representing the Trinity being three-in-one. Then the father of the house takes the middle piece out, raps it in fine white linen, and hides it in the house somewhere. This represents the middle part of the Trinity, Jesus, leaving His divine place and being buried after the crucifixion. At the end of the supper, the buried piece is resurrected.

The father holds the piece flat on the palm of one hand and smites it with the fist of the other hand. The piece is literally shattered. Then the family eats of the shattered piece with the third cup of wine. The piece being smitten represents God, our Father, smiting Jesus, that we can partake of His body for every physical need. The third cup is the last cup and is when Jesus stated at the last supper that this is His blood of the new covenant.

Jesus gave up His riches, His glory, and His divine health to come to earth to be the sacrificial Lamb of God.

II Cor 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes
he became poor, that ye through his poverty
might be rich.

Praise God! Not only did Jesus meet our need, but God has raised Him from the dead, healed every wound on Jesus, and given Him all power, authority, and dominion in heaven and earth. He is the risen Lord of Glory! He is sat down in His Father's throne.

We are seated in heavenly places with Him, even in His throne. We have been given His power, authority, and dominion. And we are now manifested sons of God, sharing in the inheritance, as equal heirs with Christ Jesus!

God seeks to bless you. He desires to meet your every need. Call on Him today! Whatever it is that you have need of, He is faithful. He cannot lie nor deny Himself. If He spoke it, if He promised it in His word, which is the covenant, then He will perform it. Put yourself in remembrance today of your Heavenly Father and call upon Him. For He loves you!

CHAPTER 2 - A GOOD CONSCIENCE

Before we were born-again and reconciled to God thru the blood of Jesus Christ, we had an evil conscience. That is, we were still conscience of our sins and of our unworthiness to enter into an intimate relationship and fellowship with God.

Hebrews 9:9

Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Yet born-again believers have their sins purged, not only from before God, that He has no more remembrance of them, but also from their own conscience, in that they should not have any condemnation or shame.

Hebrews 9:14

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:16-23

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and

living way, which he hath consecrated for us,
through the vail, that is to say, his flesh;
And having an high priest over the house of God;
Let us draw near with a true heart in full
assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled
from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed
with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession
of our faith without wavering; (for he is
faithful that promised;)

Before rebirth, our conscience was aware of the guilt of our sin, and of the fear of God's wrath toward that sin. We were not able to come boldly to God because our inner man told us and bore witness that there was enmity between us and God.

When the Holy Spirit revealed to us that the sin problem had been taken care of by Jesus on the cross, then we were able to come in to God boldly, receive sonship thru adoption, and become partakers of His divine nature. This removed the old sin nature. That is to say, both the desire to commit sin and the remembrance of past sins committed. The Holy Spirit bearing witness in us to our sonship and fellowship with the Father.

We can now come boldly unto our Father, just like unto our natural father, for whatever we have need of. As a young child, you did not think twice about running into the living room and jumping up on your daddy's lap. You never hesitated to come to him to express your love and affection. Nor did you ever hesitate to come to him to ask him for whatever you desired, because you are confident he loved you and there was no enmity between you and him⁶.

God loves you and He seeks to bless you! He wants to have an intimate relationship with you! For you to come to know His character and His Word! He has a place in His heart just for you! Once we learn, and come to trust, that He loves us with an everlasting love, and that all He tells us to do is for our protection and provision⁷, then we can begin to act upon what he has told us, even if we do not fully understand why⁸.

In the example of the marriage relationship, each spouse has trust that the other one loves them and has their best interest at heart. There is no fear of coming to each other to ask for whatever the need is. Each has confidence in the other, not only because they have come to know each other's nature and love, but also because they have a covenant relationship.

In a relationship like husband and wife, sometimes transgression will occur between one mate and the other. The transgressing mate may have trouble entering into a conversation, or even into the same room, with their mate due to guilt stemming from the offense. The relationship is not broken, but the fellowship is, and will remain so until it is restored by love, mercy, and forgiveness.

If we sin, we should not try to hide it. Nor should we be driven by guilt to continue in broken fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. But we should run to Him, for He is faithful and just to forgive us!

⁶ see Hebrews 4:16, Romans 2:4

⁷ would you purposely tell your child to do anything that was not for his good

⁸ how many times have you told your child to do something, and in his understanding it did not make sense, yet it was for his good

Satan seeks to separate us from God by using guilt over past sins. He stands before the throne of God in man's heart, accusing the brethren night and day, that they are unworthy and have no right to boldly come to God. But thru knowledge of the Word of God and of what actually happened when we were washed by the blood of Jesus, we can overcome this lie. Knowing that our sins are no longer before God, and that He has accepted us as sons, we are able to come the throne of God in the time of need, to receive grace and help, in the mighty name of Jesus! Amen!

2.1 RENEW YOUR MIND

Before rebirth, our natural man minded⁹ the things of the flesh and of the world, rather than the things of God.

James 4:4

... 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.

Romans 8:5-8

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

After rebirth, we received a new nature, that is a re-created spirit in the image of God. But our minds are still in contact with the flesh and the world. This is the area where Satan makes his attacks. Therefore we must continually renew our minds by reading and meditating on the scriptures.

Colos 3:10

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

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

⁹thought on and did

I Peter 3:15-16

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:
and be ready always to give an answer to every
man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is
in you with meekness and fear;
Having a good conscience; that, whereas they
speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may
be ashamed that falsely accuse your good
conversation in Christ.

I Peter 3:21

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth
also now save us (not the putting away of the
filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good
conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of
Jesus Christ:

We need to be holy¹⁰ in spirit, soul, and body. In our soul area¹¹, we need to be sure we are not thinking sinful thoughts. Satan will try to get us meditating on sinful acts which we would never commit in real life. This draws us away from our continued fellowship in the Lord Jesus, and limits our growth.

As you renew your mind with the Word of God, the Holy Spirit has something to talk to you about, opening it up to you, and showing you how to walk in it. Because you are thinking on and doing the Word, you feel good about your relationship and continued fellowship with God, rather than being under condemnation and guilt over the evil thoughts and temptations Satan keeps bringing up to your inactive mind.¹²

2.2 CONDEMNATION VERSE CONVICTION

Condemnation comes from Satan. It says you are guilty, and there is no way out. It says you deserve every evil and rotten thing that is happening to happen to you. Condemnation is a spirit which tries to put a person in a spiritual corner, with no escape, and then beat them and beat them and beat them.

Many saints of God ignorantly work with the spirit of condemnation in trying to work reconciliation with a brother in Christ. For example let's say a brother is in an adulterous situation. The brother has a desire to quit, but the spirit of adultery has him spiritually bound in the affair, where he cannot get free. The brother seeks help from the Church, but every time they "beat" him with the Word. "You're guilty! You low down thing. You sinner you. You need to stop that! God's going to punish you."

¹⁰sinless

¹¹mind, will, emotions

¹²see RM 1:18-20, RM 3:14-16, 1 JOHN 3:19-22

How would you like to be chained in a dark corner, not able to get free, and every time you call out to the person walking by with the light, they beat you? I am not saying to condon what the adulterer is doing, but I am saying to set him free through Love by the power of the Holy Spirit and the delegated authority in the name of Jesus!

II Cor 3:6

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

God has made us able ministers of the new testament! But realize that the letter of the new testament can kill! Only the spirit of the Word can bring life and liberty. What is the spirit of the Word? Love! Remember Jesus was moved by compassion, by the love of God in Him, to meet the needs of the people. When you see a brother in bondage, love does not beat, but intercedes for him, binding the satanic spirits, breaking the bands of wickedness, and loosing the captives so that they can go free¹³.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Conviction, or to convince, comes from the Holy Spirit, and says you are guilty but there is a way out. Conviction under the Holy Spirit will lead you out of sin, out from under condemnation, and unto liberty and life in Christ Jesus.

John 16:8

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Remember, conviction leads to hope and reconciliation, but condemnation leads to despair and fear¹⁴.

As you grow in the Lord, by renewing your mind daily, the Holy Spirit will teach you more and more, to equip you to be a mature man of God, able to accomplish all God has called you to do in Christ Jesus.

II Tim 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

¹³see Isaiah 58, Matt 25:34-40

¹⁴torment, see 1 JOHN 4:15-18

As we walk thru this life, we start out as if like walking in a dark forest, not knowing where we are going, full of fear, and worry. Then we find this great highway of holiness, a Way of great Light and Comfort¹⁵. As we proceed up it, the Holy Spirit teaches us doctrine, that is, basic fundamental truths. When we get enough light or truth in a certain area of our life, the Holy Spirit reproofs¹⁶ us that we have one foot in the ditch. He shows us the way out¹⁷ of the ditch, and tells us how to continue proceeding up the highway of holiness¹⁸, until we become a mature man of God.

Praise God! Remember He loves you with an everlasting love! He does not seek to beat you, but desires to love you and teach you how to grow up into a mature, healthy, happy man and woman of God. Call on Him today! Talk to Him and see if He is not faithful and true to show His love toward you!

¹⁵the Way, the Truth, the Light - Jesus

¹⁶points out

¹⁷correction

¹⁸instructions in righteousness

CHAPTER 3 - THE REDEEMED

We were all born into sin and lived in times past in it, following the lustful desires of this world. During which time our hearts cried out to God for help and mercy. Or we may have attempted thru good deeds, such as paying tithes and feeding the poor, to make peace with God for our sins.

However anything we did, as sinful human beings, trying to approach a just God to clear our sins, was as filthy rags compared to the righteousness of God. That is, whatever we did in and of ourselves was not sufficient to pay the penalty of the right judgment of God for sin in the high court of Heaven. And what we had to offer in comparison to the required payment was as filthy rags.

But after Jesus came and offered His holy blood for us, and after we as individuals have received Him, we are born again and are become new creatures, even the sons of God. No longer are we trying to establish our own righteousness, that is to pay the price for our sin separate from God, but we have received His righteousness, His just payment for sin, and are not separate, but one with God, partakers of what He has done thru Christ Jesus.

Yet while we are redeemed from the curse of the law, for that is the penalty for sin, Satan still tries to convince believers that they are still worms, unworthy creatures, who have no right to approach God. Satan seeks to have believers crawling around on their bellies, begging and pleading for what already has been promised, and eating the dirt of the ground as the devil was cursed to do¹⁹, rather than coming to the covenant table of the King to receive what they have need of.

Psalms 23:5
Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my
head with oil; my cup runneth over.

God has prepared a victory table, the covenant table, for you in the presence of your enemy, Satan, in this age and time, and has anointed you with the Holy Spirit and power to have total victory over the devil. Praise God forever more!

Truly, we are now "saints". A saint is one who is sanctified, set apart completely from sin for God's purpose. The word "church" in its Greek form means "called out", symbolizing its sanctification from the sinful world. This is seen in the old testament as God called Abraham out from his people, and as God called the nation of Israel out of Egypt, to be separated from all other nations and their unclean practices. A person cannot be dirty and clean at the same time, nor can a person be a sinner and a saint at the same time.

¹⁹Gen 3:16

3.1 ACCURSED WORMS?

In the old testament, anything which crawled on its belly or eat dirt was considered especially cursed or unclean. This being particularly relevant in looking at the curse on the serpent. The analogy was applied to the nation of Israel, and to unredeemed men in general, before the coming of Christ:

Isaiah 64:6
But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our
righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do
fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the
wind, have taken us away.

Yet while God refers to them as a worm, that is, still being dead in their sins and accursed, God at the same time refers to their coming Redeemer, Jesus:

Isaiah 41:14
Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel;
I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy
redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

3.2 REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE

Jesus came to redeem us from the curse of the law, paying the price for sin, and becoming accursed for us:

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:

Now while Jesus became accursed for us and received the penalty for sin, that is death, yet God raised Him from the dead, making Him alive and ruler of all.

But did you know while Jesus was taking our sins and reproaches, that He also took that reproach of being a worm, a name for your old sin nature, that you might be a partaker of His divine nature?

Job 25:6
How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of
man, which is a worm?

Jesus used the term "son of man" continually to refer to Himself, reflecting his humility²⁰ to come down in the likeness of sinful flesh.

²⁰to set aside our will and to receive and do God's

The 22nd Psalms prophesies of Jesus on the cross and the anguish He went thru²¹. In verse 6, the Holy Spirit says thru David that Jesus took the reproach of being a worm for us.

Psalms 22:6

But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men,
and despised of the people.

Isaiah 49:7

Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and
his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth,
to him whom the nation abhoreth....

Isaiah 53:3

He is despised and rejected of men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:
and we hid as it were our faces from
him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

But He made the way clear for us to become new creatures, sons of God, partakers of the divine nature, holy, sanctified, and sealed for His purpose and use.

II Cor 5:17

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

2 Peter 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and
precious promises: that by these ye might be
partakers of the divine nature, having escaped
the corruption that is in the world through lust.

We are no longer worms, unrighteous and accursed creatures, seeking to reach to God from the darkness, but God has given us His righteousness, His work of reconciliation and redemption from sin, being rightly justified in His eyes.

II Cor 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew
no sin; that we might be made the righteousness
of God in him.

Jesus' blood washed us from all sin, not just part of it, and has sanctified us from all filthiness and uncleanness, if we will walk in it.

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the
Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall
be as white as snow; though they be red like
crimson, they shall be as wool.

²¹see Psalms 22:1,16,18

Did you know that the scarlet dye of the old testament was made from a worm? How much more could God say to you, "I wash you clean!"

3.3 NEW TESTAMENT WORMS?

Does the new testament ever refer to worms in respect to believers? No, but it does refer to worms in dealing with those who continue in their sin and are still cursed.

Mark 9:43-48

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

But praise be unto God!

Hebrews 10:39

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

3.4 DISCUSSION

I would like to use for an illustration the relationship of a loving father and son. The father being a loving parent, who has given all he has, not only of his possessions, but also of his time and affection, of his honor and name, to his son. The father giving all out of love, having counted the son worthy, not for anything which the son had done, but merely worthy to be loved and the receiver of it.

Then one day the father finds his son going around crying, stating that he is so unworthy and should be sleeping and eating with the dogs in the back yard. He hears the child telling all the neighbors that he would never amount to anything since he was so unworthy, and that everything he did would fail.

Would this grieve the loving parent? Would the parent's heart burst with anguish for the son, trying to tell him he is worthy, he can succeed at anything he sets himself to, because all the father has and is joined in support of him?

How do you think God's heart, our heavenly Father's heart, grieves to hear His sons, who bear His name, who are anointed with His power, who are His righteousness, say that they are unworthy and filthy rags?

For another illustration, let's take a housewife. She went to the store and found a new bleach, which promised to wash spotless all those old dirty rags which she had laying around the house. She bought it, and after washing, she found indeed that the rags were spotless. Would she not brag and tell all her friends of this great and wonderful new bleach she had found? On the other hand, if the bleach did not perform as promised, would she not tell all her friends not to use it, saying it is worthless?

What is it that born again believers say, when they testify to others that Jesus' blood can wash all their sins away, but confess that they themselves are still filthy rags and unworthy, unrighteous vessels, after having received the blood of Jesus? Do they not testify that the blood of Jesus has been ineffective in their own lives and therefore state that the blood is unworthy? Brethren, testify to the truth! For when it comes to what is the truth, let God be true, and every man a liar.

We know that God made all creation by speaking it into existence and that by the power of His Word creation is upheld. Proverbs 18:21 states that death and life are in the power of the tongue. Jesus said in Matthew 12:37 that by your words you would be justified or condemned. What then do you think is the effect by a person, who is created in the image of God and has been given the delegated creative power of God, when he speaks something, good or bad? Saints, beloved in Christ, let us speak life, and the Word of God, which is able to change the circumstances around us, and save us to the uttermost! Amen.

CHAPTER 4 - THE RIGHTEOUS

4.1 DEFINITIONS

The American Heritage Dictionary defines righteous as "meeting the standards of what is right and just; morally right; guiltless". Beloved, we are now the righteous, the guiltless in the eyes of God, Jesus having met the standards of justice, bearing the penalty of our sin for us. We who are cleansed by His blood are now the righteousness of God, thru faith in Christ Jesus:

I John 1:9
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

II Cor 5:21
For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

I Cor 1:30
But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

I Peter 2:24
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Another definition for righteous is that "we are in right standing with God". This definition still reflects the fact of the standards of moral justice for our sin having been met in the high court of heaven by the blood of Jesus. It also reflects our relationship with our heavenly Father has been restored, with no enmity between Him and us. This righteous relationship allows intimate fellowship and friendship with God.

II Cor 5:17
Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Eph 4:24
And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Eph 1:4

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

In a marriage relationship, a woman becomes part of a covenant which entitles her to call on the man to meet her needs and desires. This relationship, and the rights stemming from it, did not previously exist between the two, though they were both alive. This is symbolic of Jesus and the Church. Though we were alive in the world, yet we were as dead to Christ in that we did not know Him in an intimate way and had not covenant rights to call upon.

After the relationship is sealed, any transgression which occurs does not break the relationship. That is, it does not make void the marriage covenant. But the transgression does affect the fellowship. When you have stumbled over into some sin, don't remain there, being separated from the intimate fellowship of Christ, but have confidence to enter in and ask for forgiveness. He is gracious and just to forgive you, for He loves you.

Hebrews 10:19-23

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

4.2 BY FAITH, NOT WORKS

In the old testament, righteousness was dependent on the standards of justice in the Mosaic covenant. That is, men were considered righteous if they meet the requirements of the law. These were based on works and could never make a man clean or justified of themselves, but merely atoned or covered sin until the Redeemer came.²²

New testament righteousness is based on faith in Christ Jesus, and not by works:

Romans 9:30-32

What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

Romans 10:6,9-10

But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise... That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Even before the law and circumcision, righteousness was imputed²³ to Abraham because of his faith²⁴. And truly, all those under the Mosaic covenant who attained unto life in Christ Jesus, the judges and prophets being among them, did not by the works alone, but by faith also in God and in what He had promised.

James 2:20-26

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a

²²see Hebrews 9-10

²³accounted to

²⁴Romans 4:9-13

man is justified, and not by faith only.
Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified
by works, when she had received the messengers,
and had sent them out another way? For as the
body without the spirit is dead, so faith without
works is dead also.

4.3 UNTO RIGHTEOUS WORKS

While we are righteous in this present age, thru faith and not of works, yet we are called to do good works. Our works show not only our faith, which must be active to be alive, but also shows the world the love of God in us. Jesus commanded us to let our light shine, that men might see our good works, and glorify our Father in heaven. Thru these, men will see the love of God manifested in us, and all men will know you are Jesus' disciples because of this love.

Our works are called righteous because they come from the new standard, which is to apply mercy and justice thru love:

I John 3:7,10

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth
righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous...
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.

Matthew 12:7

But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy,
and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

Luke 6:35-36

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend,
hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great,
and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind
unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful,
as your Father also is merciful.

James 2:13

For he shall have judgment without mercy,
that hath shewed no mercy;
and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Eph 2:8-10

For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
unto good works, which God hath before ordained
that we should walk in them.

All things must be done thru faith in God. Anything not done in faith is sin:

Romans 14:23

And he that doubteth is damned... for whatsoever
is not of faith is sin.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he
is, and that he is a rewarder of them that
diligently seek him.

I John 5:1

All unrighteousness is sin....

4.4 PRAISE GOD

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness.

We are the righteous in our heavenly Father's eyes. He loves us with an everlasting love. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He has a yearning to bless us, to commune with us, to fellowship with us.

He made Adam so as to have fellowship with him, so as to walk with him in the cool of the evening. After Adam fell, God keep searching for a man to walk with Him, to fellowship with Him. God searched for seven generations, until He found a man, the 7th from Adam, Enoch. And it is written "Enoch walked with God" for three hundred years, "and he was not; for God took him"²⁵. God loves us just as much as He loved Enoch. God seeks to walk with us every minute of the day. Let Him walk with you today. He is coming back for you, to take you with Him, just like Enoch, on that day when Jesus comes for His bride, because He loves you with an everlasting love²⁶. Praise God forevermore! Amen!

²⁵Gen 5:21-24, Heb 11:5

²⁶1 Thes 4:13-5:5, Rev 4:1, Rev 11:12

CHAPTER 5 - A NEW CREATION

We are become new creatures, a new creation, a type of species that never existed before, when we are born again into Christ Jesus. We passed from death into life, from darkness into light. The Holy Spirit regenerated our spirit man into a new creation, baring witness to it as the Spirit of Adoption, crying Abba, Father in our hearts.

5.1 THE RECONCILED

Reconciliation is a legal term meaning to make peace between two parties which were at odds with each other. Because of our sins and our old nature, we were at odds against God²⁷. But God provided the means of reconciliation, the remitting price for sin, thru Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Greek term translated as peace in the new testament carries this meaning. That is, the Greek term is made up of two root words. The first meaning "to have quietness or tranquillity". The second meaning "to join". So we have been joined to God, with quietness and tranquillity, thru the blood of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Colos 1:20-22

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

II Cor 5:17-18

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

²⁷Jam 4:4

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

Eph 4:24
And that ye put on the new man,
which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

This is why the angels sang:

Luke 2:14
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Because it was God's glory, His honor, His plan of the ages, to reveal the mystery of redemption thru Jesus Christ, our Lord, bringing peace on the earth by reconciling men to Himself. God's good will toward men. Hallelujah!

5.2 DELIVERED FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

Luke 1:74-75
That he would grant unto us, that we being
delivered out of the hand of our enemies might
serve him without fear, In holiness and
righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Gal 1:4
Who gave himself for our sins, that he might
deliver us from this present evil world,
according to the will of God and our Father:

Which He granted and performed:

II Tim 1:10
But is now made manifest by the appearing of our
Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death,
and hath brought life and immortality to light
through the gospel:

Colos 1:13
Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his
dear Son:

Romans 6:18
Being then made free from sin, ye became the
servants of righteousness.

Romans 8:2
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

I Peter 2:9
But ye are a chosen generation, a royal
priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;
that ye should shew forth the praises of him who
hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Romans 6:13-14
Neither yield ye your members as instruments of
unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves
unto God, as those that are alive from the dead,
and your members as instruments of righteousness
unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over
you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

5.3 CIRCUMCISED HEART

God has given us a new heart or spirit, a circumcised heart, a heart tender towards Him and all His creatures, to love Him and His Word, Christ Jesus.

Genesis 6:5
... God saw that the wickedness of man was great
in the earth, and that every imagination of the
thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Jeremiah 9:25-26
Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I
will punish all them which are circumcised with
the uncircumcised... and all that are in the
utmost corners... for all these nations are
uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are
uncircumcised in the heart.

Acts 7:51
Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and
ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost:
as your fathers did, so do ye.

Deut 10:16
Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart,
and be no more stiffnecked.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you,
and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness,
and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.
A new heart also will I give you, and a new
spirit will I put within you: and I will take
away the stony heart out of your flesh,
and I will give you an heart of flesh.
And I will put my spirit within you,
and cause you to walk in my statutes,
and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Romans 2:29

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly;
and circumcision is that of the heart,
in the spirit, and not in the letter;
whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Colos 2:11

In whom also ye are circumcised with the
circumcision made without hands, in putting off
the body of the sins of the flesh
by the circumcision of Christ:

Wherefore let us walk worthy of the calling and the hope that has been placed in us. Let us walk in love toward all people, letting the love of God draw men unto Him. Let Jesus rule and reign in you, that you may direct them onward, toward Christ Jesus, to a personal and saving relationship with the only true Lord and God. Continue to grow in love and grace! May your faith never fail you, but continue to renew your mind with the truth!

CHAPTER 6 - A MEMBER OF CHRIST

We, who are in Christ, make up the Body of Christ. We are held together by one Spirit, the Holy Spirit, as a spiritual house or dwelling place, in which the Godhead dwells and communes with us. The life, the love, the power, the very essence of the Trinity lives and moves thru our spiritual being in this house.

We are the members of the Body of Christ. Individually, each one of us is a member or part of that Body. Yet as the finger cannot live nor function without the rest of the body, so are we in the Body of Christ. We need each other and are given to each other for help and support.

I Cor 12:13-14,18-20

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many... But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body.

We must remember to love one another, strengthen one another, and help one another grow. For we receive our nourishment from other parts, and we hear and see from other parts. Only together are we whole.

If any one member of your physical body is not functioning properly, lets say a wrist is broken, the rest of the body suffers, due to the lack of the normal use of that part. Moreover, the rest of the body modifies its normal functions to compensate for the injured one. For example, the body would use more of the legs and back to pick up heavy loads, compensating and protecting the broken wrist. The body further extends itself to protect the injured member, by acting and reacting abnormally to danger, purposely placing health members in harms way, to keep the damaged wrist safe. This continues until the wrist is healed and restored.

So we should act in love toward each other, to nourish, protect, and restore the damaged, hurt, or underdeveloped members of Christ. We who are strong should bear them up until they can stand with us again, for we have need of them. So love one another, for you are one Body.

I Cor 12:24-26

For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

I Cor 12:27-28

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

We need all the functions of the Body. We need the five fold ministry²⁸ to nourish us. We need the gifts of the Spirit operating as our eyes, ears, tongue, and strength.²⁹ And we need the motivational gifts³⁰ to encourage every member to be doing the work wherein their called.

If the Body of Christ is going to be completely effective in accomplishing the purpose its called to on the earth, we are going to have to work as one, in love and sincerity. We must have the Body strong and mature in the love of God, in the Word of God, and in the power of His might, going forth declaring salvation unto the lost with signs and wonders following, confirming the Word of God as truth³¹.

We must grow in the character of Jesus³² and in the charisma of Jesus³³. We are a part of Jesus. We have been given His divine nature³⁴ for character, and have been given the Holy Spirit, who dwells "in" us at rebirth, but who must be received "upon" us for the anointing of power³⁵. Christ in Greek and Messiah in Hebrew mean the anointed one. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power³⁶. Jesus was as much Jesus, the Son of God, before He went into the Jordan River to be baptized by John, as He was when He came out. But the difference was He came out anointed. He did not have the power to perform signs and wonders before this. God required Jesus of Nazareth to be anointed before starting His ministry. God required it so that the Word of Truth would be confirmed to man by power, in signs and wonders, and not by mere enticing words. God required the same of the disciples, who were commanded to wait in Jerusalem for the anointing before going forth to preach³⁷. And also of Paul:

I Cor 2:4-5

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

²⁸Eph 4:11

²⁹1 Cor 12:8-10

³⁰Rm 12:6-8

³¹Mat 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20

³²the personality of Jesus

³³the power of Jesus

³⁴2 Pt 1:4

³⁵Acts 1:8

³⁶John 1:32-34, Acts 10:38

³⁷Acts 1:8

It is equally required of us today. Without signs and wonders to confirm the truth, how will a muslim or a hindu be persuaded?

The character of Jesus can be developed by studying the Fruit of the Spirit³⁸, and then doing it! You must be a doer of the Word³⁹. Notice that in Gal 5:22 it says "the fruit of the Spirit is...". Fruit is singular, and is singular; it does not say "the fruits of the Spirit are". This is because the nine items listed are traits or attributes of Jesus' character. The Fruit, or work, of the Spirit on the earth comes down to one thing, transforming men into the image of Jesus Christ. This includes initial rebirth, sanctification, and growth into the complete and mature character of Him.

The power of and gifts of the Holy Spirit are used to (1) confirm the Word of God to the lost, (2) to aid in the building up or edifying of the Body of Christ, and (3) to help enforce our victory over Satan and his forces⁴⁰. We are redeemed from the curse of the law⁴¹. If you don't know what you are redeemed from and to, how can you know whether you are getting the good stuff or the bad? Read Deut 28:1-68 to see the blessings of the old testament, which you have and more in a better covenant, and the cursings of the old testament, which you are redeemed from!

The whole Body is known by one name, Jesus, and has been given authority to use that name over all circumstances and forces. Some of those uses are: to bind and loose, to cast out devils, to pray, and to heal the sick.⁴² Binding and loosing in the Greek actually mean not permitting and permitting. You can bind Satan, or demand in the name of Jesus, that he stop his attacks against you and your family. You can loose the Spirit of God to move freely in their lives. In casting demons out, you are functioning as the feet of Jesus, putting Satan underfoot, making him a footstool for Jesus. In healing the sick by laying on of hands, those hands are Jesus' hands, part of His Body. Jesus never laid hands on the sick and they not recover; so then any believer who lays hands on the sick is operating as the hands of Jesus at that time and healing will occur.

Please understand that Jesus has no sickness in his Body! Jesus is not sick! Nor should any part of his Body be! Jesus bore the sicknesses and sins of the world in his body on the cross⁴³. But when He was raised from the dead, He no longer had sin reigning over Him. Nor could the result of sin, the curse of the law, reign over Him. That is, sickness⁴⁴ could not reign over Him, because all sickness carries death in it and is part of the curse. But He is alive! He has paid the price for you, that you can go free and victorious in this life, free from sin, sickness, disease, poverty, and oppression. You need only receive it! Keep Satan cast out away from you, your children, and your household. Use your authority in Christ Jesus, and let not sickness nor sin reign in His Body thru you. How can sickness, which has death in it, reign in you when the same Spirit that raised Jesus up from the dead dwells in you?

³⁸Gal 5:22-23

³⁹Jam 1:22

⁴⁰poverty, sickness,...

⁴¹Gal 3:13

⁴²Mt 18:18, Mk 16:17, John 16:23-24, Mk 16:18

⁴³Isa 53:4-5, Mt 8:16-17, 1 Pt 2:24

⁴⁴Deut 28:58-61

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

You don't have to get sick and die to go home to the Lord. Aaron was not sick when God told him to go up on a mountain and come home⁴⁵. Neither was Moses⁴⁶. God simply said, "You have finished your work, come on home." Our Father does not leave us out in the field after the labor is done, but calls us home to Himself. It is not a grievous situation, or a punishment as some seem to think, but a joyful occasion, a homecoming! A son and servant being called out of the field of labor and the battlefield of war, unto the presence of the eternal King, unto His Holy City, His home and yours. Praise God forever more!

E. W. Kenyon pastored a church in the U.S. in the early 1900's. No one in that congregation was ever sick! Why? They know who they were in Christ Jesus, what their God given rights were in the new covenant, their power and their authority in the name of Jesus. I don't mean to say that sickness never tried to come "upon" them. But when it did, they cast it off in the name of Jesus. After Kenyon retired and being about 80 years old, he got up one morning and told his daughter that Jesus had told him that at such and such a time that day he was going home. Kenyon had finished his work and it was time to go home. He was not sick nor weak. He merely sat down in his rocking chair and waited on the King. At that exact time, just as he told his daughter, Kenyon went home to be with the Lord! Praise God you don't have to be sick and die! You can complete your function as a member of Jesus Christ, and go on home victorious in the name of Jesus! Hallelujah!

Have you never read:

Hebrews 11:5

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch was not sick! Why he did not even see physical death! Why? Because he believed God! Have faith in God!

Did you ever notice that Jesus was not killed, but had power⁴⁷ to lay down His life and take it up again⁴⁸. Jesus released His spirit⁴⁹; it was not driven out of its dwelling, the body, because the dwelling could no longer support it. Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead⁵⁰. The other two thieves had to have their legs broken to accelerate their deaths.⁵¹

⁴⁵Num 33:38

⁴⁶Num 27:12-13, Deut 34:1-5

⁴⁷authority

⁴⁸John 10:18

⁴⁹John 19:30

⁵⁰Mk 15:44

⁵¹The cross was a death by suffocation due to the chest cavity cutting off the wind pipe, but was extreme torture by allowing the condemned to push with his legs, which

Stephen was not "stoned" to death, but he released his spirit willfully, while they were yet stoning him⁵².

Paul's thorn in the flesh was persecution⁵³, sent from Satan⁵⁴ to buffet him. The Greek translated buffet means to push against or strike. Remember that 2 Corinthians was a hand written letter, and did not have chapter and verse in it⁵⁵. Read the portion of the letter from 2 Cor 11:1 to 2 Cor 12:12, and you will see clearly that Paul was boasting of his apostleship in the Lord, including persecutions and beatings, that is being buffeted, continually wherever he went. Notice the list there includes three times beaten with rods, the purpose was to break the bones and cause death, and once stoned, which was also to cause death. Yet the other members of the Body of Christ rallied around Paul, praying. And God raised him from the dead⁵⁶! God also delivered Paul out of them all⁵⁷. When Paul had completed his course, then and only then was he ready to allow⁵⁸ his physical death, to be offered up, and to go home to the Lord⁵⁹.

They tried to boil the apostle John alive in oil, but he refused to die. So they exiled him to Patmos, where he received the Revelation. Praise God! You can continue on in the Lord Jesus Christ, until you have completed the fullness of His glorious assignment for your life. Then go on home to Him, gloriously, in Jesus' mighty name! So be it!

were nailed, thus lifting the body to allow breathing and prolonged death.

⁵²Acts 7:58-59

⁵³Acts 9:16, Acts 20:23-24, 2 Cor 1:7-10, 2 Cor 4:8-12

⁵⁴2 Cor 12:7

⁵⁵a monk added these to the bible in the 1200's A.D.

⁵⁶2 Cor 1:9, acts 14:19-20

⁵⁷2 Tim 3:11

⁵⁸permit as in binding and loosing

⁵⁹2 Tim 4:6-8

CHAPTER 7 - A SAINT

We are saints of God, holy and pure, blameless in His sight, set apart for His eternal purpose. The word saint literally means one who is sanctified, set apart from the world and its sinful lusts. To sanctify a thing is to consecrate it to God, to make it clean and pure, and to set it apart for His use only and none other.

So we are! We are washed clean, blameless and pure, by the blood of Jesus. We are set apart from all uncleanness and unrighteousness of the world, to serve the Living God, and none other.

I Cor 1:2

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth,
to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints, with all that in every place
call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
both theirs and ours:

Phil 1:1

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ,
to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:

Colos 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are
at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace,
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A saint is not one who is dead, nor one who is already gone into Heaven. For what is there in death or in heaven which is evil that you must be separated from it. But it is in this world and in this time that God, thru His power and His love, and by His Word, separates us from the sinful world.

I Thes 4:3

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,
that ye should abstain from fornication:

Hebrews 13:12

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify
the people with his own blood,
suffered without the gate.

Psalms 4:3

But know that the Lord hath set apart him
that is godly for himself: the Lord will
hear when I call unto him.

7.1 HOLY AND BLAMELESS

As saints, being sanctified by the blood of Jesus, we are and can continue to be holy and blameless until His coming.

I Thes 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:16

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

God has given us the power to walk holy, or sinless, in His presence. Remember that we are born into the Kingdom of God as babies. We may stumble and fall as we grow, but we do not stay down. We get up and brush the dirt off of us. As we grow older, we fall less and less, unless one is being careless and not watchful. So it is in the Kingdom of God. If you sin, repent and receive the blood, which washes you clean. As you grow in Jesus, you will sin less and less, walking more and more of the time in holiness or sinlessness.

Eph 1:4

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Eph 4:24

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

I John 4:17

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

As He is! Jesus is clean. He is holy and sinless, being the firstborn from the dead, leading the way for us, thru His blood. We are now holy and sinless, even in this world.

I John 5:18

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

7.2 THE CALLED OUT

The Greek word for church literally means to be called out. So are we called out of darkness and sin unto His marvelous light. As Abraham was called out from his relatives in their idolatrous world, and as Israel was called out from Egypt and told to stay away from the practices of the Canaanites, so God has called us out, the Church, from the idolatrous practices of this world, to serve Him in truth and holiness all the days of our lives.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Eph 5:27

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

7.3 KEEP YOURSELF IN GOD

I John 3:9

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.

A born-again believer cannot continue steadfastly in sin, because the Word of God dwells in him, with the Holy Spirit continually convicting him. Remember our analogy about walking? We are not saying you cannot get dirty, that is cannot sin, but that you will not stay in sin because you are lead to repentance and forgiveness by the Spirit of God.

Once a person tastes the love of God, the person will not commit sin because he wants to stay in right fellowship with God. To put that in the present tense, a believer, born of God, does not sin, because God's Word convicts him and leads him to stay in right fellowship.

I John 5:18

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

A believer must keep himself from sin and evil. God will help him, and does thru His Word and thru the Anointing, but the believer has free will to chose good or evil. The believer must continue to chose daily which he will follow. People say God allowed so-and-so to happen to me. Well, God has chosen to allow free will in this age. He will allow you to go to Hell if you so chose. But don't say that that was His Will for your life. It was yours!

"But doesn't God keep me?" Not against your free will. His Will is for everyone to be saved, but He will not force it. God only saves thru faith, or deliberate chose of will, and so only can keep thru your working of faith. You don't agree? Take a gun and go down to the corner store and rob it. See if God is going to allow it, or is He going to come down and violate your free will to stop you? You must work with God, in His Word, to keep yourself in Him.

II Peter 1:5-11

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 8 - CHILDREN OF GOD

The Apostle John wrote literally an expose' of who we are in Christ Jesus in 1 John. John starts out dealing with what is necessary to be transformed from a sinner into a child of God. After that, John always shows a clear and precise difference between the two groups, in who they are and in what they do.

I John 1:6-10

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

All of the above begins with a sinner who is not saved. He must recognize that he is a sinner, confess his sin, and walk in fellowship with the Light, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We all are born into sin, and lived in sin at the beginning of our earthly lives. We all came short of, and would continue to come short of the glory of God. That is, we could not meet the penalty for sin in the High Court of Heaven, but God met it for us, which is His Glory in His plan of the ages.

I John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

John moves on past the point of dealing with initial confession of sin, to the point of now being a born-again believer. If you now stumble into sin, you have an advocate. The Greek word translated advocate is parakletos, which means helper or counselor. This term was used in the Greek language for defending lawyers in courts of law. We who are born-again have a defending counselor in the High Court of Heaven, Jesus Christ the Righteous. But the ungodly sinner has only the promise of eternal judgment.

I John 2:12
I write unto you, little children, because your
sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

John calls us little children, because we are the children of God, and of His household. From 1 John 2:1 forward, John always shows a clear difference between the two audiences he addresses, the sinners and the saints.

I John 3:1-2
Behold, what manner of love the Father hath
bestowed upon us, that we should be called the
sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us
not, because it knew him not.
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it
doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we
know that, when he shall appear, we shall be
like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We are now the sons of God, thru the Spirit of Adoption crying Abba, Father in our hearts. We are born-again spiritually, which is the unseen. But our natural bodies yet wait the regeneration of eternal life in the physical realm, which will be seen.

I John 3:6
Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever
sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Here John continues his clear distinction from 2:1 forward of these two groups. You are either saved or not. You either are holy and do not sin, and have fellowship with the Father, or you commit sin and don't know the Father.

I John 3:7
Little children, let no man deceive you: he
that doeth righteousness is righteous, even
as he is righteous.

If we do the righteous acts of God, which He has called us to⁶⁰, we are truly righteous. Chief among these are to believe on the Lord Jesus as Saviour⁶¹. This is a work in that you must do something. Remember faith is active, that is, it requires an action. You are saved by grace thru faith. The faith work which you did was to believe in your heart and confess with your mouth. So you see there is a righteous work mixed with your faith even in being born-again.

I John 3:10
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.

⁶⁰_{Eph} 2:8-10

⁶¹_{John} 6:38-39

We are now the children of God. We are manifest or known to the world by our love. Jesus said the world would know us by our love. This is a righteous act. An act which God has instructed you to do is a righteous act. It is right with Him and with His eternal law.

I John 3:14-18

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

We are talking about who we are in Christ. This includes being encouraged to walk like Him, whose divine nature we are partakers of. John 3:16 say, God so loved that He gave.... We are encouraged to show our love by giving, by meeting needs. Jesus came to meet needs. He is a need meeting God. If you did not believe that, you would not pray to Him about your needs. God wants us to be like Him, in showing His agape love, by meeting needs. He meets our needs, including physical needs, and He expects us to meet the physical needs of others also⁶².

I John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

John just told us not to love in word or tongue, but in deeds and truth. Your deeds will show what you really believe. I heard someone say "You do what you believe, and the rest is religious talk." Who we are in Christ Jesus are need meeting servants and sons of the Living God!

I John 3:24

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

I John 4:13

Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

⁶²One point, Jesus never meet a physical need without also addressing a spiritual need

Romans 8:14-16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

John continues emphasizing that we are the children of God, and separate and distinct from sinners in the world. This being witnessed on the outside by the manifestation of the love of God thru us, and on the inside by the witness of the Holy Spirit.

I John 5:10

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

God prophesied that He would dwell in us, by taking away the stony heart, which is lifeless and dead, and give us a new heart of flesh, which is alive and in fellowship with His Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Romans 2:29

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

John emphasizes that as Jesus is now, holy and righteous, so are we in God's eyes.

I John 4:17

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

We can have boldness in the day of judgment, because we can stand before God with all our sins washed away and removed as far as the east is from the west, God having no more remembrance of them. Praise God forevermore! Hallelujah!

I John 5:2-4

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Again, we now are the children of God because we keep His commandments. We have been given His power and authority to overcome sin. There lies no more excuse to turn back and be trapped again by sin. Jesus said if you loved Him you would keep His commandments⁶³.

I John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

I John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

We know we are children of God, and are pleasing to Him if we live by faith⁶⁴ and obey His commandments. Mostly to show love and mercy⁶⁵.

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

John says we are joint heirs with Christ Jesus. In the Jewish laws, an adopted son received a double portion inheritance with the first born. So we, the adopted, receive an equal and joint inheritance with Jesus, the first born of many brethren.

I John 5:18

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

⁶³John 15:9-14

⁶⁴Hebrews 11:6

⁶⁵Mat 12:7

We are born of God. We must work our faith in God, in keeping ourselves unspotted by the world. If we are born of God, and continue to abide in Him and with Him daily, then that wicked one will not be able to find a lust to draw us away with, and we will not sin.

I John 5:19-20

And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

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.

John's whole point of writing was so we would know with confidence that we are born of God.

I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

That we may know with confidence that we have eternal life.

I John 1:3

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

That we might have fellowship with God.

And that we might continue in that fellowship unto the end.

John 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Eternal life is to have an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. Not to know of a person, far off and with no communication or interaction with, but to know God as a Father, who loves us and cares for us, because thru Christ Jesus, our elder brother, we are now children of God.

CHAPTER 9 - A SON OF GOD

We are now the sons of God, thru the Spirit of Adoption, crying Abba-Father in our hearts.

John 1:12
But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

The name Jesus, which is Greek for Joshua, means God who is salvation. There is no other god that can save, and no other name given under Heaven for whereby men can be saved. As many as believe, even on the name, that is God who is salvation, will be saved.

Gal 3:26
For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Eph 3:14-15
For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

We are not only one Body with Christ, but we are also one family, known by the name of Jesus, God who is salvation, with Jehovah as our Father. We are sons now, even on earth, and are know by His name throughout all creation.

I John 3:2
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And we receive the power for sonship thru the Holy Spirit of regeneration.

Gal 4:5-6
To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:15-16
For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Colos 1:13

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Who hath delivered, not is going to deliver, but already has! Into the Kingdom of His dear Son. What is a Kingdom? It is the Dominion of the King, where He has authority to rule, and power to enforce. God has made you a son, placed you in His Kingdom, and given you delegated authority in the name of Jesus, and delegated power by the Holy Spirit to rule and reign over Satan and all his forces in this age and time, making the devil a foot stool for Jesus! Hallelujah!

Eph 2:19

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners,
but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

You are fellowcitizens of a Heavenly city, New Jerusalem, with Christ Jesus, and of the household of God, as a son and not a servant.

9.1 A God

Imagine God in all His power, in all His glory! Stop a minute and get an image in your mind of His magnificence! Now, what sort of child do you think He would give birth to? One in His image, that is you!

Psalms 82:6

I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are
children of the most High.

Deut 10:17

For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord
of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible,
which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

Daniel 11:36

And the king... shall speak
marvelous things against the God of gods....

God said we are gods, and that He is the God of gods. What exactly does this mean? The Hebrew word for God is Elohim, which means creator. God, the Creator, says He has made us creators, and that He is Creator of creators.

We have been given the creative power of God. How? Remember in the beginning, God spoke everything into existence. Romans 4:17 says that God "calleth those things which be not as though they were". Don't you know that God is a God of faith? Hebrews 11:3 says "through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God...."

Have you not read about "the word of faith" in Romans 10:8-10, saying "if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart". You got re-created by speaking a faith confession!

2 Cor 4:13

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.

2 Cor 4:18

we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Praise God, our Creator! He has made us gods, creators, with the power of life and death in our mouth. We also have the authority of Jesus' name to speak to the circumstances hindering us or others from having the abundant life which God has promised. We can command the circumstances to line up with the Word of God. We are not lying when we call those things that be not as though they were, but we are agreeing with God, who can never lie! The devil is the liar and the author of it. Either your circumstances line up with the Truth, which is Jesus and God's Word, or they line up with the lie, which is the devil who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But God has made you a creator, able to change the circumstances from death to life! Praise God forevermore!

Hebrews 2:6-7

But one in a certain place testified, saying,
What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or
the son of man, that thou visitest him?
Thou madest him a little lower than the angels;
thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and
didst set him over the works of thy hands:

The word for angels in the above verse is actually Elohim. No where else in the entire Bible is the word Elohim ever translated angel(s). The translators merely lost all nerve in dealing with their traditions. God made man a little lower than the Trinity. God made Jesus in the form of and equal with the next highest creature in the universe. Not angels, but man!

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent
forth to minister for them who shall be heirs
of salvation?

How could angels, which are ministering spirits to man, be higher than man? Are angels equal heirs with Jesus? Will they rule and reign with Him? Or are they higher than Jesus, who we rule and reign with? And is it not written that we would judge the angels?

But praise be unto God! For we are sons of the Almighty, equal heirs with Christ Jesus, now, in this present age! So walk with Him and talk with Him, and see what He will do in your life! In Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

CHAPTER 10 - BELOVED OF GOD

Eph 1:6
To the praise of the glory of his grace,
wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

God has accepted us into the Beloved. That is, He has received us into His Family and Household, forgiving all our sins and remembering them no more.

God loves you with an everlasting love. He has received you fully and completely with no reservations into His Family. You are now the Beloved of Christ Jesus!

Romans 1:7
To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called
to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God
our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Thes 1:4
Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

Deut 7:6-8
For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy
God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a
special people unto himself, above all people
that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord
did not set his love upon you, nor choose you,
because ye were more in number than any people;
for ye were the fewest of all people: But because
the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the
oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath
the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and
redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from
the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

But many people don't know the love of God. They don't know that He is a good and merciful God. Knowing God's love towards us, knowing that we are accepted in the Beloved, draws us towards God when we sin. Knowing His love and limitless forgiveness leads us to repentance, because we value and yearn for His fellowship, which is broken thru sin.

Romans 2:4
Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness
and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing
that the goodness of God leadeth thee to
repentance?

We are the light of the world. We are the present day ambassadors of God's love and mercy. We must not only be the Beloved of Christ, but we must be the love of Christ to the world. We must reach out with bowels of mercies to this signing, crying, dying world and pull them into Jesus' waiting arms.

Colos 3:12

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

10.1 APPLE OF HIS EYE

We are the apple of His Eye. God's choice price in all creation. He has chosen us to be the Bride of Christ. To rule and reign thru all of eternity with Christ Jesus, ever sharing in intimate fellowship with God.

Deut 32:10

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

Psalms 17:8

Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

God values you! He considers you worthy to be apart of His Family and Household. He sent His only begotten son to free you and to lead the way unto His eternal salvation. Glory be unto God!

CHAPTER 11 - A PRIEST

I Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

God has made us priests unto Him! Priests in the Old Testament were chosen by birthright, as an inheritance. So also is the priesthood for New Testament saints. It is your inheritance, your birthright. God has made you a chosen generation, being a new generation of sons thru the Spirit of Adoption. He has made you a royal priesthood and kings forever!

Hebrews 7:21-22

(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)⁶⁶
By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Hebrews 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

God has made us partakers of a heavenly calling, a royal priesthood, after the order of Melchisedec, with Jesus Christ as our High Priest. We are a holy nation, a sinless people, washed clean by the blood of Jesus.

Titus 2:14

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Jesus redeemed or purchased us with His own blood on the cross. The Greek word for peculiar means special, valuable, or worthy as a prized personal possession.

God has called us to be a peculiar people, not only in His sight, but also in the sight of the world. The world thinks it is abnormal for saints to go around taking about Jesus all the time, raising holy hands, shouting hallelujah, laying hands on the sick, and casting out demons. But the truth of the matter is that the world is the abnormal one. Man was created to praise God and to rule the earth. It is dead unregenerated man that is abnormal.

⁶⁶ Gen 14:18-19, Heb 7:1-4,7

Also, we are peculiar, special, and valuable people to God because we show the world the praises of Him, who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We are zealous of good works, to show the world the love of God, and the way to eternal deliverance. Hallelujah!

Exodus 19:6
And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests,
and an holy nation. These are the words which
thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

God had sought to make the nation of Israel a kingdom of priests, but they, being carnal men, did not live up to it. But God has succeeded victorious through Christ Jesus, His son, having purchased unto Himself a kingdom of priest and kings forever!

Rev 5:10
And hast made us unto our God kings and
priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Rev 20:6
Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the
first resurrection: on such the second death
hath no power, but they shall be priests of
God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a
thousand years.

11.1 DEFINITION

A priest is one who ministers to God for himself and others, and ministers to others for God.

Hebrews 5:1-3
For every high priest taken from among men is
ordained for men in things pertaining to God,
that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for
sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant,
and on them that are out of the way; for that he
himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by
reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so
also for himself, to offer for sins.

While there is only one High Priest, Jesus Himself, there are many priests. This is the same as in the Old Testament, where the High Priest did the main sacrifice, but the many priests did the many smaller ones for the people.

Hebrews 8:3
For every high priest is ordained to offer
gifts and sacrifices...

We are ordained to offer gifts of worship and praise unto God. We are also ordained to work in the prayer of agreement with the saints and the prayer of intercession for the lost.

Please note that you have no need of any other priest or saint to minister or mediate between you and God, because Jesus is our mediator⁶⁷ and has made the way open⁶⁸ for each of us to approach God, our Father, directly. But as priests and brothers in the Lord, we can stand beside each other to strengthen each other in times of need, as Moses and Aaron strengthen each other. But for the lost world, we still need to stand in the gap, interceding for them, crying out to God for mercy, and forbidding the devil from destroying them. In Jesus' mighty name!

11.2 A WORSHIPPER

I Peter 2:5

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

We are called to offer up spiritual sacrifices unto God. Spiritual sacrifices including anything that is worship. What is worship?

The word worship is shortened from the word worthship. That is, whatever you place worth upon. Do you stay home to watch the football game instead of going to church? What have you placed worth on? Do you spend more time watching television or reading the newspaper that you spend communing with God or reading the Word? What have you placed worth on?

Hebrews 13:15-16

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Your worship is the time and effort you spend on God. This includes your money. The tithe was before the law, and offerings have been made since righteous Abe. Jesus said where your treasure⁶⁹ is, so will be your heart. Is your money tied up in your golf and hunting gear rather than God? Or is it in the multiple television sets, cars, and house? Your money is your time and effort, since that is how you got it. What are you considering worthy? Are you praising Jesus with your money? Are you investing in treasures in heaven with the use of your earthly money? Where your money goes reflects where your heart is!⁷⁰

⁶⁷₁ Tim 2:5

⁶⁸ Luke 23:4, Heb 10:20

⁶⁹ money

⁷⁰ If you are looking for a good investment into the Kingdom of God, place your offerings into soul winning activities, particularly to the poor, maybe even overseas.

Another important part of any worship is praise and thanksgiving. Praise is worshiping God in prayer by stating who He is⁷¹. Thanksgiving is worshiping God for what He has, is, and is going to do in your life.

Psalms 4:5
Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put
your trust in the Lord.

11.2.1 Lifting Up Holy Hands

One means of praise and worship is lifting up holy hands unto the Lord. This is a very important and powerful form of worship. Please let me explain.

Genesis 14:22
And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have
lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high
God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

From as far back as Abraham, men have been lifting hands to the Lord.

Lev 9:22-23
And Aaron lifted up his hand toward the people,
and blessed them, and came down from offering of
the sin offering, and the burnt offering, and
peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into
the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out,
and blessed the people: and the glory of the Lord
appeared unto all the people.

As Aaron finished offering the first sacrifice of atonement for Israel, the foreshadow of Jesus' sacrifice, he lifted up holy hands.

Psalms 63:4
Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will
lift up my hands in thy name.

David lifted up holy hands unto the Lord.

Psalms 134:2
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless
the Lord.

All of Israel was instructed to lift holy hands to the Lord.

⁷¹an example of praising Jesus could include: The Bishop of our Souls, the Bread of Life, the Power of God, Holy One of Israel, Hope of Glory, the Image of the Invisible God, the Lamb of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Great Physician, the Redeemer, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

I Tim 2:8
I will therefore that men pray every where,
lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Even we, new testament saints, are instructed to lift up holy hands unto the Lord.

But you say why must I lift hands to the Lord? I once asked the Lord why. He replied, "how was Jesus' hands lifted up on the cross?" THAT'S IT!

Psalms 141:2
Let my prayer be set forth before thee as
incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the
evening sacrifice.

Jesus was the evening sacrifice. He was the one lifted up. Just like water baptism is a sign of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which every believer is commanded to do. So is lifting up of holy hands a sign of the crucifixion of Jesus. The redeeming sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

Do you know what God sees when a believer is praising Him with uplifted hands? He sees His son, doing His perfect will, going thru the cross, and coming out victorious on the other side. Hallelujah! Resurrection power follows as you praise God with uplifted hands.

Luke 24:50
And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and
he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Even Jesus, the Lord of Glory, blessed and prayed with uplifted hands, even after the resurrection.

Exodus 14:16
But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine
hand over the sea, and divide it: and the
children of Israel shall go on dry ground
through the midst of the sea.

All of Israel saw the power of God manifest as Moses lifted up hands with the wooden rod, as Jesus hands were lifted up on the wooden cross.

John 12:32
And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will
draw all men unto me.

As you praise and worship God, Jesus is still drawing you unto the Father, being your chief mediator and intercessor.

Rev 10:5
And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea
and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

Even the angels lift up hands unto God!

Hebrews 12:12
Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down,
and the feeble knees;

For God is able to cause His resurrection power to follow thru you⁷² and is able to destroy every yoke⁷³.

11.3 AN INTERCESSOR

God has called us to be intercessors for the lost, dying, crying, hurting world. Why must saints of God spend time in prayer for the lost?

Proverbs 1:28
Then shall they (the wicked) call upon me,
but I will not answer; they shall seek me early,
but they shall not find me:

Proverbs 15:29
The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth
the prayer of the righteous.

I Peter 3:12
For the eyes of the Lord are over the
righteous, and his ears are open unto their
prayers: but the face of the Lord is against
them that do evil.

God has called us as priests to stand in the gap for the lost. Without someone standing in the gap crying for mercy, God's judgment will fall.

Ezekiel 22:30-31
And I sought for a man among them, that should
make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before
me for the land, that I should not destroy it:
but I found none.
Therefore have I poured out mine indignation
upon them; I have consumed them with the fire
of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed
upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

⁷²Romans 8:11

⁷³Isa 10:27, Luke 4:18-19

Isaiah 59:16

And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

God had to send Jesus to get a Faithful and True intercessor into the earth. Jesus ever lives to make intercession for the saints.

But the lost have no covenant, being foreigners to the commonwealth of Israel.

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

We should joyfully move into this calling, since it is the present day ministry of Jesus Christ as He sits on the right hand of God. God has called us to intercede for the lost, that they might be saved and delivered.

Isaiah 58:6-7

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Isaiah 62:6

I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence,

I Tim 2:1

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

God has also equipped us thru the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, which is always evidenced by speaking in tongues⁷⁴. Jesus did no miracles until He was baptized with the Spirit. Jesus commanded the disciples to go nowhere until they had received the baptism,

⁷⁴Acts 2:1-4, Acts 8:14-19 (Simon saw something physically manifested that he could not fake), Acts 9:17-18 (we know Paul spoke with tongues, 1 Cor 14:18), Acts 10:44-48, and Acts 19:1-7

which brings the empowering⁷⁵. This is the promise of the Spirit from our Heavenly Father, which is unto all generations⁷⁶. This is the rest and the refreshing promised by God⁷⁷.

Romans 8:26
Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Praise be to God! Who has equipped you to be priests unto God and man. To be a holy nation and a royal priesthood.

11.3.1 Your Dominion

Where do you function as a priest? That's easy. Where you are. At your office, at your home, at your church, wherever you are at. So go forth and be blessed! In Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

⁷⁵Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,8

⁷⁶Gal 3:14, Acts 2:38-39

⁷⁷Isa 28:11-12, 1 Cor 14:2, 1 Cor 14:21

CHAPTER 12 - A SERVANT

Matthew 25:21

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

We all are servants of the Lord. We all long to hear Jesus say, "thou good and faithful servant". But in order to be a good servant or a faithful servant, we need to know what a servant is and what his responsibilities are.

A servant is one under authority. Obligated by debt, bondage, or even free will choice to obey and to be subject. In our culture today, a soldier may be as close of an example as you can find:

Luke 7:8

For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

But in the Law of Moses, there is a more fitting example which I believe reflects the saints of the Lord. It describes a free will servant, one who was purchased with a price and then set free to go any way he chose. But the servant chose to stay subject to the master because of love:

Exodus 21:5-6

And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.

Jesus loved us so much, that He purchased us with His own blood. He does not force us to obey Him, but leaves us to freely choose whether we will serve Him or not. If we do, then He will stand before God the Father, the Judge of all, and confess us as being His brethren. We bare His mark, not in the flesh, but in the circumcision of the heart, to obey Him in truth and in love.

Paul considered himself a servant of the Lord, freely choosing to obey God in all matters, and to serve the brethren in love.

Romans 1:1
Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be
an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

I Cor 9:19
For though I be free from all men, yet have I
made myself servant unto all, that I might
gain the more.

12.1 HUMILITY - THE MIND OF CHRIST

We are to minister or serve each other in love. We are not to have our own selves at heart, but to have the interest of others in mind as we do things. We should continually be of the attitude, "What can I do for you today?".

Phil 2:2-4
Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having
the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
Let nothing be done through strife or
vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each
esteem other better than themselves.
Look not every man on his own things, but every
man also on the things of others.

I Cor 2:16
... we have the mind of Christ.

This is the mind of Christ Jesus, to love and serve others.

Matthew 20:27
And whosoever will be chief among you, let him
be your servant:

Mark 9:35
And he sat down, and called the twelve, and
saith unto them, If any man desire to be
first, the same shall be last of all, and
servant of all.

The disciples had some serious problems before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. One of these was a continual debate about who was the greatest. This debate was even raging at the last supper. Jesus sought to teach them love and service. He knew that truly the greatest in heaven would be the one who loved others and served others the most.

In biblical days, the lowest servant in the house was responsible for washing the feet of others. This is why John the Baptist said he was not worthy to even loosen the latch of the sandal of the coming Messiah, referring to taking off His sandals to wash His feet.

The disciples had come to supper unwashed, not only too proud to wash others, but even to wash their own feet. This hardness of heart, being unwilling to even do the simplest or

lowest of task for others, deeply grieved Jesus. So He took on the task Himself, not only to teach them, but also because He loved them.

Are you willing to do as Jesus ask of you? Or are you too bond up arguing about who is better than another? Or it is not your job? Or it is too meager and lowly for you?

Phil 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

To humble oneself merely means to set aside one's own will and to receive another's. Jesus set aside every thought or will He had, including the temptation in the garden of Gethsemane to not go to the cross, and received the will of the Father. To receive His will is to do it. This is the mind of Christ, to humbly set aside our wills, thoughts, and desires for our lives, and to receive the Father's, which leads to glory and peace. This is true servanthood.

An example of the mind of Christ is be in a marriage where the wife lays aside her will to receive her husband's. This does not mean that she does not think, nor that she does not communicate her desires with her husband, but that she follows his headship.

Humility is not crawling along the ground crying and begging. Nor is it licking the ground someone walks on. Humility is a simple choice of free will, to love and serve someone else.

A wife who refuses to release her own will, who demands her way, or refuses to support her husband's decision, is not humble nor following the mind of Christ. Are you supporting Jesus' will and decisions for your life? Or are you grumbling and refusing to yield? Jesus said, if you love Him, then you would obey Him⁷⁸.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 14:15,21

If ye love me, keep my commandments... He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

12.2 AMBASSODORS

In serving God, we are called to the ministry of reconciliation. We as ambassadors of Christ are to call the lost, the lame, and the downtrodden to God's everlasting peace and rest in Christ Jesus:

II Cor 5:18,20

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation...

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ....

This is what Jesus came to earth to do, to reconcile man to God. When He left earth, He commanded believers to go into all the earth, in love, and do the same.

An ambassador is someone who is sent to a far away country to represent another. An ambassador represents the very best of his country, and stands in full delegated power and authority for his sovereign. We are not of this world, but count our citizenship in heaven⁷⁹. We sojourn here on earth as ambassadors of God, representing His very best, His love and glory on earth. We stand in the full authority and power of God to do His will, forgiving sins with the blood of Jesus, and setting the captives free in the name of Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!

Luke 14:16-18,21-23

Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse....

So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

God desires us to go forth and proclaim liberty to the captives, to declare that this is the day of salvation, to call all unto the marriage supper of the Lamb of God.

⁷⁹Eph 2:19

I Sam 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Matthew 9:13

But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Many people believe they are doing God's work, but are actual following their own desires or thoughts⁸⁰. Like Paul who was serving God with all his heart, honesty and sincerely, killing christians and throwing them into prison, many people don't know they are on the wrong path. Do you think a buddhist or a hinduist is purposely following the wrong god⁸¹? Many christians are following the way of the pharisees, following traditions and instruction books, but not following love. Love is the divine nature of God⁸², and faith worketh by love⁸³. God would have us obey Him, and be lead by His Spirit. God would have our sincere obedience, and our showing forth of love and mercy towards others.

God would have us not only reach those around us, but to take time and effort to reach the unreached, to tell the untold, and to love the unloved. Take time to build bridges of love with people. Don't just go out and try to "win another soul". Many people are turned off because they don't believe you really care about them. Many others are lost because someone prays with them, and then leaves them in the streets with no further love or support.

Building bridges of love means to spend time and effort, to reach across the barriers that separate people. Barriers of fear and loneliness, of hurt and poverty, can be overcome by showing people that you are truly interested in them, and not just interested in getting another notch on your "soul winning" gun. Building bridges of love not only shows you love them, but that God loves them and has not forgotten them. He is reaching out thru you to them, and they can see His love in and thru you.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

As ambassadors and servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to show forth His love to all mankind. We are to let that love light shine thru actions, not just words, so men can see that God and His love are real and alive. This will draw men unto Him, and bring glory unto His name. Amen!

⁸⁰Isa 55:8-9

⁸¹1 Cor 10:20-21

⁸²1 John 4:16

⁸³Gal 5:6

CHAPTER 13 - A KING

Rev 5:10
And hast made us unto our God kings and
priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Rev 17:14
These shall make war with the Lamb, and the
Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of
lords, and King of kings: and they that are
with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Jesus has called us to rule and reign in life as kings! Jesus is not King over the natural kings of the earth who do not know Him nor follow Him. Jesus is a spiritual King over a spiritual kingdom⁸⁴, and over spiritual kings who are ruling and reign in His power and authority over it.

Psalms 95:3
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King
above all gods.

There are no other Gods, as in different creators who have a different kingdom or area where they exercise control above and separate from Jehovah and Jesus. If there were, Jesus would not be their King. But there are gods⁸⁵, children of the Most High, who are created in His image, character, and power. God showed this was reborn man's destiny or inheritance even in the old testament.

Psalms 82:6-7
I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are
children of the most High. But ye shall die like
men, and fall like one of the princes.

Jesus bore record in John 10:34-35 that God said we are gods, and that His Word could not be broken. Jesus is King, Ruler, and Sovereign over the sons of God, who are kings and priest unto God.

Romans 5:17
For if by one man's offense 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.)

⁸⁴John 18:36

⁸⁵Dt 10:17, Joshua 22:22, Ps 82:1-7, Ps 95:3, Dan 2:47, Dan 11:36, John 10:34-35

Reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. The definition of a king is one who rules and reigns. To rule and reign is defined as possession of, controlling power over, or exercise of supreme power over an area, to prevail. Jesus has called us to prevail!

To overcome the devil and all his devices. Sin, death, and the curse of law have no more reign or control over you! Jesus has set the captives free, and has given you supreme power and authority to exercise control over every area of your life, thru the name of Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit!

Jesus has not called us to whimper and whine in life like whipped puppy dogs. Jesus does not expect us to run with our tails between our legs every time the devil shows up to intimidate us or to try to put sickness, disease, and poverty on us. He expects us to use His name to exercise supreme power over the enemy, to rule and reign in life as kings!

Genesis 1:26

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.

God created man to have complete dominion on the earth. That means complete control and authority over everything on the earth. Remember that the devil had already been cast down to earth and was fighting a losing battle. God's intention from the beginning of creation was for man to rule and reign with Christ Jesus, over the devil and all his forces.

Psalms 8:4-6

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels⁸⁶, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

⁸⁶We have already shown that the word "Elohim", translated here "angels", is actually referring to the Trinity, and that God made man a little lower than Himself and made all the angels as ministering spirits (servants) to the heirs of salvation

13.1 A WARRIOR

God has put all things under Jesus' feet, making the devil His footstool⁸⁷. God has ordained His sons, born-again christians, to go forth and enforce that victory, keeping the devil underfoot.

Eph 1:19-23

...exceeding greatness of his power...
Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Jesus has always been a warrior-king⁸⁸, though He has been waiting on His Father's divine timing for His kingdom. Jesus came as a spiritual warrior-king the first time, destroying the works of the devil. The Jews were looking for a physical warrior-king. That is why they missed Him. But He is returning again, very soon, as both a spiritual and physical warrior-king.

Rev 19:11

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

I John 3:8

...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Jesus expects us to fight the good fight of faith, to be strong in the power of His might, and to be more than conquerors thru Him.⁸⁹ God has called us to be soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸⁷Acts 2:35, Heb 10:13

⁸⁸Joshua 5:13-14

⁸⁹1 Tim 6:12, Eph 6:10, Romans 8:37

II Tim 2:3-4

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

God has once again placed us in charge of His domain, just as He entrusted His servant Adam. He has given us the keys of the kingdom to use to protect and expand it.

Matthew 16:19

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

Remember the root words bind and loose literally mean not permit and permit. You have free will to choose if you are going to allow the devil to have rule in your life, as Adam allowed the devil to exercise influence in the garden. Or you can resist the devil, in the name of Jesus, and cast him out of our life, and away from your family and affairs.

God's kingdom is not a weak kingdom, nor one just in words. It is not devised of cunning lies and fables of men. But God's kingdom is one of power, seen thru the mighty working of signs and miracles.

I Cor 2:4-5

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

I Cor 4:20

For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

Since John the Baptist⁹⁰, the kingdom of God has been proclaimed as being at hand. Jesus proclaimed it, saying that God has anointed Him to set the captives free.

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

⁹⁰Matt 3:2

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luke 8:1

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

Jesus went preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom, working signs and miracles as He went! God has given us a commandment to go forth and proclaim the good news, that God is a good God, a loving God. It is He who forgives sins, who heals, who sets the captives free.

Matthew 10:7-8

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mark 16:15-20

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preaching every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

You need to believe in the Word of God! You have to believe that God will confirm His word with signs and wonders following, when you speak it. If you don't believe, then they won't follow you! It is impossible to please God without faith. It is your faith in Him that moves Him and gives Him liberty to act. Don't you remember Mark 6:5-6, where Jesus could not do many might works because of their unbelief? You have been given more power and authority than any demon on earth! Get violent with the devil!

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now
the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and
the violent take it by force.

Do you think the devil is going to run off just because you gently, quietly, timidly, trembling whisper "go"? Would a wolf coming to steal, kill, and destroy your child, holding it in his mouth, drop your child simply because you whispered "go"? Get militant! Tell the devil LOOSE MY CHILD and GO, IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

Matthew 11:11

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born
of women there hath not risen a greater than John
the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in
the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

John the Baptist was the greatest of the old testament prophets. But God says the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. Why? John was not in the kingdom of God, a new covenant child. John did not have the name of Jesus and the anointing of the Spirit to destroy every evil work of the devil. BUT YOU DO! You are in the kingdom of God! Think of all the mighty deeds the old testament prophets did. Moses parting the water, Elijah calling fire down from heaven, Elisha raising the dead. Do you know that you, even if you are the very least in the kingdom of heaven, have more power and authority than any of them? Get mad at the devil! Tell him to loose your life, your family, your affairs! Get vigilant! In Jesus' mighty name!

13.2 FULLY ARMORED

God has not left us unprepared for the battle, but has shown us how to be strong in the power of His might, to be fully equipped for the battle with the devil and his forces.

Eph 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord,
and in the power of his might. Put on the whole
armour of God, that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle
not against flesh and blood, but against
principalities, against powers, against the
rulers of the darkness of this world, against
spiritual wickedness in high places.

The devil's forces are divided into four groups. Principalities are spirits who rule over an area, large or small. For example, if homosexuality is prevalent⁹¹ in an area of your city, then a principality of homosexuality is ruling there. Powers are evil spirits who are subject to principalities and do their will. Rulers of darkness are there to blind the minds of the people, to keep them in darkness, and away from the glorious light of God's saving grace. Rulers of darkness include cults and religions⁹² Spiritual wickedness in high places, literally in heavenly places, fight for principalities to keep God's good angels from bringing your blessings to you. There are three heavens⁹³ mentioned in the Bible: the first being the atmosphere around earth, the second being the abode of the stars, and the third being the abode of God, where the holy city and the throne of God are. Spiritual wickedness have been cast down out of the second and third heaven, but still fight in the first, the atmosphere around earth, to prevent your blessings and to hinder the gospel of Jesus Christ.⁹⁴ But God! He has given us His full armor and instructed us to put it on and wear it all the time. And in it to stand our ground in victory against the devil.

Eph 6:13-18

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

God says first of all put on the girdle of truth. Jesus is the truth, the life, the way. You cannot stand against the devil if you first don't put on Jesus, that is, to be born-again. No man can come unto the Father except by Jesus. The girdle was to hold the rest of the armor in place and give it support. If you don't build on salvation and deliverance in Jesus, and on His word as your sure foundation, then all else will come tumbling down as a house built on sand. Jesus said if you continue in His word, then you would know the truth and the truth would set you free.

God says to put on the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate protects the heart. If you don't know that by the blood of Jesus you have been washed clean from all sins, and are now the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, the devil will come with condemnation every time and defeat you. Your chest will be wide open to his attacks. But if you stay

⁹¹prevalent meaning that the devil is exercising power and control, rule and reign, over an area, which strongholds should be pulled down by saints of God

⁹²Christianity is not a religion. It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Religion is man reaching up to God, or trying to become God. Christianity is God reaching down to man, and making him equal with God.

⁹³2 Cor 12:2

⁹⁴Dan 10:13-21

continually cleansed in the blood of Jesus, and know you are the righteousness of God, then the devil will not be able to wound you.

God says to protect and cover your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. If you don't believe that God is a good God, that it is He who heals and prospers you, that it is not He who steals, kills, and destroys, then your walk thru this life is going to be painful as your feet are always wounded and bruised from the troubles of life brought by the devil. But if you know your God, and the power of His might, and the goodness and lovingkindness of His tender mercies, then you will know that He is a deliverer, a healer, and takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants. You will not only be able to walk thru this life victorious, with His yoke being light and His burden being easy, but you will be able to lead many to salvation and deliverance. How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the gospel, the glad tidings of God's kingdom of deliverance being at hand. Glory!

Above all, taking up the shield of faith! The devil's fiery darts are thoughts and temptations which he sends against your mind, where the battle is. But by knowing your God and His word, which you have already put on in armor, you can apply faith in God and His love towards you. You can then quench, or put out completely, all the thoughts of the devil, casting down every vain imagination, worry, and fear, and bringing every thought into captivity unto the obedience of Christ.

God says take the helmet of salvation! We have the mind of Christ. We have been given a spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind! The devil cannot steal our minds. Renew your mind in the Word of God. We have been delivered from the power of darkness, and have already been translated into the kingdom of God's dear son, Jesus Christ. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, as you think on what is good, accept, honest, and of good report.

Then after you have done all of your preparation, take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Quote the Word to the devil! Get militant! By whose stripes you were healed! My God meets all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus! I have life and have it more abundantly. I am no longer under the dominion of sin, but under the spirit of liberty and grace. In Jesus' mighty name! Amen!

Finally last but not least, you must pray and be vigilant always. What good does it do to give a soldier the very best in armor, if when the enemy comes the soldier is asleep? You must be sober, vigilant, and watch in prayer. Watchful for your family, for your friends, for the lost and the unreached, and for all saints, that we might be able to stand together, every joint and member supplying what is needed. In Jesus' mighty name! Hallelujah!

13.3 THREE STAGES OF POSSESSION

In dealing with who we are in Christ Jesus, a common question arises: "If I am who you say I am, and can do the things you say I can do, then why am I not experiencing it in my life?"

Lets examine the question in the light of three different types of possession:

13.3.1 Positional Possession:

At the time of rebirth into the kingdom of God, you become a joint heir with Christ Jesus. You have equal rights and privileges with Him. All your inheritance is yours; as an adopted son, you have legal right to it. This means you have a right to health, wealth, and happiness in Christ Jesus, and complete and open fellowship with the Father.

I John 3:2
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Eph 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

II Peter 1:3
According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

God told Moses and Joshua that He had given them the promised land. It was theirs in the spiritual realm. But Joshua had to enter into the land and possess it in the physical realm. Understand that without God's help, as at Jericho, Joshua would never had physically been able to possess the land.

God having spiritually given the land to Israel, that is the land being theirs in God's eyes, was their positional or spiritual possession, even though they did not have it in the physical possession yet.

God has given you all spiritual blessings, and all things that pertain to life and godliness. That is our positional possession. It is positional because you are seated with Christ Jesus and are a son of God thru rebirth. Nothing can change that. It is called spiritual possession, because at first you cannot see nor feel it, though it exist in the spiritual realm.

13.3.2 Experiential Possession:

At this current moment of your life in Christ Jesus, you have manifested physically only as much as you have subdued in faith. This does not mean that whatever blessing you desire is not yours; it only means you have not subdued it yet by faith. This is, what you possess is thru experienced use of your faith.

As with Joshua, we must decide if we will enter in to possess the land by faith, or by unbelief fail to obtain the promise.

Hebrews 3:17-4:2

But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Mark 6:5-6

And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

Are there great and mighty works that you desire Jesus to do in your life? Are you applying active faith or are you sitting around in doubt, worry, despair, and unbelief? If you are applying active faith, then don't grow weary and quit. He is faithful that promised!

Even in the natural, we know you can be a doctor, a lawyer, a dentist, a pilot, and anything else you want to be. All you need is the time to subdue it all.

So is God's kingdom. The word "kingdom" literally means the king's dominion or the physical area under a king's authority and power. Jesus has been given all power and authority, both in heaven and earth, and has delegated it to us to rule and reign until His imminent return.

How much you are conformed into His Image, or how much health and prosperity you walk in depends upon you. You could call it "manifested faith and spiritual warfare". How much effort have you put forth in meditating on the scriptures in that area, so your faith can grow? How strongly and steadfastly have you resisted and enforced your authority over the thief, the devil, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy?

Faith is like a physical muscle. The more you use it, the stronger it becomes. The less you use it, the weaker it becomes. Remember faith comes by hearing, not having heard. So don't be discouraged if you are still building up to lifting that mountain out of your way. Just so long as you don't stop believing and exercising your faith. God is faithful!

Your "manifested sonship" depends on you, not God. He has done His part and given it to you. He stands willing and able to help you as you move forth. But you must go forth!

II Peter 3:17-18

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

But be encouraged. Remember it is a growing process. You learn, and you move out. You subdue in one area. Then you move on to another. But praise be to God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus.

II Cor 2:14

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

13.3.3 Ultimate Possession:

At the time of Jesus' return for the church and for His glorious continual reign on the earth, we will be just like Him. We will know Him as we are known. We will also come into our full physical possession of our inheritance. The devil will be bound and locked up for 1000 years. There will be no more temptation. Your flesh will be change in a second to a glorious body, like the resurrected body of Jesus Christ. There will be no more sickness, disease, poverty, or emotional hurt. We will come into full possession of our inheritance and sonship, spirit, soul, and body.

I Cor 13:10

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Hebrews 12:23

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect....

Rev 20:4,6

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.... Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Rev 21:4

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

So be encouraged. Don't look at your surroundings and murmur about what you do or don't have, or what you can or cannot do. But look unto Jesus! Look at where He walked in that area, and has called you to walk in it. Look unto Him and go forth, in the mighty name of Jesus! Amen!