

Gospel of Matthew

Chapter 1

- 1 The book of the lineage of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.
- 2 Abraham begot Isaac and Isaac begot Jacob and Jacob begot Judah and his brethren.
- 3 And Judah begot Pheres and Zerah from Tamar and Pheres begot Hezron and Hezron begot Aram.
- 4 And Aram begot Aminadab and Aminadab begot Nahshon and Nashon begot Salmon.
- 5 And Salmon begot Boaz by Rhab and Boaz begot Obed by Ruth and Obed begot Jesse.
- 6- And Jesse begot David the king and David the king begot Solomon¹ by the wife of Uriah.
- 7- And Solomon begot Rehoboam and Rehoboam begot Abijah and Abijah begot Asa.
- 8- And Asa begot Jehoshaphat and Jehosphate begot Joram and Joram begot Uzziah.
- 9- And Uzziah begot Jotham and Jotham begot Ahaz and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.
- 10- And Hezekiah begot Manasseh and Manasseh begot Amos and Amos begot Josiah.
- 11- And Josiah begot Jechoniah and his brothers a the time of deportation to Babylon.
- 12- And after the deportation Jechoniah begot Salathiel and Salathiel begot Zerubbabel.
- 13- And Zerubbable begot Abiud and Abiud begot Eliakim and Eliakem begot Azor.
- 14- And Azor begot Zadok and Zadok begot Achim and Achim begot Eliud.
- 15- And Eliud begot Eleazar and Eleazar begot Matthan and Matthan begot Jacob.
- 16- And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary of who Jesus was born who is called the Christ.
- 17- So all the generations for Abraham to David were fourteen generations and from David until the deportation to Babylon were fourteen generations and from the deportation of Babylon to Christ were fourteen generations.
- 18- Now the birth of Jesus the Christ was in this manner. When His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph but before they were joined together she was found to be with child from the Holy Ghost².

¹ It is at this point that the genealogies of Mary and Joseph split. Mary was a descendant of David's son Nathan and Joseph was a descendant of Solomon (Luke 3:23-31). Jesus was the son of David after the flesh through the lineage of Nathan and would have been heir to the throne of Solomon through Joseph his guardian and step-father.

² The first mention of the Holy Ghost in the New Testament is discovered in His role in the birth of Christ Jesus. His work was not only essential to the conception of Jesus, but His work has been and will continue to be essential to the manifestation of Jesus (John 7:39; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:12-15; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:8,31; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Hebrews 2:4). Without the present work of the Holy Spirit, no one can be born again. It may be said that the Holy Ghost will come upon you, and you will become a new man. It is by the power of the Holy Ghost that we are all born of God when we call upon the Lord Jesus (John 1:13; 3:3-7; Titus 3:5; Galatians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17). It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus is revealed to us and in our lives (John 16:13-15; Galatians 1:16; 1 John 3:24; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21).

Too many people who attend church fail to recognize the place of supreme authority given to the Holy Ghost. Our interaction with Him demands the highest order of reverence and godly fear. He must be recognized and obeyed. To insult Him or speak evil against His person or His work is the highest offense against God - and carries the most severe penalty in the Bible (Mark 3:29; Luke 12:10). The Holy Ghost is referred to about 440 times in the New Testament, from (Matthew 1:18) to (Revelation 22:17). The Holy

19- But her husband Joseph being a righteous man and not willing to make her a public example, thought to put her away secretly.

20- While he was considering these things an angel from the Lord appeared unto him in a dream saying, Joseph son of David do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife for that which is in her is begotten of the Holy Ghost.

21-And she shall bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus and He shall save His people from their sins³.

Ghost, the Spirit, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of Truth are all synonymous terms referring to the same person (John 1:33; Luke 3:22; Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18).

He is God, in charge of the church and of the life of the saints (John 14:26; John 16:12-15; Acts 5:3; Acts 8:29; Acts 10:19-20; Acts 13:2,4; Acts 15:28; Acts 16:6-7; Romans 15:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13). He is the one who fills us with the life of Jesus (1 John 3:24). He is the Paraclete who was sent to us to live and abide with us forever (John 14:16). Although Jesus is the head over the church, He communicates everything He does through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11). The Holy Ghost is the one who reveals Jesus, and makes known to all of the saints the will of the Father (John 16:12-15). He is the one who comes upon us and changes us into a new creation (John 3:3-5). He is the one who functions in the midst of the church to lead us and to guide us. He is the one who orchestrates everything that goes on in the midst of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:4; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11). He is the One who gives the utterance of tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:45-47; Acts 19:6; 1 Corinthians 14:12-16). He is the one who prophecies through the saints of God (Acts 2:17-18; Acts 19:6; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 14:1,24; 1 Corinthians 14:39). He is the one who we are to depend on to speak. It is by the demonstration of the Holy Spirit that the gospel must be preached (1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5). He is the one who gives us power to be witnesses (Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8). He is the one who gives oversight to the church, and speaks directly to us concerning the will of God. Just as Jesus did all of His miracles by the Holy Ghost before the cross, He continues to do miracles by the Holy Ghost through His saints.

The ministry of Jesus focused on the Holy Ghost (John 3:3; John 3:5-6; John 4:14,24; John 7:38-39; Luke 4:18; Mark 3:29; Matthew 12:28; Mark 13:11). The ministry and testimony of the early church focused on the working of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:5,8; Acts 2:4,33; Acts 2:38; Acts 4:8,31; Acts 5:3,32; Acts 6:5; Acts 7:51,55; Acts 8:15,17; Acts 8:18,29; Acts 8:39) and (Acts 9:17,31; Acts 10:19,47; Acts 10:44-45; Acts 11:12,16; Acts 11:24,28; Acts 13:2,4; Acts 13:9,52; Acts 15:8,28; Acts 16:6-7; Acts 19:2,6). The ministry of Paul focused on the Holy Ghost (Acts 19:2,6; 1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Corinthians 14:1-40; Ephesians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16; Galatians 5:22-25; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:1-16; Romans 14:17; Romans 15:13). Therefore, if we are going to truly honor Jesus and follow Him, then our lives and ministries must also focus on what the Holy Ghost is doing and wants to do!

³ What a miraculous and unspeakable gift our heavenly Father gave to all! God wrapped up in the package of a little baby to become the servant of all. The Eternal God became flesh for one reason: to save men from their sins. The Word took upon Himself the form of a servant and humbled himself to the death of the cross that He might bear our sins in His own body so that the curse of Adam's death might be broken off of all who would believe (Philippians 2:6; 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 5:12-21). His name was called Jesus to emphasis what He was sent to do. In the Hebrew language Jesus means Yahoah's Salvation (Yehoshua). As the Savior and Redeemer He came to rescue men from the prison and bondage of a sinful nature and liberate them to live in the abundant life of God. Through His amazing free gift of salvation He extends anyone who will believe the authority to be sons of God (John 1:12). And He has empowered us to live in righteousness and holiness all the days of our lives so that we may rejoice before Him forever (Luke 1:75; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

The salvation in Christ Jesus extends beyond the nation of Israel unto all who would believe, for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe might be saved (John 3:16; 12:32; Titus 2:11-12) Jesus poured out the blood of the New Covenant at Calvary to wipe away every stain of sin. With His blood He remove the power of sin so that it would no longer have dominion over the redeemed (Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 26:28; Revelation 1:5; Romans 6:2,14). He purchased us with His own blood so that we might glorify Him in our body and spirits, which are His (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:20). Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the devil and through death He destroyed the one who

- 22- And all of this took place so that the words of the Lord that were spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled, saying.
- 23- Behold the virgin will conceive and she shall bring forth a son, and they will call His name Emmanuel (which translated means, God is with us) Isa 7:14
- 24- And being awakened out of his sleep Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary to be his wife.
- 25- And he did not know her until she had bore her First-born son and he called His name Jesus.

Chapter 2

- 1- Now Jesus having been born in Bethlehem of Judea during the days of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.
- 2 – Saying where is He that was born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.
- 3- And King Herod hearing this was stirred and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4- And he gathered together all of the chief priest and scribes of the people and sought of them where the Christ should be born.
- 5- And they said to him in Bethlehem of Judea for thus it is written by the the prophets (Micah 5:2).
- 6- For you Bethlehem of Judah you are by no means least among the leaders of Israel for out of you shall come a leader who will be the Shepard of my people Israel.
- 7- Then Herod secretly called the magi and sought to find out exactly what time the star appeared.
- 8- And sending them to Bethlehem he said, Go search diligently for the little child and when you have found Him send word back to me that I too may come and worship Him.
- 9- After hearing the king they departed and the star which they saw in the east went before them until it came and stood over where the little child was.
- 10- And seeing the star they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.
- 11- And when they had come into the house, they saw the child with Mary, His mother, and fell down worshiping Him⁴. And they opened up their treasures for Him: giving Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

had the power of death that is the devil (1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14). Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Timothy 1:10).

Wherever the blood of Jesus Christ is allowed to flow the Holy Spirit follows. The Holy Spirit overshadows the one who will receive and forms Christ Jesus in the inner man. The old man is destroyed through the death of Jesus and everything new is brought to us by the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Everyday of the life of God's children is filled with the prevision of God's unlimited blessings. The well springs of the gift of God bubbles-up with the goodness of God's own life and the rivers of the Spirit appear where there once was a dry and desolate waste land of the heart (John 4:16; 7:38-39; Mark 7:21; Ezekiel 36:26; 1 Peter 1:22). Redemptions paid in full and all who will believe are united once again with the Father in the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost (John 17:21-23; Titus 3:6). It has become our blessing and right to live the abundant life of Jesus! With the new heart we now live a life of righteousness a life well pleasing in the Fathers sight (Colossians 1:10; Romans 6:22; 1 John 3:22).

⁴ These wise men, who had lived their lives fixed upon the wonders of heaven and who had by revelation sought out the Savior, had no idea what they were about to encounter. After their long journey in search for

- 12- And being divinely warned in a dream not to return to Herod they departed another way into their own country.
- 13- And after they had departed an angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream and said get up take the little child and His mother and flee into Egypt and stay there until I speak to you for Herod is about to seek the little child to destroy Him.
- 14- And he got up and took the little child and His mother by night and departed into Egypt.
- 15- And was there until the death of Herod that what the Lord spoke through the prophet might be fulfilled saying, Out of Egypt have I called my Son (Hosea 11:1).
- 16- Now Herod knowing that he was mocked by the magi became full of rage and sent and put to death all of the boys in Bethlehem and its borders two years and younger according to the time which he had precisely determined from the magi.
- 17- Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah saying (Jeremiah 31:15).
- 18- A voice in Rama was heard- lamentation and weeping and great mourning Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted because they are not.
- 19- But Herod having died an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.
- 20- Saying, get up and take the little child and His mother and go into the land of Israel for they are dead who sought to destroy the life of the little child.
- 21- And he got up and took the little child and His mother and came into the land of Israel.
- 22- But having heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in the place of his father Herod he was afraid to go there. And being divinely warned in a dream he departed into the parts of Galilee.
- 23- And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth so that which was spoken by the prophets should be fulfilled that He should be called a Nazarene.

Chapter 3

- 1- John the Baptist came in those days preaching in the wilderness of Judea.
- 2- Saying, repent for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near.

the King of Kings, suddenly they walked into the room where Christ Jesus was - and they were overcome with the Ageless One: the One whose beginnings were from everlasting to everlasting, who had come to dwell among us as a servant, standing there before them. Here was a child who was the eternal God. What a mystery! What a wonder! Who could truly understand the depths of this mystery, and the greatness of the love of God that was being unwrapped before their eyes? All it took was one moment in His presence and they were overwhelmed with His glory and majesty, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Such glory and power surrounded the Child! It was all the confirmation that was needed; they knew they were standing before the One whom the hearts of all men sought after.

Heaven was opened before them and they were taken prisoner by its love. Falling down they opened up their treasures, for all of their affections were captivated by the child. Honored to worship God made flesh, they brought the riches of the nations: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Before them was a young boy: fathered by God Almighty, born of a virgin - conceived as the power of the Holy Ghost overshadowed her. The prophets had prophesied and searched diligently for this day, but now the fullness of time had come. The One who had created all things and upheld them by the word of His power was now made manifest. Glory to God in the Highest, and peace on earth: good will towards men, Christ the Savior was born in Bethlehem! The true manna, the bread of life had come down that all men might receive the inheritance of life. The life of God was now revealed through that One who is the eternal life, Christ Jesus.

- 3- For this is the one that the prophet Isaiah spoke about saying, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord make straight paths for Him (Isa 40:3).
- 4- And John had camel's hair for his garment and a leather girdle for a belt and for food he ate locust and wild honey.
- 5- At that time all Jerusalem and Judea and the country around Jordan went out to him.
- 6- And were baptized by him in the river Jordan confessing their sins.
- 7- Seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism he said, you offspring of vipers who forewarned you to flee from the coming wrath?
- 8- Produce fruits worthy of repentance.
- 9- And do not think saying within yourselves Abraham is our father because I tell you God is able to raise up children unto Abraham from these stones.
- 10- For also the axe is already laid to the root of the trees therefore every tree that does not bring forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.
- 11- I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance but after me is coming One who is mightier than myself whose sandals I am not fit to carry He will baptize you in the Holy Ghost and fire.
- 12- The winnowing fork is in His hand and He will thoroughly purge His floor. He will gather His wheat into His storehouse but the chaff He will burn up with an unquenchable fire.
- 13- At that time came Jesus from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized of him.
- 14- But John was refusing Him saying I need to be baptized by you and yet you come to me?
- 15- But Jesus answering said to him you must allow it for it is necessary for us to fulfill all righteousness and he permitted it.
- 16- When Jesus was baptized as soon as He came up out of the water then also were the heavens opened unto Him. And he saw the Spirit of God⁵ descending like a dove and coming upon Him⁶.

⁵ The Holy Spirit is the supreme authority on the earth; and although Jesus is head of the Church, it is the Holy Spirit who executes all of His will (John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11; Acts 1:2; 13:2,4; 15:28; 16:6; 20:28). He was sent by the Father to replace Jesus as our teacher, mentor, and guide. The twelve apostles had Jesus to show them how to walk in the power and authority of the Kingdom, but God choose to give us the Holy Spirit. He has come to show us how to be the representatives of Christ and of His kingdom. He has come to reveal Jesus to us and through us. It is an awesome thing to consider that God would want to display His mighty power and authority through us, but it is even more wonderful to know that He would come and live and dwell in us (John 14:17,23; 17:21-23; 1 John 3:24; 4:15; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 2 Timothy 1:14). This is the will of the Father; it is what God demands, and all we have to do is simply obey. If we will be willing and obedient, the absolute and sovereign authority of the Holy Spirit will be expressed through our words and deeds. The beauty and splendor of His divine life will be revealed through us as we are taught how to walk in all they ways of God.

The Holy Spirit was given to us by the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:33; John 14:26; 15:26). That same baptism that Jesus was baptized with - that same divine power and authority - was poured out from the throne of God on everyone who will obey. This glory of the Father, these expressions of the Holy Spirit, are to be like the rivers of God flowing from us. Jesus is the One who is the baptizer who gives to those who will obey the mantle of His anointing, to do the works that He did and even greater. The mantle of the Holy Ghost that Jesus received empowered Him to do all the works that He did, and to reveal the glory and majesty of the Father (Acts 2:22; 10:38; John 1:33; 3:34; Luke 4:14,18). If we are to reveal the majesty, the power, and the authority of Jesus and the power of His resurrection, then we must be empowered with the authority of the Holy Spirit too. Jesus said that we could not represent Him until we

17- And there was a voice from out of heaven saying this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

Chapter 4

1-And Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tried by the devil⁷.

were given the same mantle of authority that He had: the Holy Ghost and power (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:48-49; Romans 15:19; Acts 4:33; 5:32).

Jesus did not step out and begin to demonstrate the will of the Father and reveal the kingdom of God until He was baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is His demand that we be baptized with His same baptism, and receive the first-fruits of divine authority - something everyone should rejoice about! Therefore the 120 had to wait until they received power from on High. Today we must receive the same outpouring, just as the house of Cornelius did about ten years after the Holy Spirit was first given. The Holy Spirit is here on earth right now; Jesus remains the One whose ministry is to baptize us in the Holy Ghost and fire. All we have to do is recognize what God commands, and begin to cooperate with His divine plan. If we will recognize that we simply cannot represent Him, we cannot be His witnesses and proof-providers until we receive this power from on High, then our faith will be placed where it should be and the baptism will be easily received.

⁶ The ministry of Jesus was a heavenly ministry revealed on earth. We could say that heaven stepped into earth, and the beauty and splendor of it was revealed through the life of Jesus. Although Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, His glory remained veiled until the day that His public ministry began. When Jesus began to declare the glory of the Father, and of the heavenly realm that would endure forever, suddenly the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) rested upon Him. Jesus would not speak from the realm of His earthly experience and understanding, but the Spirit Himself would give Him a voice. The voice that humanity would hear would be the voice of the Father (John 6:63; John 8:28; John 14:10). The life that all men would behold was the eternal life, the life all men everywhere would be invited to share in (1 John 1:1-2).

The ministry of Jesus was so heavenly that angels were ascending and descending upon His life (John 1:51). Jesus was allowed by the Father to see into the realms of heaven, and behold what the Father was doing - so that He could also do it (John 5:19-20; John 12:28). The same opportunity is given to us today. Jesus has given us the opportunity to be fellow-laborers in the same heavenly ministry (John 20:21; 1 Corinthians 3:9; Romans 8:17). We have been equipped to be His witnesses, and ambassadors of heaven. From the time that the promise of the Father came and the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church, heaven has been opened unto God's people. The Holy Ghost is with us and in us, angels have come to minister for the heirs of salvation, and the power of the worlds to come are manifested to us and through us! (Hebrews 1:14; Hebrews 6:5).

We live in Pentecost, wherein the realms of heaven were observed as cloven tongues of fire and a rushing mighty wind. We live as those tabernacling in the glory of God, with rivers of the heavenly realm gushing forth from our lives (John 7:38-39; Nehemiah 8:10; Isaiah 12:3; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19). This same Jesus, and the glory of the Father, abide in us today. Our access into heaven into the Holies of Holies has been granted by His blood and by the Spirit. It is by the Holy Ghost that we speak: the Spirit of our Father which is in us (Matthew 10:20; Mark 13:11; 1 Peter 1:12). Let the joyful sound of heaven be heard as you yield to the Spirit of Truth - the Holy Spirit, who has opened up an access into the realms of heaven for all who will yield to Him (Ephesians 2:18; 1 Corinthians 1:5).

⁷ The devil and his demon spirits are behind all temptation and every act of sin and transgression. John is so bold regarding this that he says everyone who sins is of the devil (1 John 3:8; 5:18). As the saints of God, we must learn to effectively identify and deal with demon influences before they are able to impact us to the point of participating with their evil desires. One of the great challenges that the saints of God face is wrong thinking. If we do not identify sinful thoughts with demon spirits, then there is no way to effectively stop the demonic attack. Many today believe that the desire for sin is within them, and therefore look for some deliverance from a desire that is at the root of their nature. They wrongly classify it as the nature of the flesh. Although the subject of the flesh is somewhat challenging (because of the many uses of the word in the Bible), the nature of sinful flesh is unequivocally used to refer to those who are the children of

- 2- And after having fasted forty days and forty nights he was hungry.
- 3- The Tempter⁸ came to Him and said, if you are the Son of God speak to these stones and make them bread.
- 4- But He answering said, it is written man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that goes out of the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3).
- 5- Then Devil then took Him to the holy city and set Him on the top of the temple.
- 6- And said to Him if you are the Son of God cast yourself down for it is written He shall command His angels to take care of you and in their hands they shall hold you up so that you do not strike your foot against a stone (Psalms 91:11-12).
- 7- Again Jesus said to him, it is written you shall not tempt the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 6:16).
- 8- Again the devil took Him into an exceeding high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory
- 9- And he said to Him all these things will I give you if you will fall down and worship me⁹.

disobedience, and are unredeemed (Ephesians 2:2-3; Colossians 2:11; 1 John 2:16; Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 8:3). When John says that everyone who sins is of the devil, he is referring to the demonic influence that must be accepted to commit the act.

If we are going to walk in authority over all unclean spirits and demonic influences, then we are going to have to agree with the word of God. Through Christ Jesus we have been given a new spirit and a new heart. Everything old has passed away, and everything new has come. Religion would attempt to hold us into bondage to some part of the old man; but God says we are new and our nature is divine (2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 1:4; Ephesians 4:24; Galatians 6:15). If we will accept this so great a salvation: of unity with Christ and of the authority given to us as sons - we will divide good from evil, and place all of the darkness in the world; and not in our hearts! God has made us His tabernacles and has brought us into unity with Himself, and has placed us in authority over all the powers of darkness; but we must believe His word if we are to walk in this overcoming power.

Jesus was tempted in every way as we are tempted, but did not sin. This was not temptation from an evil heart or nature; He was tempted by the devil. Jesus had lived a sinless life - condemning sin in the flesh for 30 years. Yet by the Spirit, He would now face an even greater temptation that would attack His very identity and purpose. He faced and overcame every thing that the devil could throw at Him. He held fast to the word of truth and the will of the Father. Jesus showed us how to be victorious over every sin that is common unto man, and also now secures us so that we can walk in the same overcoming power and authority.

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⁹ We must be vigilant against the tactics and devises of the devil. The course of this world is a current that will sweep us into its flow. The systems of this world are controlled and manipulated by Satan to enslave all men. There are many things that Satan world do to ensnare us through the affairs of this life in attempt to either neutralize us or altogether assimilate us into his works (2 Timothy 2:4). Satan believes that all the kingdoms of this world are his (Matthew 4:8). He is called the prince and the power of the air, the god of this world (Ephesians 2:2). He and his angels are the rulers of darkness and the spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:11). He is the mastermind behind the social system and culture that we live in (Revelation 12:9). How then do we recognize his subtle tactics and confront them properly?

First we must recognize that we are at war and take an offense position as opposed to a defensive one (2 Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 6:12). We are to aggressively engage the devil by destroying his works (1 John 3:7; Luke 10:19). We are to make disciples out of the nations that he rules and cast out his influence off of the lost (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 16:17). We are to be about our Fathers business setting the captive free and opening the prison doors (Luke 2:49; 4:18; Acts 1:5). To be effective we must not have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness and also recognize that to be friends with world is an act of hostility against God (Ephesians 5:11; 1 John 1:6; 2 Corinthians 6:17).

- 10- Then Jesus said to him get out of here Satan! For it is written you shall worship the Lord your God and Him alone shall you serve (Deuteronomy 6:13)!
- 11- At that time the devil left Him and the angels came and ministered to Him.
- 12- When Jesus heard that John was arrested He departed into Galilee.
- 13- And He left Nazareth and came and dwelled in Capernaum, which is on the seaside in the borders of Zebulon and Nephtholim.
- 14- So that those things spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled saying,
- 15- The land of Zebulon and the land Nephtholim by the way of the sea beyond Jordan . Galilee of the nations.
- 16- The people which set in darkness have seen a great light and those that who were sitting in the region and the shadow of darkness to them light has sprung forth. (Isaiah 9:1-2)
- 17- From that time Jesus became to announce and to say repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand¹⁰.
- 18- When Jesus was walking by the sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother casting a large net into the sea for they were fishermen.
- 19- And He said to them come follow me and I will make you fishers of men¹¹

¹⁰ Somehow many have failed to realize that the gospel of Jesus Christ demands change. The kingdom of heaven is at hand and men must change. The door is fast closing upon a world full of sin and strife and God is calling all men everywhere to repent. The new age has begun a new heaven and a new earth is about to appear. The new heaven and the new earth will only have righteousness dwelling in it and if men want to come into this glorious kingdom then they must be different, radically different. They must be changed from a sinner to a saint, from a child of the devil to a child of God.

Jesus began His ministry demanding that men repent; to repent is to change. It is a change of heart and change of mind, a change of direction and a change of life. People may think that they are just fine and that a loving God will accept them just the way they are. That is not true. Nicodemus the ruler of the Jews was a good man but Jesus said that before he could come into the kingdom of God he had to change, he had to be born again (John 3:3). The rich young ruler was a good man who had always observed the law of God from his youth but Jesus demanded that he change, that he forsake all that he had and come and follow Him (Matthew 19:21).

God has granted repentance unto life unto all men everywhere (Acts 11:18; 17:30). Men are to repent and be converted a conversion that is miraculously supplied to us by the gift of God (John 4:10 Acts 11:17; 2 Galatians 6:15; Corinthians 5:17). As the ministers of the gospel we are commanded to preach repentance in His name (Luke 24:47). The preaching of the gospel conveys the power of God to everyone who will hear (1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10). If we will preach repentance in His name then the gift of God will fall upon those who will hear and their lives will be radically changed.

11

If we will follow Jesus He will show us how to reach the lost. Jesus took those who would follow Him and He showed them how to flow in the anointing. Jesus began healing the sick and every kind of disease- everyone who was taken with disease and torments and those possessed with devils He healed (Matthew 4:23-24). It was by the display of the power of God that the gospel of the kingdom was preached. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Ghost to heal all those who were oppressed by the devil and His disciples would have to learn to function in the same anointing if they were going to preach the gospel.

Today, there is much confusion about what it means to follow Jesus. It has almost been reduced to nothing more than attending a church service, learning a few songs and participating in one of several religious practices. However, nothing of this sort is modeled by Jesus nor is it described in the Bible. Rather Jesus describes the activity of the Holy Spirit being expressed in the lives of those who would believe; they would have rivers of power of the Holy Spirit flowing through them (John 7:38-39). Those who believed would do the works that he did and greater works from casting out devils to healing the sick

- 20- And they immediately left the nets and followed Him.
- 21- And leaving there He saw two more brothers James the son of Zebedee and John his brother in the boat with Zebedee their father mending their nets and He called them.
- 22- And they immediately left the boat and their father and followed Him.
- 23- And they went throughout all of Galilee Jesus teaching in their synagogues and announcing the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and every sickness among the people
- 24- And His fame went out into all Syria and they brought to Him everyone who was ill with various diseases and torments oppressed and possessed by demons , lunatics and paralytics and He healed them.
- 25- And great crowds followed Him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond Jordan.

Chapter 5

- 1- But seeing the crowds he went up into the mountain and sat down and His disciples came to Him.
- 2- And He opened His mouth and taught them saying,
- 3- Blessed are the poor¹² in the spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(John 14:12; Mark 16:17-18). Those who would say that this was only limited to the disciples have no basis to do so because these commands and expectations of God are woven into the commands that Christ Jesus gave to all those who would believe. His church was baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire and each believer was to learn to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit.

The very nature of salvation is that we no longer live but Christ Jesus lives. It would be impossible to describe a more strict discipline of following Jesus than to understand that it is His life that we now live. Everyone who receives the glorious new birth are commanded to put on Christ, to walk in His footsteps, and to participate in the kingdom of God and the body of Christ (Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:7-28; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21-22; Galatians 5:25). Paul echo's the words of Jesus to the entire church of His day and says "follow me even as I follow Christ," and of course Paul fully followed Christ in life and demonstration of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 11:1). How can we think any less of God's purpose for our lives when we have been born of the same Spirit and made heirs and coinheritors with Christ? We have become sons and daughters of the Most High God , commissioned to be the lights to the world and imitators of God! How would it then be possible to conclude that God expects us to do any thing less than to follow Christ Jesus the model Son who showed us how to do the will of the Father, be ambassadors of heaven and preach the gospel of the kingdom?

¹² The poor are dependent upon others for survival likewise the poor in spirit are dependent upon God. For many this is a difficult concept to grasp. However, if we desire to be happy and inherit the kingdom, that in part is available now, then it is essential that we recognize that we must learn absolute trust in and dependency on God (John 15:5). Without God we have no hope (Ephesians 2:12). We are spiritual dead and destitute without Christ and all our riches are in Him alone. Unless we come to a place of total dependence upon Him we will never walk in the faith that inherits the promises. Therefore, God in His mercy teaches us to break the hold of self-reliance; no matter what it takes we learn to trust in and rely on God alone (Genesis 32:30-31; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 5:6).

The most important thing to understand about this word and its Hebrew equivalent 'anee' is that it primarily expresses a relationship rather than a state of social distress (Isaiah 41:17; Psalms 35:10; 37:14; 40:17; 70:5; 86:1). The word poor is essential equivalent to meek and humble and will be discovered to be synonymous with the word translated meek in verse 5. God comes and helps those who are poor in spirit, which are in contrast to the proud and self-reliant (Psalms 18:27). Those who are spiritually poor are not self-willed but live only to do the will of the Father. The spiritually poor are those who have allowed God to conquer their hearts and to lead them away as prisoners of the kingdom (Ephesians 4:8).

- 4- Blessed are those that mourn¹³ for they will be comforted.
- 5- Blessed are the meek¹⁴ for they shall inherit the earth (Psalms 37:11).
- 6- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst¹⁵ for righteousness for they shall be filled¹⁶.

The message of the gospel came to those who are spiritually poor (Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1). It is understood by those who are as little children and hidden from those who believe themselves to be wise and prudent (Matthew 11:25; 18:3; Luke 10:21). The riches of the inheritance that are in Christ Jesus are received by those who trust in their heavenly Father to give them all that they need and all that He has promised.

¹³ With the disposition of joy and gladness being one of the dominate themes of the New Testament there are not many references to mourning. Of one thing that we can be sure mourning is not a fruit of the Spirit. The most important scripture to relate to this verse is that Jesus the Messiah came to comfort those who mourn in Zion (Isaiah 61:2; Luke 2:25; Isaiah 51:3; Zechariah 1:17). For those who have believed God has liberated us and turned our mourning into joy. Yet at the same time we encounter many things in this life that can cause us pain and sorrow but we have a reason to be happy because God has promised to comfort us. In the midst of pain or grief all we have to do is to turn to the One who loves us and He will comfort us and fill our hearts with joy and gladness. In fact, one of the chief descriptions of the Holy Spirit is that He is the comforter (John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 9:3). Jesus has come to heal all of our pain and sorrow whether it is physical or spiritual for the Lord God has always been and will continual to be our healer (Exodus 15:6; Isaiah 53:4).

In the Old Testament this Greek word that is used here often refers to grief in the face of death. In the New Testament it refers to the disciples grief over the death of Jesus (Mark 16:10; Matthew 9:15; John 16:6); grief over transgressions in the church (1 Corinthians 5:2; 2 Corinthians 12:21). James pleads with those who are not right with God to turn back to God and lament, mourn and weep over their evil deeds (James 4:9). Similarly Jesus warns the self reliant and rebellious of their coming judgment that will cause them to mourn and weep (Luke 6:25). Paul also uses another Greek word that is a synonym of the one encountered here to tell the saints not to sorrow over the death of another saint (1 Thessalonians 4:13). He also uses it to describe a godly sorrow that will cause men to repent and turn from their sins (2 Corinthians 7:9-10).

¹⁴ The Greek word for meekness 'praus' is a synonym with the Greek word that we translated poor (ptochos) in verse three. Both of these Greek words translate the Hebrew word 'annav', which may be translated 'poor, humble, afflicted, meek.' However, in secular Greek it is more associated with kindness and gentleness and a word that would be translated as an opposite to that which is harsh and rough. Paul on the other hand makes a distinction between meekness (prautes) and gentleness (epieikeia) in 2 Corinthians 10:1. Furthermore, he contrasted the spirit of meekness to coming with a stick (1 Corinthians 4:21).

The most important definition of the Greek word for meek is found in the nature of Jesus Christ who was meek and humble. He invites all who are willing to come and learn the way of His servitude so that they may find rest to their souls (Matthew 11:29). The state of meekness was also exemplified by Jesus the King of Kings coming to the people of Israel on a foul of a donkey (Matthew 21:5; Zechariah 9:9). There was no need for Jesus to force himself on others or make a big show of Himself. He was the one who was willing to be numbered with the transgressors and was happy to remain out of the fan fair often telling those who had received a miracle not to tell anyone (Matthew 8:4; Matthew 16:20; 17:9; Mark 7:36; 8:30; Luke 8:56; 9:21). While it is true that He would show Himself harsh with the arrogant and if necessary take a whip and drive them from His Fathers house the nature of Jesus was one of gentleness and meekness (John 2:15; Mark 11:14; Matthew 12:34; 23:33).

If we desire to find rest for our souls and enjoy all the wonderful things that God has provided for us then we must be willing to give ourselves to the nature of Jesus. The nature and character of God should be more important to us than all of the gifts and riches that could be desired. The meekness and gentleness of Christ Jesus will flow out of us like rivers of living water if we will simply yield to the Holy Spirit. If we will be willing to take on the disposition of His servitude we will find all of the blessings that meekness affords. It is in this place where self interest no longer dominates that the blessings of God are easily received and all the riches that God has provided for us become our inheritance for the meek shall inherit the earth. A meek and gentle spirit is key to being sensitive to the direction of God and yielding to the Holy Spirit.

¹⁵ The Lord has requires that we learn to live by His word and walk by the direction of the Holy Spirit. If we are not hungry we will not live by His word and if we are not thirsty we will not drink of the things of the Spirit. However, the spiritual life that has been given to us in Christ Jesus causes us to be both hungry and thirsty for the things of God and if we are hungry and thirsty then we will be filled.

God led Israel through the wilderness and allowed them to get hungry so that He might teach them that men do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3). It was by this principal that Jesus overthrew the temptations of Satan in the wilderness when He was tempted (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4). Jesus as the model Son of God, did not have a long protracted life of dealing with the same problem over and over again but with perfect obedience to the word of God delivered a deathblow to the devices of Satan.

God taught Israel that He alone could satisfy the thirst of their souls. He showed them that if they would trust Him He would give them to drink from the spiritual Rock, Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 10:3). He testified of His great provision supplied by Christ who when He was smitten would provide the true water for every thirsty soul, a thirst that only comes because His people are willing to walk wherever He leads them to go (Exodus 17:6; Psalms 78:20). He testified of the blessing that would come once Christ had been smitten, the blessing of an unending flow of these waters of life for all who would follow. God made provision that would only require us to speak to the Rock Christ Jesus and the waters of the Holy Spirit would flow to our thirsty souls (Numbers 20:8).

As Jesus cried out by the Spirit in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit continues to cry out today saying, if anyone thirst come and drink and just as the scripture says out of the inner most being rivers of the Holy Spirit will flow out, which are the rivers from on High (John 7:37-39; Isaiah 41:18; Revelation 22:17). This is the source of all the life of God. The life of Christ the abundant life of the Spirit that last forever. This is that heavenly realm that fills men with every good and perfect thing so that they never thirst for a life of sin again (John 4:14).

Many have been born of God that have not been willing to fully step in to the life that has been provided. The great things of God are on the inside of them but they are unwilling to allow them to be activated by obedience. It's high time to walk with the Father and let Him take us where He wills. We must let the Holy Spirit teach us how to be hungry and live on heavenly bread (John 6:32-33, 58). We must through faithful obedience to His word allow the Holy Ghost to show us how spiritual thirst will lead us to the Rock where we can drink continually of His presence and be filled with all His fulness (Ephesians 5:18).

¹⁶ God has blessed our nation with plenty; and so when we are hungry we sit down to a great feast at supper time, and find that there is always more than we can eat. Because of such a bountiful supply, we are able to eat until we are full. God, who is rich in mercy towards us, has also supplied us with a feast of righteousness; and if we are thirsty and hungry, we can drink and eat of His righteousness until our whole being is filled with His goodness.

Hungering and thirsting are images of longing after God, in both the Old and New Testaments (Isaiah 55:1; Psalms 42:2; John 4:13; 7:37; Revelation 21:6; 22:17). The righteousness of God is something that we should long for more than anything else, but unfortunately many of God's people fail to even realize what righteousness is. Righteousness is defined by the conduct and lifestyle of God Almighty. Righteousness is everything that pertains unto life and godliness. It was modeled for us by Jesus; and He died for us so that we could be dead to sin, and enabled to live in righteousness (1 Peter 2:24). It is the behavior and disposition of love. Righteousness is not man's vain attempt to please God; rather righteousness is the conduct of the redeemed. However, unless a person is born of the Spirit, then they will never be able to fully realize the character and conduct of the Almighty; and their attempt will be vain.

Jesus couples the Kingdom of God with the Righteousness of God, and places them before us as that which we should desire above all other things (Matthew 6:33). The righteousness of God has been made available to us as a free gift. Our hearts and spirits have been recreated in righteousness and true holiness by the Spirit of God, so that we can know and do those things that pertain unto His righteousness (Ephesians 4:24; Romans 6:19). Let us be thirsty today and come and drink of the righteousness that is supplied by the Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:18). Let us be hungry so that we may yield to God's abundant and rich supply of righteousness that is in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17; Philippians 1:11; 2 Corinthians 6:7; Romans 5:17,21; 10:6-10; 1 Corinthians 1:30).

- 7- Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy¹⁷.
8- Blessed are those whose hearts are pure¹⁸ for they will see God.
9- Blessed are the peacemakers¹⁹ for they shall be called sons of God.
10- Blessed are those persecuted for the sake of righteousness because theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven²⁰.

¹⁷ The mercy of God is one of those beautiful ways of God that we sing about as well as benefit from on a daily bases. God who is righteous and holy in all of His ways and demands the same of mankind is at the same time full of mercy. One of the primary ways that God revealed Himself was the one who was gracious and merciful slow to anger and of great kindness. (Psalms 103:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2). When Moses desired to know who God was the first thing that God described Himself as was, merciful (Exodus 34:6). Because of God's mercy He is forgiving and longsuffering towards us and we glorify Him for His mercy (Romans 15:9; Ephesians 2:4).

Now it is equally important that we understand that God also demands that we be merciful (Luke 6:36; 10:37). In fact, if we refuse to be merciful then we will not receive mercy from God. If we refuse to forgive we will not be forgiven (Matthew 6:14-15; 18:33-35; James 2:13). God wants us to love to show mercy (Micah 6:8). Showing mercy to others pleases Father more than sacrifices (Matthew 9:13; 12:7; 23:23). Allow the Holy Spirit to overwhelm you with the love of the Father so that mercy and forgiveness will flow out of your heart not only to your friends and enemies alike (Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 2:20-21; 1 John 3:16-17).

¹⁸ The Psalmist said that if we would come into the presence of God, then we must have clean hands and a pure heart (Psalms 24:3-4). Similarly, Jesus said that those who hearts are pure will see God. The concept of a pure heart is equivalent to holiness; and without it no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Ephesians 1:4; Luke 1:75). Through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, we have purified our souls and have been given a new heart and a new spirit; so that we may have a pure heart and walk in holiness (1 Peter 1:22; Ezekiel 36:26; Titus 2:14). The wickedness and deceit that once covered our hearts was cut away, when the body of sins were removed by the circumcision of Christ (Colossians 2:11). Now our hearts have been inscribed with the ways and nature of God, so that we may keep His commandments and walk in His ways (2 Corinthians 3:3; Hebrews 8:10-11; 10:16).

Of course the heart refers to one's innermost being. It is the innermost being of man that was the primary focus of the redemptive work of Calvary. It is in the innermost being that God desires truth; and through His great love He has begotten us by His word of truth, so that we would be a new creation (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23). The old nature has been destroyed, and the new and glorious nature (that is created in righteousness and true holiness) has been raised up (Romans 6:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; Ephesians 4:24). It is out of our heart, or innermost being, that the Spirit and nature of God flows like rivers of living water (John 4:14; John 7:38).

¹⁹ If you want the good life then you will follow in the ways of the Spirit of God (Romans 15:33; James 3:17; Romans 3:17). In fact one way in which we could understand the concept of happy or blessed used to start each one of these verses is to say, "The good life belongs to the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God." Pursuing peace, making peace and keeping peace is the way of the people of God because it is the way of God (Psalms 24:14; 1 Peter 3:11; Ephesians 4:3). Jesus is the Prince of Peace and when we walk under His ruler-ship then the way of peace rules our heart and minds (2 Thessalonians 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 4:7; . The Holy Spirit inspires us and fills us with the supply of supernatural peace.

When Jesus came to His disciples after the resurrection He breathed on them His life giving, Holy Spirit imparting breath and gave them peace. He supplies them and us today with a peace that conquerors every aspect of confusion and turmoil in the world. A peace that passes all understanding that nothing in the world can take away (John 14:27; 16:33; Philippians 4:7).

One of the ways that you can identify someone who has been born of God and is obedient to His ways is that they are peacemakers. Instead of creating strife with their words and actions they are bringing people together and always seeking reconciliation and understanding between those who are at odds. Walking in peace is walking in righteousness and true holiness. It is the way of the King and of His Kingdom both of which we should always seek first in everything that we do.

11- Blessed are you when you are mocked and persecuted and have all sorts of evil words uttered against you falsely for my sake.

12- Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great in number are your rewards in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you²¹.

13- You are the salt of the earth but if the salt becomes tasteless with what shall it be salted? For it is has become worthless having no taste and should be cast out and trampled on by men.

14 You are the light of the world a city set upon a hill that cannot be hid²².

²⁰ Jesus preached that the righteous are the ones that will inherit the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:6, 20; 6:33; John 3:20; 7:7; 15:19; 1 John 2:16). Paul in like manner said that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:5; Galatians 5:21). What could be more plain? The simple fact is that it is impossible to live wrong and die right. If you are going to be considered righteous, then you must allow the blood of Jesus and the Spirit of God to make you righteous. God has entrusted His righteousness to us, supplying all that we need for this life and godliness (Matthew 6:33; Romans 3:21-22; 6:13; 10:3; 14:17; 1 Corinthians 15:34; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:24; Philippians 1:11; 3:9; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 3:8,10). Our responsibility to live in righteousness is not less, but greater than theirs in the Old Testament. More has been given to us than was given to them, and surely none will escape the responsibility and the accountability that comes along with this "so great a salvation."

²¹ We may understand these two verses as an expansion of the persecution of righteousness introduced in verse 10. Anytime we are walking in obedience to the Word of God and doing those things that God has purposed for our lives then we are doing righteousness. What we must come to terms with is the inevitability that we will be persecuted for righteousness. The reproaches that they reproach God with will fall on all those who follow God. The real source behind the persecution of God the Father, His Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and those who follow God are demon spirits. Unfortunately, undiscerning men participate with these voices of accusation against Christ Jesus and those who He has anointed. We must recognize that in this world we will have tribulation but at the same time we can rejoice knowing that Jesus has conquered the world (John 16:33; 15:20). Even though demon spirits and men would attempt to run interference with all of the promises and blessings of God they cannot succeed if we will stand fast. It is our responsibility to continue to prophesy and boldly proclaim the word of God.

What we must be aware of is the attempt of the satanic realm to destroy the seed of God's word that would take root and produce fruit in our lives and in the lives of those who would hear us. Jesus likened persecution to the sun scorching a newly germinated seed that had not yet taken root (Matthew 13:6,21). If we will become more aware of the battle that we face and the determination of our foe then perhaps we will hold more tightly to the word of God and with greater boldness hold fast our confession without wavering knowing that He is faithful who has promised (Hebrews 10:23). Satan will attempt to use every resource at his disposal to run interference with the will of God but if we will hold fast to the word of faith and take up the weapons of our warfare then we will demolish every obstacle and find that no weapon formed against us can prosper.

²² Satan may be the god of this world and the ruler of the power of the atmosphere but God's people are the light! As the light of the world we overthrow the darkness and cancel it out even more than the sun when it rises in the morning. We are a city set upon a hill in force and power and our place cannot be overrun. We have been given the power to change the very atmosphere of people's lives. We bring love where there was hate, joy where there was sorrow, peace where there was strife and envy, healing where there was sickness and disease, righteousness where there was sin, forgiveness where there was envy and bitterness, mercy where there was intolerance and life where there was death.

We are commanded by God to be the light of the world. There is nothing that the light of God represents more than His presence. It is God's will that every man see the light of His presence through our good works and as a result glorify our Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16). We are able to convey this glorious light of life because we follow Jesus (John 8:12). Therefore, God has set us as a light for the Gentiles so that we may bring salvation to the ends of the earth (Acts 13:47; 26:23). As those who are the children of the day and the children of the light we are commanded to live as the children of light

15- Nor do they light a lamp and put it under the basket rather it is placed upon the lamp stand and it shines for everyone in the house.

16- Therefore let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

17- Do not suppose that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

18- I tell you for certain that until heaven and earth shall pass away not one iota or even the least part of the law shall pass away until it all comes to pass.

19- Whoever then shall break one of the least of these commandments and shall teach men that it is okay shall be least in the kingdom of heaven but whoever shall practice and teach them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20- For I tell you unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees you shall in no way enter into the kingdom of heaven²³.

21- You have heard that it was said to the ancients, you shall not commit murder and whoever commits murder shall be in danger at the Judgment (Exodus 20:13; Deut. 5:17).

22- But I say to you that anyone angry with his brother without cause will be subject to the judgment and if he insults a brother he will be subject to the council and if he say you fool he will be subject to the fire of hell²⁴.

(Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 John 1:7). It is therefore essential then that we are clothed with the armor of light so that no darkness finds any manifestation in us (Romans 13:12; 2 Corinthians 6:14).

The idea that we were ever called to a quasimonastic lifestyle is clearly not the case. God has purposed that as the light of the world we penetrate every realm of darkness with His presence. Where ever men are gathered together in the darkness of this world we are to arise and shine in the brightness and splendor of God's glory

²³ Christ Jesus has called us to a radical obedience. The scribes and the Pharisees were good people who were consecrated to their religious practices. Everything about their lives reflected the practice of being devoted to the service of God. They fasted twice a week, gave themselves to a continual study of the Bible, and tithed on even the smallest of things. They were men like Saul of Tarsus, Nicodemus, and Joseph of Aramathea who were blameless concerning the righteousness of the law (Philippians 3:6).

Yet there was a greater righteousness about to be poured out: the righteousness of God (Romans 3:21). The full extent of the righteousness of the law would be fulfilled in those who would be born of the Spirit, and not taught by a rabbi like Gamileal - but by the Holy Ghost Himself (Romans 8:4; John 3:3-6; 16:12-15). Although the scribes and Pharisees followed after the law of righteousness, they did not attain it, because they did not turn to the faith in Christ Jesus which would make it possible (Romans 9:31; Philippians 3:9). Christ Jesus became the end of the law for righteousness, but many who were ignorant of the righteousness of God continued to go about trying to establish their own righteousness, instead of submitting to the righteousness of God made possible only through the new covenant (Romans 10:3-4).

When Jesus talked about righteousness, He talked about it in terms of radical obedience. Although He did not talk about the new birth in this context, He made known the consequence of a heart transformed by a new and living way. He made it clear that each person was called to a more radical obedience. Before if a man killed someone, he was in danger of the judgment; but now if a man was angry with his brother he would be in danger of the judgment (Matthew 5:22). Under the law men were required not to commit adultery, but now they were called to a higher righteousness not to even look at a woman to lust after her - because it would be the same as if the act were committed (Matthew 5:27-28). In the righteousness that would excel the righteousness of the law, men would be required to love their enemies and pray for those who spitefully used them and persecuted them (Matthew 5:43-44). Jesus said that He did not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but to establish it: that is to establish it in the heart of man through the new covenant (Matthew 5:17; Romans 8:4; Hebrews 8:10; 10:16; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Peter 1:4).

²⁴ I can think of no worse place than hell. The most horrific thought that could possibly enter the mind of man is the idea of spending forever in the prison of hell. There is no death there, there is no light there, there is nothing that expresses any kind of life within its chambers (2 Peter 2:17; Jude 1:13; Revelation

- 23- Therefore if you offer a gift at the altar and remember that your brother has something against you,
24- leave your gift there before the altar and go first and be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.
25- Agree with your adversary quickly while you are being confronted unless your adversary deliver you over to the judge and the judge deliver you to the officer and cast you into prison.
26- I tell you with absolute certainty you will not come out until you have paid the last cent of debt.
27- You have heard that it was said to the ancients, you shall not commit adultery (Ex. 20:14; Deut 5:18).
28- But I tell you that everyone who looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
29- And if your right eye causes you to stumble pluck it out and cast it from you for it is better that one of your members perish instead of your whole body being cast into hell.
30- And if your right hand causes you to stumble cut it off and cast it from you for it is better that one of your members perish instead of your whole body to be cast into hell.
31- Also, it was said that whoever shall put away his wife let him give to her a letter of divorce (Deut. 24:1).
32- But I tell you that whoever shall put away his wife except on account of sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery and whoever shall marry her afterwards commits adultery (Lev. 19:12; Num 30:2).
33- Again you have heard that it was said to the ancients, you shall not swear an oath but you shall render to the Lord your oath (Deut 10:20).
34- But I tell you do not swear at all neither by heaven for it is the throne of God (Isa. 66:1);
35- Nor by the earth because it is the footstool for His feet or by Jerusalem for it is the city of the great King (Isa. 66:1; Ps. 48:2)!
36- Neither shall you swear by your head because you are not able to make one hair white or black.
37- But let your word be yes, yes or no, no for what is more than these is evil.
38- You have heard that it was said an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth (Ex. 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut 19:21).
39- But I tell you to not defend yourself of the evil but whoever strikes you on your cheek turn to Him the other also.

19:20; . Hell is the realm of the condemned (Matthew 5:29,30; 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). It is the place where neither the body nor the soul will ever die but will be punished always and forever (Matthew 5:22; 10:28; 13:42, 50; 18:9; 25:46; Mark 9:45,48; Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10; 21:8; Isaiah 66:24).

Those who are scornful to their brothers and those who commit adultery are treated alike. Many cannot comprehend a God who would create such an eternal torture chamber for transgressors. However, it is only because they have never had a revelation of the horror of sin. The thought of sin is worse to God than the thought of hell is to man. Let me assure you that you want to do whatever is necessary to insure that you run no possibility at all of going to this horrible place of eternal judgment. Once inside the bars of death will never open themselves again to you no matter how much you repent and cry out for mercy. The blackness of darkness, stench of death, the screams of suffering and the horrific pain of fire is all that your senses will know forever. Therefore I say fear God! Call on Him while He is near. Make sure that you do not take up an accusation against a brother nor involve yourself in iniquity but rather cleave unto the Lord, "For if the righteous are barely saved where will sinners stand in the day of judgment" (1 Peter 4:18).

- 40- And to him who would take you to court to take away your shirt give to him your coat also.
- 41- And whoever would ask you to go a mile go with him two.
- 42- To him who would ask you give and to him who would borrow from you do not turn away.
- 43- You have heard that it was said you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy (Lev. 19:18).
- 44- But I tell you to love your enemies; bless those who curse you do right to those who hate you and pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you.
- 45 So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven for his sun rises upon the evil and the good and sends rain upon the righteous and the unrighteous²⁵
- 46- For if you love those who love you what is your reward? Don't the tax collectors do as much?
- 47- And if you salute your brethren only what do you do beyond others? Don't the tax collectors do as much?
- 48- Therefore be perfect even as even as your Father in heaven is perfect²⁶.

²⁵ Righteousness and unrighteousness are not abstract concepts that are set forth to distinguish those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior as opposed to those who have refused Him. These two words are used to describe good and evil throughout both the Old and New Testaments. The person who is unrighteous is the one who is a violator of the ways of God in the broadest sense. The Bible is very clear that the unrighteous (those who do iniquity) will not inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9). Both righteousness and unrighteousness is defined by the behavior of an individual. The actions of righteousness are those behaviors that comply with the ways of God and the unrighteous are those who violate His ways. The standard of righteousness is the ways of God who is: righteous in all of His ways and Holy in all of His works (Psalms 145:17). God has transformed us by the miracle power of the new birth and commanded us to walk even as He walks and be perfect even as he is perfect (Matthew 5:48; 1 John 2:6; 3:3,7; 4:17; Colossians 2:6; Revelation 3:21). God in His patience and longsuffering is Himself dedicated to training us how to walk in this glorious realm but we must be willing to participate. Our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ has made the distinction between the good and the evil and what is profane and holy. If we will mark well what must not be allowed in our lives God will make sure that we will be kept from its power. There is no sin that can impose itself upon us because we are not under its dominion (Romans 6).

Like righteousness the Greek word for unrighteous (adikos) has several synonyms: unlawful (athemitos), warped (skolios), deceritful (poneros), evil (kakos), bad (phaulos), sinful (harmatolos), ungodly (asebeia) and iniquity (anomia). God has devoted much of the message of the Bible to giving us a thorough understanding of these practices. Although God blesses the unrighteous with the blessings of a life here and now He does not have a relationship with them and will ultimately cast them out of His presence forever (Luke 13:27). The unrighteous are those who practice iniquity (anomia) as is underscored in the parallel passage in Matthew 7:23 which uses unrighteousness (adikos) instead. The unrighteous are those who are ungodly (Romans 1:18). As the children of the Almighty God we are commanded to refuse all of these filthy things and perfect holiness in the fear of God (1 Corinthians 7:1). Who shall not fear you Lord as for me I will. Who shall not honor you Lord as for me I will. Who shall not follow you Lord as for me I will.

²⁶ Matthew 5:48 is one of the many radically empowering verses in the New Testament. There is no reason to take offense to this verse unless a person is looking to their own strength and ability to walk in such love and generosity. Father commanded Abraham to walk before Him and be perfect and He also commands us to do the same (Genesis 17:1). Specifically our heavenly Father has asked us to treat others just as He does. Many will say, "I will give everyone the benefit of the doubt but once they have done me wrong I will never trust them again." Yet, this is not the way that our God teaches us to walk. He is a God of mercy not only forgiving but extending His love and mercy to those who deny Him and even hate Him. Even His own children that have been purchased with the blood of Jesus and born of the Spirit constantly let Him down but He remains loving and faithful and forgives and restores us as soon as we ask. The command of our

Chapter 6

- 1- Be careful not to do your charitable giving before men in order to be seen of them for then there will be no reward with your Father in heaven.
- 2- Therefore when you do your charitable giving do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets that they may have praise from men. I tell you for certain that they have their reward.
- 3- But when you do charitable given let not your left hand know what your right hand has done.
- 4- So that your charitable giving may be in secret and then your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
- 5- And when you pray you shall not be as the hypocrites for they love to pray standing in the synagogues in the street corners for appearance sake before men I tell you for certain they have their reward.
- 6- But when you pray enter into your private chambers and having shut the door pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who is in secret will reward you openly.
- 7- Now when you pray do not talk foolishly like the pagans for they think simply by doing a lot of talking they will be heard
- 8- Therefore do not be like them for your Father knows what you need before you even ask Him.
- 9- Therefore pray like this, Our Father who is in the heavens sanctified is your name.
- 10- Your kingdom come your will be done on the earth as it is in heaven.
- 11- Give us today our daily bread
- 12- and forgive us our trespasses and we forgive those who trespass against us.
- 13- And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever amen.
- 14- For if you forgive men their wrong doings your Father which is in heaven will forgive you²⁷.

heavenly Father is that we show mercy and love to those who hate us and want nothing to do with us and that we forgive everyone that ask forgiveness of us (Luke 17:3-4; Leviticus 19:17).

If we are going to properly represent our Father and be partners together with Him then we must be willing to be merciful and forgiving just as He is. We are to love our enemies and do good to them who hates us and pray for those who say and do terrible things to us. Look how Father treats such people He blesses them with life and causes His sun to shine upon them and sends His rain to refresh them. We are commanded to bless and not curse so that we can inherit the blessing (1 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:14).

We are also to forgive from the heart just as our Father forgives (Matthew 18:22-35; Luke 6:37; Ephesians 4:32). Carrying a grudge or an accusation is evil and should never be allowed to reside in the heart of one of God's children. In view of this there should never be a single broken relationship among God's people. There should never be fighting and fusing and evil speaking one against the other (Ephesians 4:31; Titus 3:2; James 3:9-10; 4:11; 1 Peter 2:1; 3:10; Leviticus 19:18). If we do become entangled in such evil practices we must realize that we are behaving worse than the person who trespassed against us. If we expect Father to show us mercy and forgiveness then we must be willing also to show the same mercy and forgiveness to those who trespass against us (Matthew 6:12,14,15; 18:35; Mark 11:25-26).

²⁷ Is there any end to God's forgiveness? As long as we are in this life and our hearts remain yielded and sensitive to the correction of the Lord His love will never fail, His faithfulness will never cease and His mercies will be new every morning (Lamentations 3:21-25; Luke 17:4). Our God is longsuffering not willing that anyone perish (2 Peter 3: 9, 15; Romans 2:4). However, we must be willing to be honest and transparent before God. If at anytime we try to justify wrongdoing we cut ourselves off from that which Father has supplied to us through Christ Jesus. If we become hard and unforgiving to those around us then

- 15- But if you do not forgive men for their wrong doings neither will your heavenly Father forgive you.
- 16- And when you fast do not be as the hypocrite with a downcast countenance for they disfigure their faces so that men will realize that they are fasting. I tell you for certain that they have their reward.
- 17- But when you fast anoint your head and wash your face.
- 18- So that you will not appear to men as one fasting but instead to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees you in secret will reward you openly.
- 19- Do not store up treasures upon the earth where moth and rust will destroy and where thieves break in and steal.
- 20- But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven where neither moth or rust destroys and where thieves cannot break in and steal.
- 21- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be as well²⁸.

we find ourselves moving outside of the forgiveness of God (Matthew 6:15; 18:35; Mark 11:25-26). If we begin to justify sin instead of being sorrowful about wrongdoing then we will find ourselves deceived and unrepentive (Hebrews 3:13; 1 John 3:7-8; 1 James 1:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:6; Galatians 6:3; Romans 6:17-18; Exodus 23:7). We must all be certain that God is dedicated to teaching us His ways and we must remain dedicated to being taught.

The Lord's longsuffering and forgiveness is revealed time and again in the Old Testament. The Lord's abiding dedication and mercy was shown from the time that the children of Israel turned aside unto idols before the presence of God on Mount Sinai unto the pleadings of Jesus with Jerusalem and with the nation of Israel. One of the many great stories of God's mercy is found in Hosea. There God commanded the prophet to take a woman of whoredoms to be his wife and through that relationship God testified to Israel of how merciful and longsuffering He had been even though they did not seek for His mercies (Hosea 1:2; 2:6-7; 3:1-3). Over and over again the Lord showed His mercy and lovingkindness to an unfaithful people (Jeremiah 7:13-7; 25:3-5; 26:5; 29:19; 32:33; 35:14-15; 44:4; Psalms 107; Romans 10:21). How much more will He show His mercy to those who ask for it and are willing to learn to walk in His ways (Luke 1:50; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 1 Peter 2:10; Matthew 18:13; 1 John 4:16; Psalms 25:12). Oh turn to God trust Him now do not let the enemy of your soul still your confidence in Christ Jesus who ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 1:8; 2:1). If you sin let godly sorrow work within you a resolve to follow God and a despite for those things that would offend the Almighty. These are the days of the acceptable year of the Lord! Where it was said you are not my people it is now said you are the sons of the Living God (Hosea 1:10; Romans 9:24-26).

²⁸ Say with me, "My heart belongs to you, Lord." It is the goodness and mercy of God that has brought us into this relationship of love. Here in His presence He shows us the paths of life, and we are filled with His joy and peace. In this communion with the Lord, it is the Holy Spirit who overwhelms our affections and desires with these expressions of love and consecration to the Father; and as we walk with God, an ever-increasing hunger and thirst after righteousness floods our soul. Oh how good it is to know the Creator of all the lovely things that we see - but with every passing day we discover that He is far more lovely still.

So many seem to struggle with their relationship with God, but walking with God is the good life! Once you decide that His ways are far better than that of a sin-cursed world, the struggle will come to an end. Once you lay hold on how much He really loves you, that love becomes irresistible. Our heavenly Father so delights in us that there is nothing that He would refuse to give to those who walk upright. When we decide to recognize His love and walk with Him, the struggle comes to an end. In His presence the world will become a place that holds no attraction for us, and our heart's delight is to do the Father's will.

God loves us so much that He designed a life which goes on forever. This is what we have to look forward to: forever experiencing His love and goodness! With every passing day throughout eternity, we will be captivated by all those things that we never realized the day before. Even today you can begin to enjoy His abundant life more than ever. If you are willing, God will show His goodness through you; and because you are willing the Father will show His goodness to you. As this change takes place, your workplace becomes something far more than it had ever been before. As you gain wisdom and insight, you

22- The light of the body is the eye: therefore if your eye is single, your whole body is full of light²⁹.

realize that the only interruption to this blessed life is any kind of fellowship with the world. It is then that sin and its iniquity becomes the enemy of every good thing you know.

²⁹ When Jesus talked about the eye, He was referring to those things that have captivated our hearts. The Lord makes it clear that we cannot have earthly interests capturing our affections and at the same time pursue the heavenly. We cannot serve two masters, for we will hold to the one and despise the other: we cannot serve earthly interests and Father too (Matthew 6:24). Is not the life that Christ now lives through us far better than the one that we lived for ourselves? Why would we go back to our own pursuits? We clearly cannot serve two masters. Those who try to serve two masters will gradually lose the joy of their salvation. The excitement of their first love will become replaced with the anxiety of their earthly pursuits. The excitement of praise and the rejoicing of heart will gradually fall away until there is little more than an occasional smile.

The psalmist said to God: "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 17:8). God's people are the apple of His eye, and it certainly must be a grief to His heart when we chase after things that are nothing more than vanities and illusive self-interest, at the expense of the life of Christ (Zechariah 2:8; Deuteronomy 32:10). The apple (or delight) of the eye represents those things most precious to our souls. It would be totally wrong to expect God to make us the apple of His eye while we pursue a number of other interests. We are a precious treasure to the Lord, and it is only right that He becomes our treasure too. Our heavenly Father would do anything for us, and love would demand that we do anything for Him. God would have our interest and delights in the things that pertain to life and truth. He does not want us to go after things that are meaningless pursuits, things that would leave us barren and unfruitful. Our treasure must be in heaven in the love that Christ Jesus has for us, otherwise our affections for Him will become lukewarm. God's ways of life and His instructions must become the apple of our eye and the delight of our souls - if we are to know unspeakable joy and have our whole body filled with light (Proverbs 7:2).

Paul said that if we are risen with Christ, then our affection must be on heavenly things and not on things of this earth (Colossians 3:1-2). Why? Because we cannot serve two masters. Our affections are created from the things that we love. Our affections come from those things which we delight in and that bring us pleasure. There should be nothing that we delight in more than the things of the Spirit. Paul said that those who are after the flesh have affections for the flesh, and those who are after the Spirit have affections for the things of the Spirit - you cannot serve two masters! (Romans 8:5). The realms of Spirit that produce joy unspeakable and that are full of glory should be our delight and the pursuit of our hearts continually. Our affections should be set on the beauty and the splendor of interacting with the Lord our God our Maker. Our fellowship with Jesus and the honor of living as His temples should be far above all comparison with other things; much less ever be considered equal. When earthly things have caught our eye, we lose all sense of heaven. Instead of our affections and delights being caught away with God, we find ourselves disappointed and detached from His presence. God wants to make His people joyful in His house of prayer. Unfortunately many are on an emotional rollercoaster, driven by the winds of circumstance instead instead of being led by the Spirit. When the eye of affection is not single, how can we be filled with the life of Christ? There is a terribly effective demonic trick that is taking place; and God's people have fallen into the trap. God's people come and sit in His presence with a sad and disappointed countenance, because their hearts have been divided.

If you want to walk in the Spirit and mind the things of the Spirit, then you have to recognize that your affections have to be sorted out. If you want hunger and thirst for the things of the Kingdom to increase within your desires, then you cannot continue to live with a divided heart. Your affections, which are the delights of your eye, have to become single upon a heavenly interest and not distracted with the affairs and cares of this life. The Holy Spirit would fill you with the reality of the goodness of God so that the kingdom of God would be more important to you than anything else. Never again would you sit in church sad and detached. There in the house of God you would find all those things that make your heart rejoice. Are not God's ways better than what we find with men, even including ourselves? Are not the

23- But if your eye is evil your whole body will be dark if therefore the light that is in you be darkness how great is that darkness.

24- No one can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will hold to the one and despise the other. You are not able to serve God and man.

25- Because of this do not be concerned for your life as to what you shall eat or what you shall drink nor for your body as to what you should wear. Is not your life more than food and your body more than clothing?

26- Look at the birds of heaven for they do not sow or reap or gather into the storehouse and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?

27- But which of you because of your concern for yourselves can add to his height twenty one inches?

28- And why are you concerned about clothing look at how the lilies of the field grow they labor not neither do they spin.

29- But I tell you not even Solomon in all of his glory was clothed like one of these.

30 - But if God clothes the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven - how much more you, you of little faith³⁰?

things of heaven of exceedingly more value than the temporal pursuits of earthly cares? Why would we let these lesser things take our affections and passions for Him? How can the thoughts of earthly desires occupy the same room with the awesomeness of heaven? How can self-interest and disappointment compete for a moment with the splendor of Christ? Let your heart take hold of the truth that the Holy Spirit would lead you in: forsake all other pursuits and join with the saints as we find all our delights only in God.

God is captivating! There is nothing more awesome and wonderful than being in His presence. The reality is that many of God's people have never really come to know the joy of His manifest presence. They attempt to interact not only with an unseen God, but also with a God they cannot feel. Their hearts have been too divided to know this blessed state of virtuous communion. They cannot say, "One thing have I desired and that will I seek after" (Psalm 27:4). Their eyes have not remained single upon the Lord, because too many of the cares of this life are equally important. If we are going to have the rich blessings of God, we must lay everything else aside and seek first the Kingdom. Then God can add all the things that we need without the risk of having them divide our affections. Our affections have the most profound affect on our attitudes and emotions. They hold a key to our joy and rejoicing. If our eyes are single and our hearts are not divided, then there would never be a time where we find ourselves in church sad and dejected. Instead, our faces would shine with His delights and our hearts would be full of expectation - because we are filled with light.

³⁰ Everyone has a choice: you can either live in the fear and anxiety that comes from little faith, or you can live in the joy and peace through believing (Romans 15:13). The difference will be made based on your priorities. If you continue to focus on how to take care of yourself and take care of all of your earthly needs above all else, then you will continue to live in fear and anxiety. However, if you turn your eyes instead to the things that belong to the kingdom of God, and make God's priority for your life first - then He will most certainly take care of you, and you will fully benefit from the abundant life purchased for you by Jesus Christ.

The stress, the worry, and the wrong prioritization must come to an end. Trying to find time at the end of the day to fit God in to our busy schedules is not God's prioritization. We must work and be diligent in business, however for the most part we have taken it all too far; and have instead allowed the cares of this life, the pleasures of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches to rob us of spiritual growth and mountain-moving faith. Did Israel inherit the promised land by all of their hard work and ambition? Did our salvation come through our own efforts? No, all these things came by the good pleasure of God - who works on behalf of them that believe. God has purposed that we have days of heaven on earth, and that we excel and increase in every dimension of life; not by our power and strength, but by the walk of faith (Deuteronomy 8:16-18; Zechariah 4:6; 3 John 1:2).

31- Therefore do not be concerned saying what shall we eat or what shall we drink or how shall we be clothed

32- For these are all the things that the nations seek after for your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things

33-Make the Kingdom of God and His righteousness your primary objective and all these things will be added to you³¹.

How can we possibly be concerned with the basic essentials of our existence, like food and clothing, when we realize how important we are to God? We are so valuable to God that He purchased us with the life of His Only Begotten Son! Therefore, we should be confident that He will also give us all things by Him (Romans 8:32). He has made our bodies His Holy Spirit dwelling place; should He do anything less than cloth them? (1 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19). He has made us co-inheritors with Jesus; should we not then be certain that all of our food will be taken care of? (Romans 8:17). We may be confident that those who seek the Lord will not lack any good thing (Psalm 34:10). We must not fail to realize that as the redeemed of the Lord, we have a more secure title and right to the possession of earthly provisions than all others. We must come to realize that our heavenly Father is involved with the most minute details of our life (Matthew 10:30).

When we become conscious of His mindfulness of us and the living reality of His presence in us, then our eyes will be opened to a faith realm that knows and believes the love that God has for us (Ephesians 1:18-21; 2 Kings 6:17; 1 John 4:16). Dear saints, we are not on our own to fend for ourselves! The Almighty - the creator of the heavens and the earth - is our savior, protector and provider. Faith that walks with God is the cure for the poison of fear and worry (Hebrews 11:5-6). Set your affections on things above, and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all that you have need of will be provided. God will cause all grace to abound to you: so that you will have all sufficiency in all things (Colossians 3:1-3; 2 Corinthians 9:8).

³¹ To "seek first" (zhteite proton) in this context means "primary objective," "earnestly desire above everything else." God desires us to align our wills to be in agreement with His will in everything that we do. We are not looking for something that was lost or attempting to obtain something that has not been supplied to us as a free gift. God is simply calling us to turn from earthly things to the things that are heavenly (Colossians 3:1-5). He wants us to recognize that He is the supplier of all that we need and that if we will take care of the most important thing necessary for our eternal well being He will take care of all our needs. God is calling us to make His will and purposes the foremost objective and motivation in all that we do. If we pursue our heavenly Fathers interest instead of our own then we will discover the keys to success in this life and in the one to come.

There are two important issues that come to bear in every task that we set out to do and interaction that we have, they are: the Kingdom of God and the righteousness of God. These are the two "bigger issues" to everything that we are involved in. When we consider the meaning of the Kingdom of God (as it is presented by the Lord Jesus) we observe that it is the display of the power of God, which demonstrates the love of God for all mankind (Matthew 12:28; Mark 1:15; 9:1-4; Luke 4:43; 9:2,11; 10:9, 11; Luke 11:20; 16:16; 17:20-21). The righteousness of God (which we are both made and supplied with through the operation of the Holy Spirit) is the revelation of the nature and conduct of God expressed through our lives (2 Corinthians 5:21; 6:7; Ephesians 4:24; Romans 3:21-22; 10:3-4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 3:21; Philippians 1:11; 3:9). In general, we may view righteousness as the actions of love. Our every concern should be both for the revelation and the advancement of the Kingdom of God through the preaching of the gospel. We should give ourselves over to the expression of the Holy Spirit so that the love and purity of God may be felt by all those around us and especially those of the household of faith (John 13:35; Galatians 6:10). If we will make the things of the Spirit our primary concern then God will make our needs and even our wealth His results for our lives (Mark 10:29-30; 16:25).

Men make their success and achievements the number one priority and their "bigger issue." The Lord tells us that if we are willing to make those things concerning His will our number one priority then He will give us all the things that men sell their souls to have. Men labor to make themselves rich only to be consumed with the sorrows of it but God will make a person rich absent of the sorrow (Proverbs 23:4; 10:22; Deuteronomy 8:18). The wealth that God desires to lavish upon His people is greater than all that was given to Solomon and to all of creation combined. The most important riches are those things

34- Therefore do not be concerned about tomorrow, tomorrow will be concerned about the things of itself- self sufficiency for the day is the evil thereof.

Chapter 7

- 1- Do not judge so that you will not be judged
- 2- For with whatever judgment you judge you shall all also be judged; and the measure that you measure out shall in turn be measured to you.
- 3- But why would you look at the speck that is in your brothers eye while you do not realize that you have a log in your own eye.
- 4- Or how can you say to your brother allow me to pull the speck out of your eye while you have a log in your eye.
- 5- Hypocrite first take the log out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brothers eye.
- 6- Do not give that which is holy to the dogs nor cast your pearls before swine ;lest that should trample them under foot and then turn an attack you.
- 7- Ask and it shall be given to you seek and you shall find knock and it shall be opened to you.
- 8-For everyone who ask received and the one who seeks find s and to the one who knocks it shall be opened .
- 9- Or what man among you if his son should ask for bread would give him a stone?
- 10- Also if he should ask for a fish would give him a serpent?
- 11- If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to them that ask Him.
- 12- Therefore all things whatever you desire men should do to you do also to them for this is the law and the prophets.
- 13- Enter in through the narrow gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go that way.
- 14-Because narrow is the gate and restricted is the way that leads unto life, and there are few who find it ³².

belonging to the "true riches" which are the spiritual blessings given to us in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 8:9; Luke 16:11; Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:7). If we will set our affections on the things of the heavenly realm (the Kingdom of God and His righteousness) and not on things of this earth we will discover all of the glories and wonders of abundant life and there will be a witness to Father's goodness revealed through our lives.

³² There is a narrow gate that leads to a narrow way, and there is a broad gate that leads to a broad way. Which will you choose? Jesus points us to the narrow gate that leads to a restricted way. In the kingdoms of this world, the broad gates mark the important places that are most preferred and most traveled. Narrow gates mark those places of little significance, which lead to places of little importance. Jesus identified Himself as the gate that leads to eternal life - but he classifies that gate as narrow, one which few will choose (John 10:7,9). And for those who do choose this narrow gate, will they choose to walk upon its narrow way?

The narrow way is confined to the will of the Father, in which there is no room to live our own life. Jesus had just finished describing the importance of seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness at the expense of all other interests. He underscored that we were to take no thought for our own lives (Matthew 6:25,31,34). The righteousness and godly living which our heavenly Father demands had just been set forth in this sermon on the Mount - beginning in chapter five with the Beatitudes and finally

- 15- But beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves.
- 16- By their fruits you shall know them. Do you gather grapes from a thorn bush or figs from thistles?
- 17- So it I that every good tree produces good fruits but a corrupt tree produces evil fruits.
- 18- A good tree cannot produce evil fruits nor can a corrupt tree produce good fruits.
- 19- Every tree that does not produce good fruits is cut down and cast into the fire.
- 20- Therefore then, you shall know them by their fruits³³.
- 21- Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of the heavens but he who does the will of my Father who is in the heavens.
- 22- Many shall say to me in that day, "Lord, Lord - have we not prophesied in your name, and in your name cast out devils, and in your name done many wonderful works³⁴?"

concluding with the call to be "perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). The final warning that Jesus gave in this sermon was that not everyone who calls Him Lord and chooses the narrow gate will enter into the Kingdom, but only those who do the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21).

God has revealed the obscure gate that leads to life, and has called all men to come and walk in the paths of life. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life - and we must come by Him and through Him to enter into this life. He came to restore the path of life for us to walk upon, and He raised up the ancient ruins for us to dwell in (Isaiah 58:12). He is the pattern and example of the life that pleases the Father, and we must dwell in Him; otherwise there is no life in us (John 6:56; 15:1-6). His life exemplifies the narrow way that we are required to walk in. The way of God has been established in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has come to lead us and guide us in the path of righteousness for His name's sake (Psalm 23:3; 84:5; 85:13; Isaiah 26:7; 1 Peter 2:21-22). The highway of our God is a way of holiness, and no unclean thing can walk upon it (Isaiah 35:8). The highway of the upright that the Lord has invited us to walk upon is narrow way that causes us to depart from evil and choose righteousness (Proverbs 16:17). The way of Christ Jesus is to love righteousness and to hate iniquity, doing only those things which please the Father (Hebrews 1:9; Psalm 45:7). The narrow way is the way of life that Christ Jesus has revealed, and only the Holy Spirit can empower us to walk in it (Psalm 16:11; Proverbs 12:28; 15:24; Romans 6:23). Unless we are willing to surrender all to this narrow way of life, there will always be room for compromise that will ensnare our souls in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17; 2 Peter 2:15). There is a way that seems right unto men, but its end is destruction. Our only hope is that we faithfully give ourselves to the righteousness that God demands, a righteousness that is only possible through Jesus Christ our Master.

³³ We have observed that the church which is the house of God and the personal manifestation of Christ Jesus is filled with people who misrepresent their Savior. They claim to know Him but in works they deny Him. They fill the churches with their sad countenances and strife and claim that they are filled with the life of God. This is a false witness and an epistle that testifies of other things than that described by the Word of God. Their witness does not agree with the witness that God gave of His Son and their life does not testify to the life of the Spirit. They fail to understand that their disposition in church is the pinnacle revelation of their spiritual life and when they are brought into the light they manifest what is really in their hearts. The Lord Jesus is coming and every man will be brought into judgment and will be examined by the fire of His presence you better get ready!!

³⁴ Deception is so powerful that the deceived have no idea that they are under its ruthless and blinding power. What we must realize is that God has no fellowship with those who walk in darkness (1 John 1:6; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:11). The most important proof that a person has been born of God, and that they love and know God - is obedience (1 John 2:3-4; 3:24; 5:2; John 15:10). God has given us a faith that overcomes the world, and every one who has been born of God has that overcoming power in their lives (1 John 3:7-8; 5:18). Just because a person appears to have gifts and signs and wonders working through their lives is no proof that they know God. Satan can transform himself into a messenger of light, and men can be wolves in sheep's clothing (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). There are many supposed miracle-workers among the Hindus and Buddhists, and we know that whatever it is that they are doing it is not by the power of God.

23- And then I will announce to them that I never knew you get away from me you workers of iniquity³⁵.

Those who work iniquity and call themselves the messengers of Christ have no fellowship with God; and whatever it is they do is not by the Spirit of the Lord, but a power of deception. We live in perilous times and many deceivers have come in the name of Jesus. We must hold fast to the word of God and not believe those who try to tell us that things should be taken away from the Bible, or that they were for the time of the first-century church only; or for that matter that anything should be now added through some function of revelation. All of these ideas are inspired by Satan, and have come to deceive the hearts of men.

Although there are deceptions and falsehoods all around us, we must hold to the absolutes of the word of God. Absolutes are essential if there is going to be certainty. If we are going to move in faith, then we must have absolute certainty about the things that the Lord has spoken. The Lord Jesus reigns in righteousness and truth right now; and no one who tells lies or works deceit in their heart can stand in His presence (Psalm 101:7). Christ Jesus is Lord over His house and will execute judgment, even though wrongdoing seems to linger. The Father has a jealous love for His Son Jesus, and will not allow His name to be profaned for long. It is time that the church arise in the Spirit of holiness and power. If there has ever been in a time to move in the faith of Jesus Christ with the gospel that casts out devils and works righteousness, it is now! We must stand up in His righteous cause and say "No more!" to those things that profane His Holy Name.

We must ignore those things in the realm of experience that present themselves as contradiction to the word of God. The realm of deception would not allow us to find any place of certainty based upon those things that we can conclude from our observations. It is hard to understand how men can come in the name of Jesus and seemingly work miracles, yet live unholy lives; but what we must all conclude is that they do not know the Lord. Anything that does not align itself with the word of God and the fruits of the Spirit must be categorized as falsehood and deception - no matter what kind of proofs one may attempt to provide. There are no exceptions to the rule: a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a evil tree bring forth good fruit (Matthew 7:17-18). We cannot get both sweet and bitter water from the same fountain (James 3:11). Those who hold the truth in unrighteousness can not be restored; they must be converted. The power of deception can only be broken when such a one will face the sin and iniquity, and repent.

³⁵ Today there are many people in the United States and in the rest of the world who do not want to be associated with Jesus. Even within the church, there are those who do not want to be associated with His holiness and righteousness, and His demand for godly living. These people consider godliness "legalism." However, no matter what state men are in, Jesus continues to reach out and plead with them to turn from their sins. One day the tables will be turned. These workers of iniquity are going to want to be associated with Jesus, but it will be too late; and He will command them to "get away." Why? Because sin and iniquity is a great offense to God, and men who refuse to stop practicing such things will face the judgment (Matthew 13:41; Romans 1:18; 2:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 2 Peter 2:13; Colossians 3:6; Ephesians 5:6). Righteousness and holiness are the only alternatives to sin and iniquity. Sin and all the works of iniquity have already been condemned to eternal death. The gift of righteousness and holiness has been made available to all who will receive. Those who refuse to learn to hate sin as God hates sin, and who will not turn from their works of iniquity: they will only have a fearful judgment before them.

There are those who have used this passage to point the finger of accusation against sincere and dear souls who, following Jesus, pray for the sick - men and women who have lived holy and pure lives before God and men. Meanwhile, those who were pointing the finger of accusation were practicing sin, whose confession was that they sin every day. Well, the assumption of being bound to sin every day describes a worker of iniquity. John was very pointed and absolute about this when he said those who sin are of the devil (1 John 3:8-9). Paul said, "If while we seek to be justified by Christ we are found sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not!" (Galatians 2:17). Therefore if we practice sin, then it is evidence against us that we are not in Christ. Those who are in Christ have ceased from sin (Romans 6:2,6; 1 Peter 4:1). If we desire to be justified and declared to be righteous now and on that day, then we must be doers of the word, and not hearers only (Matthew 7:26; James 1:22-24; Matthew 7:20; 12:50; Mark 3:35; Luke 8:21; John 15:14; Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 2:17). Through the gift of God we can be undefiled in the way,

24- Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them I will liken him to a wise man who build his house upon a rock³⁶.

25- And the rain came down, the floods came, the wind blew and they beat upon that house but it did not fall for it was built upon the rock

26- And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them shall be likened unto a foolish man who built his house upon the sand.

and learn to do no iniquity (Psalm 119:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:19; Romans 6:1-2,19). If we will walk in the Spirit of Holiness and yield ourselves to God, then He will preserve us blameless; and will present us holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Colossians 1:22).

³⁶ There is only one thing that separates the wise from the foolish and that is obedience to the word of God. The wise hear the instructions of the Lord Jesus and do them, but the foolish hear and do nothing (Matthew 7:26; Titus 1:16; James 2:17-26). The religious may set in every meeting, they may know how to reference every subject in the Bible, but the doing of the word never becomes a part of their life. The disobedient may recognize that the Bible is the word of God and though they come under conviction still they are unwilling to repent and turn from their sins and put into practice what they know to be true. However, the wise person will see that the ways of the Lord are good and righteous altogether. He will see that there is a great reward in keeping the word of the Lord and will diligently apply himself to the ways of God and grow. He will esteem the word of God as great riches and holiness as a great reward. The ways of the Lord will be as a pearl of great price and as a treasure hid in a field which after finding then gladly sells everything for its value (Matthew 13:44-46).

Every act of obedience is as one constructing a house upon an immovable foundation. The house so built up by the Lord, through the obedience of His child, stands unmovable and unshakable forever. There is no force of nature or power of hell that can shake the life of the one who is devoted to being a doer of the word. Obedience to the word ensures that we are always dwelling safely under the shadow of the Almighty as we walk with Him clinging to Him with all of our soul (Galatians 5:16; Romans 13:14; Psalms 91:1).

The false security of the those who are at work building a life that is not upon obedience to Christ Jesus has a devastating end. They find themselves being continually defeated and the way of the overcomer never realized. Unwilling to lose their life and abide in Christ Jesus, they never come to know the ways of God and the rest of walking in the Spirit. Continually overwhelmed by the storms of life, they never cease looking for something in this world to satisfy. All the time they believe themselves to be a part of the household of faith, dwelling in the house of the Lord, unwilling to recognize that their house is built upon the wrong foundation (Matthew 6:22-23; Hebrews 3:13). The foundation of sand is the life lived for one's own self interest, doing those things that each person believes to be right in their own eyes.

There is a terrible consequence to neglecting the word of God. When we consider the price that Father paid to give us Jesus and observe how He withheld none of His love and mercy from any man providing all with an immeasurable grace, how then can we think we will escape damnation if we refuse to learn His ways (Matthew 7:24; Hebrews 10:28-29)? Although it is language much too hard for some, be sure that those who refuse to obey the word of God are the wicked. Of this we may be certain: the wicked are overthrown, but the house of the righteous will stand forever (Proverbs 12:7, 14:11). Too many think that they are right with God just because they have orthodox beliefs; but it is one thing to believe what God has said and to approve of it and it is altogether something different to do it. The gospel was also preached to Israel but the word that they heard was not mixed with faith and they, continuing in their disobedience, perished (Hebrews 3:17, 4:2). We must fear, lest any of us should come short of the promise being left to us of entering into His so great of salvation. We cannot truly call Jesus Lord unless we do what He says. The Spirit of truth has come to lead us and teach us the life and obedience of Jesus. The life that we are taught by the Lord is the life of doing the will of the Father and ceasing from our own works, and the way we bring forth the fruits of His life witnessed in us now and on that day (Luke 6:46; Mark 3:35; Matthew 12:50; Romans 8:14,16; John 16:13-15; Matthew 7:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:11; Ephesians 5:9).

27- And the rain came down, the floods came, the wind blew and they beat upon that house and it fell and great was the fall of it.

28- And after Jesus was finished speaking the crowds were astonished at His teaching

29- For His teaching was as one with authority³⁷ and not as the scribes.

Chapter 8

1- And when He had come down from the mountain a great crowd followed Him.

2- And there was a leper who came and worshipped Him saying if you are willing you are able to cleanse me.

3- And Jesus stretched forth His hand and touched him saying I will, be cleansed and immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4- And Jesus said to him see to it that you do not tell anyone but go and show yourself to the priest and offer the gift, which Moses commanded for a testimony to them.

5- And Jesus entered into Capernaum and a centurion came to Him pleading

6- And saying Lord my servant is lying at home paralyzed in terrible distress³⁸.

³⁷ Heavenly authority was the power given to Jesus by God the Father, which Jesus also gave to His disciples. God's authority is superior to all other authorities because His power, judgment and right to act is superior to all others. Authority is the right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. Thus Jesus had no need to quote rabbis or other authorities as did the scribes but spoke with direct authority from God Himself. The heavenly authority that was given to Jesus was exemplified by the fact that when He spoke all other spiritual authorities obeyed (Matthew 8:8-13; Mark 1:27). Jesus as the head of the church is given a place that is superior all others to which every authority and power must submit (Matthew 28:18; Eph 1:21; Phil 2:9; Colossians 2:10; 1 Peter 3:22). Jesus was given authority by God the Father to tear down everything that Satan had established and to bring to an end his power and influence over mankind (Colossians 2:15-He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it). Jesus has given to us His authority to execute His will over every spiritual authority (Mark 3:15; 6:7; 10:19; Ephesians 6:12). In the dominion of Satan there is an authority to seduce and enslave mankind but Christ has given us the power to overthrow their authority and to have dominion over everyone of their satanic works of destruction and sin (Luke 10:19; Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12). Father handed the charge of all things over to Jesus and Jesus has handed the charge of all things over to us (Matthew 11:27; 28:18). The authority of sonship is a glorious liberty that has given us the right to destroy all the works of the devil wherever we encounter them through the authority of the One who has been exalted as the supreme power and authority over all things, Christ Jesus.

³⁸ The willingness of a Gentile military man in the Roman army to believe that Jesus would heal his servant produced a remarkable declaration of praise. The centurion was a man who was willing to believe in the healing power of Jesus. He was a man who was willing to believe that the power of Jesus to heal was simply conveyed by the word, which Jesus spoke. As a result Jesus identify for all who would listen what faith really looks like. There is not a single record in the New Testament where someone came to Jesus and asked for healing and did not get healed. The only case where Jesus appeared reluctant resulted not only in the daughter of the woman being healed and the devil that vexed her being driven out but the woman herself became the only other example of "great faith" (Matthew 15:28).

God who is no respecter of person and will not withhold from anyone will have no less response to your needs than He did to the centurion. Consider the fact that the Jews would have considered the centurion the least deserving of anyone. Like the leper that Jesus had just healed he was a Gentile and considered unclean. Furthermore, because he was a centurion, of the occupying imperial troops of Rome, he would have been further despised. Yet, Jesus who has come to heal and to save will refuse no one. The centurion simply told Jesus of the state of his servant and the immediate response of Jesus was " I will come and heal him." Will you believe that Jesus has the same disposition towards your needs and those of your friends and loved ones? Our God who is full of tender mercies and loving-kindness stands ready to heal and to save, only believe. Recognize that deserving has nothing to do with your needs being met by God for God gives His love and mercy freely to all who ask.

7- Jesus said unto him, I will come and heal him³⁹.

8 The centurion said Lord, I am no worthy that you should come under my roof but speak the word only and I know that my servant shall be healed⁴⁰!

³⁹ Divine healing is the most important thing to God. He wants to heal men spiritual, physically and financially. The entirety of Jesus ministry focused on the healing of men and He has not changed. Jesus was anointed by the Spirit to preach good news to those who would submit and as a result their hearts would be healed and the prison and bondage of sin, sickness and disease would be broken (Luke 4:18). Jesus was anointed by God to go about healing everyone who was oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38; Luke 6:18; 9:11; Matthew 4:23). God has not only promised to heal you but will also supply all that you have need of (Philippians 4:19). He has made it possible that whatever we ask He will do (John 14:13; 15:7,16). If we will only believe nothing will be impossible for us because God is devoted to taking care of us and blessing us (Matthew 6:30-33; 17:20).

God gets excited about finding anyone who will believe and that excitement was expressed when He found a Centurion who would believe. The man who would believe was identified as the one with "great faith." Healing is the display of God's love and compassion for all of mankind and the proof that He is present to meet their needs. If we are going to receive the benefits that have been provided for us through Christ Jesus then we are going to have to cooperate with His word and His will for our lives. If we will allow God to make our hearts sensitive to him and are willing to hear his voice and open our eyes to His faithfulness then God will heal us (Matthew 13:15). However, if we choose to listen to all of the voices of doubt then we are not going to receive anything from God (James 1:6-7). Only believe! If you are going to doubt anything then let it be doubt itself.

If the healing power of God is going to be displayed through our lives then we must be willing to step into that relationship of faith with God! If we will let the Holy Spirit lead us and train us He will anoint us with a divine empowerment to operate in miracles and healings. God has placed miracles and healings in the church and never took them away (1 Corinthians 12: 9-10; 28). If we are going to receive as those in the Bible received then surely we must have their response to Jesus whether it is that of the Centurion or the woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:47). She believed that Jesus was willing to heal her and knew within herself that all she needed to do was to touch Him. We must be convinced that the healing streams of the anointing that are for healing present to flow into the spirit, soul and body of anyone who is willing to believe.

God is looking for anyone who will believe in His healing power. The faith for healing must be cultivated in our lives not explained away. We must hold these things as sacred and true and not make any other form of healing equivalent to that which God only can do. God will not share His glory with another and we must not make the terrible mistake of ascribing His glory to man. Those who would say that the doctors are God's extended hand have no scriptural basis to do so and are in jeopardy of preaching another gospel. While it is true that medical doctors help many people they are not the source of divine healing and it is wrong and even a blasphemy to equate them to such.

⁴⁰ The definition that Jesus gave of faith was characterized in the confidence that a Roman Centurion had in Him. The centurion recognized who Jesus was, and laid hold on the power and authority which Jesus possessed. The centurion was in such awe of Jesus, that he did not feel worthy to even have Him come to his house. The centurion's faith was born in His awe for Jesus. The centurion so taken by the person of Jesus was certain that He could do anything. He saw in Jesus the greatness of a kingdom greater than that of Rome and knew that His authority was absolute. The centurion did not need much from the King of Kings only that He speak the word and he would have the things he needed. The centurion did not need to be convinced, his heart was already captivated by this Jesus who was the Living Word. The centurion only needed to hear this One of great authority "speak the word" and he knew it would be done. He needed no other proof his eyes did not need to see the miracle the word of authority was enough for him to call it done. Jesus said, this is it; this is the faith! Jesus was calling to every generation declaring, "this is how it works!" He said, "I have not found so great of faith in Israel" (Matthew 8:10).

The authority of the word, and our willingness to accept it and act on it, is a theme that runs throughout the scripture. To move in this faith, we must be struck with the awesomeness and power of God; who has authority to do anything He chooses. We must hear His word telling us that he cares for us, and that He will do whatever we ask. In knowing Jesus and the authority of His word we can call it done (Mark 11:24; 1 John 5:14-15; Acts 10:43; Galatians 3:2; Romans 4:17; Romans 4:20-21; 2 Corinthians 1:20)! We

9- For I am also a man under authority⁴¹ having soldiers under me; and I say to one go and he goes and to another come and he comes and to my servant do this and he does it.
10- When Jesus heard him he was amazed and said to those who followed truly I tell you I have not found so great of faith⁴² in Israel.

have been given the unlimited provision of the Holy Spirit so that Jesus may be fully revealed to us in a way that that the centurion could not have known. All we need to do is lift up our eyes towards heaven and see Jesus. Look unto the author and finisher of our faith and know and believe His love. Awe will fill our hearts and great confidence in His love and we will know that whatever we ask He will do because He loves us so.

The centurion was not of the household of faith, and had no rights to the covenant and promises. He was a man of a pagan race, who did not know God. The centurion was a gentile oppressor unclean to the Hebrew race. Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel but He could not pass by this kind of faith. He had been looking for it in Israel for this is what pleases God but where was He find but in a centurion's heart. Faith arose in the heart of this sinful man out of adoration for the Son. The centurion's faith created an access into the realms of the Kingdom that had not yet been made available unto a man like him. The faith that lays hold on the promises of God removed the wait, he was immediately provided access and his petition was granted. Unlike those in Israel the centurion did not have to wade through a myriad of doctrinal questions before he could believe. His eyes saw Jesus and his heart was filled with love. He had a need and his heart was filled with confidence that he would not be rejected. He knew that this loving Savior would respond to his request.

Today, if we will only have faith in God, God's faith will be released through us. If we will believe God we will see the great things that He has promised become a reality in our lives. If we will have faith that Jesus is exalted above all authorities with everything subject to Him; then we can be certain that what He has said, nothing can prevent. We can know and believe the love that God has for us and be filled with confidence that He has accepted us and will grant our request. We can have the same confidence that the centurion had in the word of Christ. We do not have to wait until we can see it with our eyes in order to believe; for His word is evidence enough! Confidence in Christ Jesus the assurance of His love will produce great faith. Your heart cannot condemn you when you know that His blood has made you right. The thoughts of rejection cannot withhold you when you gaze upon His love. The Living Word He calls you and beckons everyone to come. Have the faith of God He says, now call it done. Don't hesitate recognize who Jesus is and let Him meet your needs.

⁴¹ One of the more important aspects of functioning in the authority that has been given to us in Christ Jesus would be to recognize our need to be under authority. To be under authority then, we must submit ourselves to the governorship of God; both the authority of His word, and His divine order in the church. When we come face to face with the reality that it is an act of rebellion to not be under authority, we begin to realize that it would be impossible for the authority of Christ Jesus to function in our lives while we are under the influence of an evil spirit of rebellion. One example of this would be Saul, whom God gave the authority to be king over His people Israel. Unfortunately he departed from being under the authority of Samuel, and the word of God spoken to Samuel; and he lost his position with God. It was at this time that Samuel said, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft; and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Samuel 15:23). Korah also thought that because he was a leader and a chief person in Israel, he did not have to be governed by Moses - and the word of the Lord that was given to Moses. He too discovered that God would not side with those who refused the governorship that God had instituted (Numbers 16:1-49; Jude 1:8, Jude 1:11-12; 2 Peter 2:10).

Consider what would have happened to the centurion had he refused to submit himself to those who had authority over him; or what would happen to those who would refuse to obey his authority. How can we deceive ourselves to believe that somehow we can circumvent the governorship of God, and behave ourselves according to our own preferences? It is a remarkable state of deception and arrogance to believe that we can each turn to our own governorship; and claim that we are no longer in need of God's church and of His authorities, that He has placed in His church to both rule and to perfect His people (Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 18:17-18; 1 Peter 5:2; 1 Timothy 3:5; 1 Corinthians 4:19-21; 2 Timothy 4:2). The biblical definition of authority could not be more simply explained than it is in this passage. The question that demands an answer is: Are you under the authority of the governorship of Jesus Christ and His church? Is the Lord Jesus truly the shepherd of your soul, and the Lord of your life?

11-I tell you that many shall come from the east and the west and shall set at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12- But the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness- there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

13-And Jesus said to the centurion, God and be it unto you as you have believed. And his servant was healed in the same hour.

14- And when Jesus came to Peters house He saw his wife's mother down sick with a fever.

15- And He touched her hand and the fever left her and she got up and waited on them.

16-When evening came they brought to Him all those possessed with devils and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick⁴³.

⁴² The definition that Jesus has of faith is recorded in Matthew 8:10. The definition of faith was characterized by the attitude and confidence that a Roman Centurion had in Jesus. The centurion recognized who Jesus was, and laid hold on the power and authority which Jesus possessed. The centurion was in such awe of Jesus, that he did not feel worthy to even have Him come to his house. Perhaps one of the advantages that this man had was his ability to recognize authority. All the centurion needed was for Jesus to "speak the word only." If Jesus said it - then that would be good enough. With the word of Jesus, the centurion was able to call it done; and leave fully satisfied that his servant was totally cured.

The authority of the word, and our willingness to accept it and act on it, is a theme that runs throughout the scripture. To move in such faith, we must be struck with the awesomeness and power of God; who has authority to do anything He chooses. We must hear His word telling us that he cares for us, and that He will do whatever we ask. Then we must call it done (Mark 11:24; Acts 10:43; Galatians 3:2; Romans 4:17; Romans 4:20-21; 2 Corinthians 1:20). The centurion was not of the household of faith, and had no rights to the covenant and promises. He was a man of a pagan race, who did not know God. Even though Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, He could not pass by the faith of this man. The centurion's faith created an access into the realms of the Kingdom that was not yet available, and His petition was immediately granted. Perhaps one of the advantages that this man had over many in Israel was that he was not confused with all of the doctrinal questions as to whether or not Jesus was the Messiah. He, being a man exposed to great commanders and leaders, was able to recognize authority and greatness when he saw it.

Today, if we will only have faith in God, we will see the great things that He has promised become a reality in our lives. If we will have faith that Jesus is exalted above all other rulers and authorities, everything being subject to Him; then we can be certain that what He has said, He is also able to do. We can have the same confidence that the centurion had, and know that because Jesus has spoken the word - that is all that we need. We do not have to wait until we can see it with our eyes in order to believe; for His word is evidence enough for those who are convinced of who Jesus is!

⁴³ One of the foremost works that characterizes the ministry of Jesus was that of casting out devils (Mt 4:24; 8:16,28; 9:32; 12:22, 28; 15:22-28; 17:18; Mark 1:32; 5:15; 7:26; 9:25; 16:9; Luke 4:35, 41; 7:21; 8:2, 27; 9:42; 11:14, 20; 13:32; Acts 10:38). It was for this reason that the Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). The devil had imposed sickness and diseases of all sorts upon mankind and Jesus came with the power and authority to destroy every one of Satan's works and liberate men from their awful state. When the ministry of Jesus was summarized in Acts 10:38, we read that He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and Power who went around "healing all who were oppressed by the devil." When Jesus gave power and authority to His disciples the power that he gave them over demon spirits is highlighted as if to point to the key to curing men of their diseases, "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases" (Luke 9:1). Once again in one of the summaries of the ministry of Paul found in the nineteenth chapter of Acts we find an association of sickness and evil spirits which were driven out simply by taking a cloth from the body of the man of God who had been anointed by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel, "So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them" (Acts 19:12). It is so important that we remember what the will of God is for our lives

- 17- In this way He fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah saying He removed our sicknesses and carried away our diseases⁴⁴.
- 18- When Jesus saw the great crowds around Him He gave a command to depart to the other side.
- 19- And a scribe came unto Him and said , teacher I will follow you wherever you go.
- 20- And Jesus said to him the foxes have holes and the birds of heaven have nest but the Son of Man has no where to lay His head.
- 21- Another one of His disciples said to Him Lord first let me go and bury my father
- 22- But Jesus said to him, follow me and leave the dead to bury their dead.
- 23- And when He entered into the boat His disciples followed Him .
- 24- And there arose a great shaking in the sea so that the boat was covered by the waves but He was sleeping.
- 25- And His disciples came and woke Him up saying, Lord save us for we perish.

when Jesus revealed to us that, the works which He did we will also do and even greater (John 14:12). Let us abandon all else and give ourselves entirely to the work of the Spirit of God who sets the captive free.

⁴⁴ The ministry of Jesus cannot be more perfectly described than what is expressed in these two verses of scripture. Jesus, the healer of the spirit, soul and body of man, is the one who removes our sicknesses (Greek- *astheneias*; Hebrew-*chalayenu*) and carries away our diseases (Greek- *nosous*; Hebrew- *makh'ov*). Matthew does not limit the saying of Isaiah to the final act of the cross but makes it active in the day-to-day ministry of Jesus. In fact, we may say that every time Jesus heals the sick and delivers men from the control and influence of the devil He is fulfilling that which was spoken by the prophet Isaiah. There are those who insist that the prophecy of Isaiah is limited to the one event when Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree but Matthew plainly reveals to us that God does not see it that way. Scripturally we may be so bold as to say that Matthew solely relates this passage in Isaiah to the healing ministry of Jesus by the use of the word "fulfilled." Every time Jesus cast out a devil or healed the sick He not only revealed God's will and plan for mankind but also demonstrated His liberating power from the fall of Adam and the works of the devil. Through the power to heal Jesus demonstrates that He alone possesses the power and authority to break every yoke of bondage imposed on man by the curse of sin. The use of those words, which may be translated "removed" and "bore" denote the power of Jesus to reach out and pull the sickness and the pain off of those who have it and free them from all of their afflictions. The Hebrew words that are used in Isaiah may be understood as "to lift off" (*nasa*) and "to pick up the load and carry it away" (*saval*). The lengthy discussions as to what these words actually meant are very simply resolved in the fact that those who were once demon possessed were set free and those who were sick and diseased were cured by the power and authority, which Jesus possessed.

There are those who argue that it is not God's will to heal everyone but the question that we must ask is where does God, speaking for himself, say such a thing? The argument is very narrowly defined to a one sided observation in which men attempting to explain why some people get healed and others don't basically point the finger at God. However, there are far more factors that come to bear than just the will of God. It is the will of God for all men to be saved but all men do not choose to believe (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 10:12; Titus 2:11; John 12:32; 1 John 2:2). We can be certain that it was Jesus desire to heal all those who were sick in Nazareth but He could not because of their unbelief. Furthermore, God always used someone who was anointed by the Holy Spirit with power and authority and if there is no one around with such an anointing then how is the remedy of God going to be administered? Many of those who do not believe that it is God's will to heal everyone also do not believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to receive power and authority to minister along with Jesus as spoken in Acts 1:8. The Bible reveals to us that God is no respecter of persons, what He has done for one He will do for another. It is God who heals all of our diseases in the Old Testament and it is God who heals all of our diseases in the New Testament (Psalms 103:3; Hebrews 13:8; James 5:15; Mark 16:17-18). The ministry of Jesus to heal and to save is both active and final. It is active in that it is the ongoing manifestation of His ministry and final in that He sealed our healing for spirit, soul and body at the cross (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5).

26 And He said to them, Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the wind and the waves and there became a great calm⁴⁵.

27-And the men wondered saying what kind of man is this that even the winds and the lake obey Him?

28- And when He had come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes there met Him two men possessed by demons who came very violently out of the tombs so that no one was able to pass by that way

29- And they cried out saying, what have we to do with you Jesus Son of God, have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?

30- Now there was a long way off from them a herd of many swine feeding.

31- And the demons pleaded with Him saying, if you cast us out allow us to go into the heard of swine.

32- And He said go! And when they went out they entered into the heard of swine and then all the herd of swine rushed down a steep place into the lake and died in the waters.

33- But those who feed them fled and went into the city and reported all that had happened to those possessed by demons.

34- And then all of the city came out to meet Jesus and when they saw Him pleaded with Him to leave their territory.

Chapter 9

1- And He entered into the boat and crossed over and came into His own city.

2- And then they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed and Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, child be of good courage your sins have been forgiven.

3- And then some of the scribes said to themselves, This man blasphemeth.

4- And Jesus perceiving their thoughts said, Why do you think evil in your heart?

⁴⁵ When we think of the works of the man Christ Jesus, His authority over nature and its physical laws we can only marvel. Yet, when we think of His words, "These works which I do shall you also do..." it is even a greater wonder. Furthermore, as we come to understand that all of these works take place out of the faith realm then things become that much more focused.

The disciples certain that they would perish woke Jesus up, who was at that time asleep in the boat. The first thing that Jesus said when He opened up His eyes was, " Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Similarly when Peter began to sink as he was walking on the water Jesus said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt." Jesus dealt with His disciples time and again when they faced the impossible and asked them either why they had no faith, or had little faith or simply, "where is your faith" (Mark 4:40; Luke 8:25). If we would have been the ones with Jesus we would have probably thought, "surely He couldn't possibly expect that we could have dealt with the wind and the waves."

We have three great helpers of our faith: the word of God, the Spirit of God, and those who have been anointed by God to minister to us (Romans 10:6-17; Matthew 14:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Luke 8:15; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 5:22; 2 Corinthians 4:13; Galatians 3:5; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:18-20; 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:7). The word of God tells us exactly what we should believe for and what we can expect from God. The Spirit of God fills us with confidence and assurance so that the glory of God's faith might flow through us. Finally, the ministers of God come along as examples of those who function in this realm both through the supernatural operation of the Spirit and through teaching us what God expects for us to do and believe (1 Corinthians 2:4; Romans 15:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; Philippians 3:17). However, if we are not careful we will find ourselves in a stand off in which we are asking Jesus, "are you able to help us" and He in turn is asking us "are you able to believe" (9:22-23)?

5- For which is easier to say, Your sins have been forgiven or to say arise and walk?
6- But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins He says to the paralytic arise take up your bed and go to your house
7- And he got up and went to His house.
8- And the crowds seeing this were astonished and glorified God who have such authority to men.
9- When Jesus left there He saw a man sitting at the tax office called Matthew and said to him follow me and he rose up and followed Him.
10- And while He was in the house sitting at the table that man tax collectors and sinners came and sat at the table with Jesus and His disciples.
11- And the Pharisees saw it and said to His disciples does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?
12- Now Jesus hearing them said, the healthy are not in need of a physician but they who are ill are.
13- But go and learn what mercy is- for I do not desire sacrifice for I came not to call the righteous but rather sinners to repentance.
14- Then the disciples of John came to Him and said, why is it that both we and the Pharisees fast often but your disciples do not fast?
15- And Jesus said to them can the sons of the bridegroom mourn while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away and then they will fast.
16- But know one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment because the patch will shrink and produce a worse tear.
17- Neither would they put new wine into old bottles because the skins will burst and the wine will pour out and the skins will be destroyed but rather they put new wine into new skins and both are preserved
18- As He was speaking these things a ruler came and worshipped Him saying, my daughter just now died but come lay your hand on her and she shall live.
19- And Jesus and His disciples got up and followed Him.
20- And there was a woman who had been hemorrhaging twelve years and coming behind Him touched the hem of His garment.
21- For she had said within herself I shall only touch His garment I shall be saved.
22- But Jesus turning and seeing her said, be of good courage daughter your faith has saved you and the woman was delivered from that moment.
23- And when Jesus came into the house of the ruler and saw the flute players and the crowd making a tumult,
24- He said to them go away the little girl is not dead but sleeps and they laughed at Him.
25- But when he had sent the crowd out of the room He entered and took hold of the little girl's hand and she arose.
26- And the fame of this went out into all of that land.
27- And after Jesus left there two blind men followed Him crying out saying, Son of David have mercy on us.
28- After He came into the house the blind men came to Him and Jesus said to them do you believe that I am able to do this? And they said to Him yes Lord!
29- Then He touched their eyes saying, according to your faith it shall be to you.

30- And their eyes were opened and Jesus sternly charged them saying see to it that you let no one know.
31- But they went out and made Him known in all the land.
32- And then as they were going out they brought a man who was mute to Him who was possessed by a demon.
33- And when the demon was cast out the mute could speak and the crowd was amazed saying this has never been seen in Israel.
34- But the Pharisees said by the prince of demons He cast out demons.
35 And Jesus went about all of the cities and villages teaching in their synagogues and announcing the good news of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness among the people⁴⁶.
36- And seeing the crowds He was moved with compassion for them because they were faint and cast aside as sheep who have no shepherd.
37- Then He said to His disciples the harvest is indeed great but the workmen are few.
38- Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest that He may send out workmen into the harvest.

Chapter 10

1 And having called His disciples, He gave them authority to drive out unclean spirits⁴⁷, and to heal every disease and every sickness⁴⁸.

⁴⁶ This is a summary statement of the ministry of Jesus. To have written about every person that was healed in Jesus ministry would be so voluminous that no one could express it better than John did when he said, "But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). Those miracles that are highlighted in the gospels serve as special examples of His ministry. The ministry of Jesus targeted every city, every village and every sick and disease person. The ministry model that Jesus gave to us consisted of teaching, preaching and healing. Today those of us who are anointed of God live under the same mandate and command to go into all of the world (every city and every town) and teach, preach and heal thus proclaiming the light of the glorious gospel of the Kingdom of God.

⁴⁷ Unclean spirits are associated with sickness and disease in the New Testament. Uncleanness in the Old Testament is association with leprosy which was considered a state of death as well as the results of any contact with a dead body. In (Number 12:12; Leviticus 13:45).
Unclean spirits are also deceiving spirits that convinces men of things contrary to the truth (Revelation 16:13-14). Unclean spirits not only work their disease in the body of a person but hold an individual in bondage with its lies. The only cure is the power that is in the anointing. The anointing produces the healing and purifying power that drives out unclean spirits.
Authority over unclean spirits has been given to every believer (Mark 16:17; Acts 8:7; 19:12; Luke 10:19; Mark 3:15). However, every believe has not learn to function in their divine authority. The servants of the Lord must learn how to rely on the Holy Spirit and yield to His working in their lives, otherwise the power of God that is supposed to flow through them will not be released (John 7:38-39; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:7). Many try to function out of a earthly realm and expect the supernatural but that's not how the manifestation of the Spirit works (2 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:1; Ephesians 6:10).
We must recognize that it is by the power of God (that has been supplied to us by the Holy Spirit) that the healing power of God will work among us. If we do not learn to yield to Him then His power will not flow through us. We must move with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit then the power of God will flow through us and into every willing and obedient soul (Acts 1:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; John 16:13; John 8:28; 15:5).
Just as in the days when Jesus began His minister so many of God's people today are sick and diseased. The

2- Now these are the names of the twelve disciples: first Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, James of Zebedee and John his brother.

only cure for them is in the healing streams of God that flow when the power of the Holy Spirit is allowed to move (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). When Jesus ministered, those who came to Him and believed in His power were healed. They were overwhelmed by the mighty presence of the Lord and as they listened to Him speak the unclean spirits departed and the sickness and disease left (Luke 6:18; Matthew 8:16, 4:24, 9:35; Mark 1:34, 6:56; Luke 4:40). As they touched His clothing the rivers of life flowed out of Him into their sick and diseased bodies and they were healed (Matthew 14:36; Mark 5:28). The same power is present in the church today if the Holy Spirit is allowed to have full control (Ephesians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28; Acts 19:12; John 7:37-38; Mark 16:17).

⁴⁸ We may say that this event comes as a direct answer to the prayer request made by Jesus and recorded in Matthew 9:36-37. After Jesus had been traveling through the towns and villages curing every disease and every sickness, the scripture says he was moved with compassion because the people were like sheep without a shepherd. While pointing out the great harvest that was before them and the fact that there were few laborers He asked those who were with them to pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up laborers. Immediately following this request Matthew records that Jesus summoned the twelve and gave them the authority to be the kind of laborers needed to harvest the souls of men.

To be the laborers that the Father would send into His fields we must have authority over the power that holds them in the prisons of deception and sin. We must be empowered to unlock their prison doors of sickness and disease and set them free from the captivity of iniquity. Therefore, God supplies us with the divine authority of the Holy Spirit to cast out devils and to cure every disease and sickness so that we may minister just as Jesus did unless we should be mistaken to belong to another. Any other ministry than the ministry of Jesus is of another source. Even in the days of Paul he had already begun to warn the people about those who were preaching another Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:4; Hebrews 13:8). A different kind of ministry than the one Jesus displayed cannot be demonstrated by one of His disciples. A disciple (Greek -mathees) is one who learns and the ministry model that Jesus taught was unique from all others. The ministry of Jesus was all about setting the captives free and destroying every work of the devil that was manifested in sin, sickness and disease. His disciples, who were sent in His place, were those who would be an extension of His own ministry and would display the same ministry style and type that distinguished Him from all others. To think that Jesus would ever send someone to represent Himself with a ministry style different from His own is first unscriptural and second naive. Naive because the whole plan and purpose of God was to deliver men from the works of the devil and in order to do that one must have authority over evil spirits to cast them out and to cure the disease and sickness imposed on humanity, for this is the unchanging ministry of Jesus.

There are many who would say that these things concerning the ministry of Jesus do not apply to us today. However, the whole of Jesus ministry and message was centered upon these things and if they do not apply to us then what does? If the ministry of Jesus is no longer relevant then the very power of the gospel is lost and we have little more than any other religion and no witness of the living Jesus who was raised up from the dead and is alive today. If this were true then the ministry of Jesus has all together disappeared from the earth and there remains no power to set the captives free. Men converted under such circumstances are converted to a religion whose religious leader is no longer present and their faith would be in man and not in God (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). There have been those who argued that this special anointing to have the same ministry of Jesus was only for His apostles that were with Him and saw the resurrection. Well what about Steven, Philip, Paul and all those whom Paul ministered to whom He instructed to walk in the same ministry of Jesus (1 Corinthians 12, 14). What about the fact that Church is to be the very living a cooperate manifestation of the person of Jesus (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:12;5:30-32; Colossians 1:28; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20)? What about the fact that the Holy Spirit has come to do nothing other than to reveal Jesus (John 15:26; 16:13-15; Acts 2:33). If we are disciples and the disciple is one who learns from their master and imitates their master then tell me who is our master? Where is the model to be found in the Bible for the way that many minister today? Who ordained the churches to function differently than that described in Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 14? Are we to think that Jesus has any less compassion for the lost today than He did 2000 years ago? Are we to think that there is any other way to deliver men from their captivity than the way that Jesus demonstrated? When will we rise up and say within our hearts let God be true and every man a liar!

- 3- Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, James of Alphaeus and Lebbaeus who was surnamed Thaddaeus
- 4- Simon the Cananite and Judas Iscariote who also betrayed him
- 5- These twelve were sent out by Jesus who charged them saying, go not into the way of the Gentiles and into the city of the Samaritans do not enter.
- 6- But rather go to the lost sheep of Israel.
- 7- Go and preach saying, the kingdom of heaven has come near.
- 8- Cure the sick cleanse the lepers, raise the dead cast out devils you received without payment give without payment⁴⁹
- 9- Do not provide gold or silver or money in your belts
- 10- Nor a bag of provisions for the way neither two tunics or sandals or staff for the workman is worthy of his food.
- 11- And into whatever city or village that you enter inquire who in it is worthy and stay there until you depart.
- 12- When you enter into the house greet it.
- 13- And if indeed the house be worthy let your peace come upon it but if it is not worthy let your peace return to you.
- 14- And whoever will not receive you or hear your words leave that house or city and shake off the dust from your feet.
- 15- I tell you for certain it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.
- 16- Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves be therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves.
- 17- But beware of men for they will deliver you to the sanhedrim and they will whip you in their synagogues
- 18- And you shall be brought before governors and kings because of me for a testimony to them and to the nations.
- 19- But when you are delivered up do not be concerned how or what you shall say for it shall be given you in that moment what you shall speak.
- 20- For you are not the one speaking but the Spirit of your Father which speaks in you.
- 21- For the brother will betray brother to death and the father the child and the children will rise up against their parents and will put them to death.

⁴⁹ Jesus commanded those that represented him to raise the dead. This may seem impossible to the modern day believer but it is none the less that kind of preaching and ministry that Jesus demanded. Some would argue that He does not demand this kind of preaching anymore but they have no Bible to back up their claims. These argue from experience and demand to see the evidence that such power still exist among God's people. Well the more important question is does such a relationship with God still exist among God's people. Elijah and Elisha raised the dead (1 Kings 17:22; 2 Kings 4:35). Jesus raised the dead (Matthew 11:5; Luke 7:12-15; 8:55; John 12:1). Peter raised the dead (Acts 9:37-40). Paul raised the dead (Acts 20:9-10). Jesus said that the works that He did we would do greater works so that the Father might be glorified in the Son (John 14:12-13). Furthermore, Jesus opens up the unlimited possibility to anyone who would believe when He said nothing is impossible for them that believe (Mark 9:23). We have been called and chosen of God to bring forth the fruit of a dependent and intimate relationship with Jesus and this fruit is that whatever we ask He will do it (John 15: 5,16). It is time that we raise up and begin to content for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 1:3). Let us all be certain that they who know their God shall do great exploits in these last days (Daniel 11:32). Let us all be confident that power of the gospel and the ministry of Jesus has not been reduced to what frail and mortal men can do but His ministry and His church as strong and as powerful as ever.

22- And you will be hated by everyone for my name sake but he who endures to the end shall be saved.

23- But when the persecute you in one city flee to another for I tell you for certain you will not finish with the cities of Israel until the Son of man comes.

24 A disciple is not above his Teacher nor a servant above his Lord.

25 It is enough that the disciple be as his teachers and the servant as his Lord. If they call the Master of the house Beelzebul how much those of His household⁵⁰.

26- Therefore you should not fear them for nothing is covered which shall not be revealed and hidden

which shall not be known.

27- What I tell you in darkness speak in the light and what you hear in the ear proclaim upon the housetops.

28- destroy both soul and body in hell⁵¹.

⁵⁰ When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples with His power and authority to do the same works that He Himself was doing then He also made them aware that they were going to suffer a similar persecution. It is wonderful to be so privileged by God that we should be allowed to minister in Christ's stead. Jesus has so entrusted us with His glory and honor that we are given the opportunity to do the same works that He did and even greater works. The authority of His anointing is so upon us that we may do as He did to the fig tree and even go beyond that and say to the mountain be cast into the sea (Matthew 21:21; Mark 11:22-24). However, we must equally recognize that with the honor that comes from the Father there is a persecution that comes from man. Unfortunately many of God's people have never had to deal with such persecution because they have never cast out a devil or opened the eyes of the blind.

Dear saints if we will allow the Holy Spirit complete control over our lives in the areas of our conduct. If we will let Him make all of His desires our desires then we will discover such a revelation of the person Christ Jesus revealed in our lives. Most men will never see Jesus unless they see Him in us. We have been commissioned by God to live a life in which Christ Jesus is revealed (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 21; Philippians 1:21; Galatians 2:20; John 17: 21-23). If then God has so willed such a life for us He will certainly empower us to fulfill it if we are willing.

⁵¹ Jesus brought to us the revelation of God's love, which went way beyond what anyone before Him had revealed. However, Jesus also revealed the severity of God's judgment against sin and iniquity. One of the messages that Jesus preached that had never been heard before was the message concerning the terrors of Hell. He made known the immediate judgment of the fires of hell that awaited those who rejected God's ways. While judgment was not the focus of the ministry of Jesus, the certainty of the coming judgment was. He came to give life and to pay the penalty of sin for every man; but should men reject His salvation, the consequence would be eternal damnation. Why eternal damnation? Because sin and disobedience resulted in the death sentence upon men, a sentence which had already been passed (John 3:18). Condemnation had already come upon men because of Adam's sin. Jesus came to free anyone who would accept the change of life that His salvation would bring. The wrath of God rested heavily upon every human being on earth who rejected God's life (John 3:36; Romans 1:18; 2:5,8; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6). Jesus came to give a new opportunity to each man, so that they did not automatically fall under the condemnation that had been passed upon all men (Romans 5:12-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9). If men rejected the salvation that Jesus brought, their condition before God would not change - and they would inherit an eternity with Satan and all His demons.

Although Isaiah described the fires of hell that were kindled by the breath of the Lord, in which the soul never dies but is tormented day and night, the meaning was not made clear (Isaiah 30:33; 66:24). When Jesus came, He made it clear that this was the eternal punishment of those who refused to learn the ways of God. Jesus said that if your eye or your hand or your foot causes you to sin, you should cut it off; because it would be better to enter into life without one of those members rather than to be cast "into hell: into a fire that shall never be quenched" (Mark 9:43-48). Jesus said that the weeds (the wicked), and those who do not bring forth good fruit, would be gathered and burned in the fire (Matthew 7:19; 13:40; Luke 3:9;

- 29-Are not two sparrows sold for a wage equal to a days labor and not one of them shall fall to the ground without your Father.
- 30- But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.
- 31- Therefore you should not fear for you are better than many sparrows.
- 32- Therefore everyone who shall confess me before men I will also confess him before my Father who is in heaven.
- 33- But whoever shall deny me before men him will I also deny before my Father in heaven.
- 34- Think not that I am come to place peace on the earth I acme not to place peace but a sword.
- 35- I came to set a man at variance against his father and a daughter against here mother and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.
- 36- And the enemies of a man shall be his household.
- 37- He who has more affection for father or mother than for me is not worthy of me and he who has more affection for son daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- 38-
- 39 He that finds his life shall lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it⁵².

John 15:6). He gave the rich man as an example of the immediate judgment of hell fire - this was a man who neither regarded men nor God. When he died he lifted up his eyes in Hell, being in torment (Luke 16:23). Jesus said that those who are goats instead of sheep will be cast into the fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Jesus unveiled the lake of fire as the second death, a place of eternal damnation (Revelation 20:14). John revealed Jesus as the One who would burn up the chaff (the wicked) with unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12). Paul called hell the place of everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Many are offended by the thought that a loving God could create such a place. The humanistic mind cannot even begin to imagine the justice behind such a severe punishment. Even though our court systems demand retribution against heinous crimes, and even though each person feels a sense of indignation that demands justice when they are trespassed against - still they are blinded to God's righteous judgments. God hates death; and sin and iniquity are as the rotting corpse of death. Imagine how offended you would be by a continually decaying corpse in your house; you would demand that it be removed immediately! We fail to grasp the beauty of life, and the righteousness and holiness that are the conduct of that life. We fail to see the hideous offense of sin against that life and purity which God created in His love. All of God's judgments are righteous and true; we need only to flee from the wrath that is to come, and walk in obedience to His mercy and grace revealed in Christ Jesus.

⁵² Christ Jesus died for us that we might live in Him. Yet we must also realize that through the grace of God we died together with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Romans 6:4,8; Colossians 2:20; 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15). There must be a willingness within us therefore to let go of our passions to live for ourselves. We must accept the call of God on our lives and be committed to no longer living for our own interest. We have been given the gift of the life of Christ and it is now Christ who lives because we have resigned our lives over to live in Him (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21). We must come to realize that we no longer belong to ourselves we belong to Christ Jesus who purchased us at Calvary. If we are going to live in Him and by Him then we must be willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him! As long as we hang on to our own lives then we will never fully realize the realms of God's glorious and abundant life. If we will totally surrender our lives to the will and ways of God we will discover all the fullness of the life of Christ Jesus who both lives and dwells in us by His Spirit which He has given to us (1 John 3:2; 4:; Colossians 1:27; John 14:23; 15:4-5).

Unfortunately, many of God's people allow the cares of this world to hold them back from receiving everything that God has for them. We tightly hold onto our lives in this world at the expense of embracing a far better life, the life of Christ. To often we allow the things of this life to captivate our

39- He that has found his life shall lose it and he that has lost his life for my sake shall find it.

40- He that receives you receives me and he that receives me receives Him who sent me.

41- He that receives a prophet in the name of a prophet receives a prophets reward and he that receives a righteous man in the of a righteous man receives a righteous mans reward.

42- And whoever shall give one of these little ones a cup of cold water to drink only in the name of a disciple I promise you he will not lose his reward.

Chapter 11

1-And it came to pass that when Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

2- When John heard in the prison the works of Christ he sent two of his disciples.

3- Say to him, are you the Coming One or do we wait for another⁵³?

4- And Jesus answered saying to them go and tell John what you hear and see⁵⁴.

thoughts and attention. Yet, if with total abandonment we would simply throw all of these things aside and run towards the beautiful voice of our Savior who is calling us to a far more glorious life we would discover the fullness of His life.

Jesus said six times in the gospels that we must lose our life if we want to find it (Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33; John 12:25). The Holy Spirit continues to work with us so that we may realize that all of the things that we set our affections on are nothing more than distractions (Mark 4:19; Colossians 3:1-4). Jesus came to give us abundant life but to enjoy it we must be willing to abandon our own life to discover the one that He has for us. Many times this is done in some of the simplest ways. When you find yourself standing in church and the worship begins, the distractions of your own failures and wants may attempt to overwhelm you. If you want to find Gods answer and the refreshing that He desires to bring into your life then you must lay these weights aside and with total abandonment throw yourself into adoring Christ your redeemer. You must choose not to be shrouded by the natural and earthly realm of things and realize that only in the realms of the Spirit do you really begin to live. The first time that worship is observed in the Old Testament it is done through the laying down of the life of a sacrificial offering so that the worshipper could interact with God (Genesis 4:4; Leviticus 1:2). The sacrificial offering would represent the willingness of the individuals to give their life to have a relationship with God. Worship is a privilege that has been extended to us to interact with God. It is an opportunity to love Him with all our heart, soul and strength and to interact with Him in Spirit and in truth. At each opportunity of worship we all stand at a cross roads we can either be distracted with our own earthly cares and sow to the flesh or we can with total abandonment toss those things aside and sow to the Spirit. If we sow our lives to the Spirit we will begin to experience the refreshing of the Spirit and the joys of the abundant life (Galatians 6:8). However, if we hold on to the things of our own self-interest we will reap corruption and find ourselves decaying and fading away. When we ask God to show us the paths of life His response to us is lay aside your life and come with me.

⁵³ (John had prophesied of the judgment that was then at hand (Matthew 3:10). However, that judgment was coming in a silent and unseen way whereas John may have expected that the judgment should have fallen in a visible and Messianic fashion.)

⁵⁴ John sent disciples to Jesus to ask if He was the Christ or if they should look for another. Jesus simply pointed to the works which He did. Works that were proof that He was anointed of God to preach the gospel of the kingdom and bring in the new age of divine grace. He preached the gospel to the poor, healed the sick and diseased, caused the crippled to walk, the deaf to hear and raised the dead (Matthew 11:4-5). Later Jesus said, If anyone believes on me these works which I do shall they do also and even greater works (John 14:12). Today we are faced with the same question that Jesus asked two blind men, "do you believe that I am able to do this." I pray that your answer will be the same as theirs, "Yes Lord" (Matthew 9:28).

- 5- The blind receive their sight and the crippled walk and the deaf hear the dead are raised and the poor have the gospel preached to them⁵⁵.
- 6- And blessed is he who is not offended in me.
- 7- Now as these were leaving Jesus began to say to the crowds concerning John- what did you go out to see in the wilderness? A reed shaken by the wind?
- 8- But what did you go out to see a man clothed in fine garments? Look for those who are clothed in fine garments are in kings houses.
- 9- But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes and I tell you one more excellent than a prophet.
- 10- For this is he about who it was written, Behold I send my messenger before your face who shall prepare your way before you.
- 11- I tell you for certain that there has not risen among those born of women a greater than John the Baptist but he that is less in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
- 12- And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven is taken by violence and the violent seize it.
- 13- For all of the prophets and the law prophecies until John.
- 14- And if you will receive it he is Elijah who is going to come.
- 15- He who has ears to hear let him hear.
- 16- But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like little children in the markets sitting and calling to their friends.
- 17- We have played the flute to you but you did not dance we mourned but you did not wail.
- 18- John came neither eating nor drinking and you say he has a demon.
- 19- The Son of man came eating and drinking and they say look a man who is a glutton and a wine bibber a fiend of tax collectors and sinners. And wisdom was justified of her children.
- 20- Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His mighty works had taken place because they did not repent.

Satan will do everything in his power to oppose the work of the gospel but we can be strong in the strength of the Lord and the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10). If you want to grow and mature in the things that Christ Jesus has purposed us to do then you must actively participate with the Holy Spirit, whether it is joy and love or miracles and gifts of healing. As you participate you will be taught of God and grow stronger in every dimension of the things of the Spirit as you are filled with all the fulness of God (Ephesians 3:19-20).

Be careful that you do not fall after the same manner of unbelief that so many have been taken out by. Those who have had bad experiences: sickness disease, failure and other opposing and even destructive events stopped believing and changed the word of God to accommodate their experiences. Be valiant, be strong and having done all to stand- believe and proclaim those things that God has spoken no matter what you see or hear!!

⁵⁵ We need to preach the gospel. The ministry of Jesus and the proof of who He was centered on signs, wonders and miracles. The way Jesus preached the gospel was by healing every kind of sickness and disease among the people (Matthew 4:23; 9:35). In the ministry of Jesus the blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard, the dead were raised to life again and the poor had the gospel preached to them (Matthew 11:5). The ministry of Jesus is needed now more than ever before. Jesus said these works that I do shall you do also and greater works (John 14:12). Paul said he fully preached the gospel with mighty signs and wonders and the power of the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:19). Today the church needs those who will be committed to fully preaching the gospel. We should follow the methods of Jesus rather than any other methods. The church and its ministers must be dedicated to revealing Jesus and the proofs of who He is and His ministry have not changed.

21- Woe to you Chorazin woe you Bethsaida for if the works that have taken place in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22- But I tell you it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgement than for you.

23- And you Capernaum who has been exalted to heaven shall be brought down to hell for if the mighty works that were done in you had been done in Sodom it would have remained until today.

24- But I tell you it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.

25- Then He began to reproach⁵⁶ those cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent.

26- Yes Father for this was well pleasing in your sight.

27- All things were delivered to me by my Father and no one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son and to whomsoever the Son may reveal Him.

28- Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and lowly in heart and you shall find rest unto your soul⁵⁷.

30- For my yoke⁵⁸ is easy and my burden is light

⁵⁶ The miracles that are performed by the Spirit are to bring repentance. Encountering the miracles of Jesus should bring a holy fear and reverence as it did with Peter (Luke 5:8).

⁵⁷ Two of the attributes that are highlighted by Jesus are meekness (Gr-*praos*) and lowliness (Gr-*tapeinos*). Meekness refers to the gentleness and forbearance that God has towards obstinate people who are unwilling to cooperate. It is also an expression of the persistence and faithfulness of God not to give up on anyone. The attribute of being lowly refers to the compliance and pliability that Jesus had to the will of the Father. One may also understand lowliness as not being self-willed. God has called us to deny ourselves and to wholly give ourselves to the will of the Father. The only way that we are going to learn these ways of God is if we are willing to be yoked together with Christ Jesus by the Spirit of God.

When we try to manage our own affairs and defend ourselves we are in fact opposing ourselves. If we will look to God whose nature was expressed by the nature of Jesus then we will find rest to our souls. God will step in and defend us and provide for us. Those who will rely upon God and trust Him for His provision and protection will find that God will promote them to the highest levels of success both spiritually and materially. If we are going to learn the ways of God who Himself is a servant then we must follow Him with childlike confidence and trust. If you are tired of your results and the upheaval that has attempted to dominate your life then Jesus is calling you to come into His rest. God's example to us is very straightforward He wants us to have the same attitude that Jesus had who emptied Himself and took on the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7). Today, look at how big God is and understand how that He stands ready to help and to save. All we need to do is trust Him and yield to Him and He will do the rest.

⁵⁸ That which measures the balance of any movement may be considered a yoke. The obligation and servitude to any Master is also a yoke. Yokes are used to place restraints upon those who bear them. When a yoke is used on an animal a long cross beam is used to couple any two beasts of burden together so that they will move as one. Jesus invites us to come and be yoked together with Him under His restraints and servitude to God both in His nature and ministry.

The only yoke that we should desire is the yoke of servitude to God that Christ Jesus wore. It is a yoke that measures our lives in the balance of God's judgment and a yoke that restrains us to walk as He walks. Being yoked together with Jesus places us under the restraints of doing only what the Father wills. God desires us to function in His faith and to fully represent His government. We have been commissioned to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom with all power and authority but as long as we live under the yoke of human ability we will only accomplish what mere men can do.

Chapter 12

- 1- At that time Jesus went through the corn fields on the Sabbath day and His disciples were hungry and they began to pluck ears of corn to eat.
- 2- And when the Pharisees saw it they said look what your disciples are doing this cannot be done on the Sabbath!
- 3- But He said to them have you not read what David did when he and those with him were hungry?
- 4- How he entered into the house of God and ate the loaves of presentation which was not allowed for him nor those with him to eat?
- 5- Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the sabbath and are innocent?
- 6- Bur I tell you One that is greater than the temple is here.
- 7- But if you would have known that I desire mercy and not sacrifice you would not have condemned the innocent.
- 8- For the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.
- 9- And leaving there he went into their synagogue.
- 10- And there was a man who had a withered hand and they asked Him is it right to heal on the Sabbath day- that they accuse Him.
- 11- But He said to them what man among you who have sheep and if one of them fall into a pit on the sabbath will not take hold of it and pull it out.
- 12- How much better then is a man than a sheep? So, it is right to do well on the Sabbath.
- 13- The He said to the man, stretch out your hand and he stretched it out and it was restored whole as the other.
- 14- And the Pharisees left and held a counsel against Him how they might destroy Him.
- 15- But Jesus knew it and left there and great crowds followed Him and he healed them all.
- 16- And He demanded them not to publicies and make Him known.
- 17- So that what the prophet Isaiah said might be fulfilled saying,
- 18- Behold my servant whom I have chosen my beloved in whom my soul delights I will put my Spirit upon Him and He shall declare judgment to the nations.
- 19- He will not argue or make a noise and His voice will not be heard by anyone in the streets.
- 20- He will not break a bruised reed and He will not put out a smoking wick until He brings forth judgment to victory.
- 21- And in His name shall the nations trust. (Isaiah 51:5)
- 22- There was brought to Him one possessed by a demon blind and unable to speak and He healed him so that the blind and the mute both saw and spoke.

The yoke of men is heavy and the work is vain but the servitude that we have been called to in Christ Jesus yields a reward that last forever. To live our own lives for our self is filled with pain and turmoil both of a weary body and unfulfilled and meaningless soul. The yoke that God would have us bear in living the life of Christ is easy and the burden is light for we find in Him all that we were meant to be. In this servitude to God we are not laboring under the cares of this life depending on the arm of flesh for our strength but doing the will of the Father, we are strengthened by God who gives us the ability to do all that He commands. Any challenges and affliction that we might bear is light for it is but for a moment and the reward is an eternal weight in glory (2 Corinthians 4:17)! We must learn to run in the Spirit and find there a great refreshing for those who depend on the Lord will never weary or faith (Isaiah 40:31).

23- And all of the crowds were amazed and said surely this is the Son of David.
24- But when the Pharisees heard this they said this man cast out devils by Beelzebul the prince of demons.
25- But Jesus knowing what they were thinking said to them every kingdom divided against itself is destroyed and every city or house divided against itself cannot stand.
26- And if Satan cast out Satan he is divided against himself how therefore will his kingdom stand?
27- And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons by who do your sons cast them out? Because of this they shall be your judges.
28- But if I by the Spirit of God cast out demons then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
28- If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God then the Kingdom of God has come to you.
29- Or how can anyone enter into the house of a strongman and take his goods unless he first bind the strongman and then he can plunder his house.
30- He who is not with me is against me and he who does not gather with me scatters.
31- Because of this I tell you that every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven man but men shall not be forgiven of blasphemy against the Spirit.
32- And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man it shall be forgiven him but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit it shall not be forgiven him neither in this age or the one to come!
33- Either make the tree good and its fruit good or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt for the tree is known by its fruit. .
34- Offspring of vipers how will you be able to speak good things, you are wicked beings for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
35- The good man out of the good treasures of the heart brings forth good things and the wicked man out of the wicked treasure brings forth wicked things.
36- And I tell you that every useless word that men may speak they give an account on the day of judgment.
37- For by your words you shall be justified and by your words you shall be condemned.
38- Then some of the scribes and the Pharisees responded saying teacher we need to see a sign from you.
39- But He answered them saying and evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign and no sign shall be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.
40- For even as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights even so shall the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.
41- The men of Ninevah shall stand up in the judgement with this generation and shall condemn it for they repented at the preaching of Jonah and behold someone more than Jonah is here.
42- The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon and behold one who is more than Solomon is here.
43- But when the unclean spirit has gone out of a man he goes through desert places seeking rest but does not find it.
44- Then he says, I will return to my house that I came out of and when he comes he finds it unoccupied swept and decorated.

- 45- Then he goes and brings along with himself seven spirits more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there and the final state of that man is worse than the first. Thus it shall be for this wicked generation.
- 46- While He was still speaking to the crowds his mother and brothers were standing outside desiring to speak with Him.
- 47- Then someone said to Him, your mother and brothers are standing outside desiring to speak with you.
- 48- But He replied to him who had spoken, who is my mother and who are my brothers?
- 49- And stretching out His hand to His disciples behold my mother and my brother.
- 50- For whoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven the same is my brother and sister and mother.

Chapter 13

- 1- And on the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea.
- 2- And great crowds gathered together to Him so that He enter into a boat and sat down while the crowds stood at the shore.
- 3- And He spoke many things to them in parables saying, behold a sower went out to sow.
- 4- And as he sowed some fell by the road and the birds came and devoured them.
- 5- And some fell upon rocky places where there was not much earth and immediately sprang up because the earth did not have much depth.
- 6- But as soon as the sun had risen they were scorched and because they had no root they dried up.
- 7- And some fell among the thorns and the thorns grew up and choked them.
- 8- But some fell upon the good ground and brought forth fruit, one a hundred another sixty and yet another thirty.
- 9- He that has ears to hear let him hear.
- 10- And the disciple came to Him and said why do you speak to them in parables.
- 11- And He answered them saying, because to you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven but to them it is not given.
- 12- For whoever has it shall be given to him and he shall have abundance but whoever does not have even what he has shall be taken away from him.
- 13- because of this I speak in parables to them that seeing that shall not see and hearing they shall not hear nor shall they understand.
- 14- And is filled up in them that which the prophet Isaiah said in hearing you shall not hear nor understand and seeing you shall not see nor perceive.
- 15- For the heart of this people has grown fat and with heavy ears they have heard and their eyes they have closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and should be converted and I should heal them.
- 16- But blessed are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear.
- 17- For I tell you for certain that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see what you have seen but did not see and hear what you have heard but did not hear.
- 18- Therefore hear the parable of the sower.

19-When anyone hears the word of the kingdom⁵⁹ and does not understand it the evil comes and steals what was sown in his heart: this is what was sown along the path.
20- And that which was sown upon the rocky places is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy
21- but has no root in himself and is temporary and as soon as tribulation or persecution arises because to the word he is immediately offended.
22- And that which was sown among thorns is he who hears the word and the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and it becomes unfruitful.
23- But that which was sown on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands and as a result brings forth fruit- one a hundred another sixty and another thirty.
24- Another parable he put forth to them saying the kingdom of heaven has become like a man who sowed good seed in his field.
25- But while he slept the men who were his enemies came and sowed weeds among them and went away.
26- And when they blade sprouted and the fruit was produced then the weeds also appeared.
27- Then the servants of came to the master of the house and said to him, master did not you show good seed in your field, where have these weeds come from.
28- And he said to them a man that is my enemy did this and his servants said to him should we go out and gather them.
29- But he said no, for perhaps in gathering the weeds you might also uproot the wheat with them.
30- Allow them to both grow together until the harvest and in the time of the harvest I will say to the harvesters gather first the weeds and bind them into bundles to burn them; but bring the wheat into my barn.
31- He put forth another parable before them saying, the kingdom of heaven is like a muster seed which a man took and sowed in his field.
32- Which is indeed smaller than all other seeds but when it is grown is greater than all the herbs and becomes a tree which all of the birds of heaven come and roost in its branches.
33- He spoke another parable to them, the kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hide in three measure of meal until the whole was leaven.

⁵⁹ The word of God is the word of the kingdom. All faith and authority to operate in the kingdom of God is found only in the word of God. When we speak or act outside of the word of God we are operating outside of the kingdom. However, if we will hold tightly to the word of God and will be doers of the word and not hearers only then the word of the kingdom will work with power on the inside of us to bring forth all of the fruits of the kingdom (1 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 10:8,17; John 6:63). Everything in the natural world must obey the word of God. The word of God framed the universe and there is no higher realm of power and authority. The Word himself became flesh and now dwells in those who believe so that everything about our lives can be conformed to the ways of the kingdom of God.

If we will allow the word of God to be the truth and believe it as superior to all other observable things and natural laws then we will step into a whole new reality and realm of glory. Many people think that those who trust in God are irrational. However, what they fail to realize is that which we call rational is based upon that which we defined as reality. Furthermore, we define reality by what we believe to be the truth. If we will believe that God's word, the word of the kingdom, is true then we will have a different reality defined to us than that, which is believed by the world.

34- Jesus spoke all these things in parables to the crowds and He did not speak unless by parables to them.

35- So that which was spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled saying, I will open my mouth in parables I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world.

36- Then Jesus having dismissed the crowds went into the house and His disciples came unto Him saying explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.

37- And He answered and said to them he who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38- And the field is the world and the good seed are these the sons of the kingdom but the weeds are the sons of the evil one;

39- and the enemy who sowed them is the devil and the harvest is the end of the age and the harvesters are the angels.

40- As therefore the weeds are gathered in the fire and consumed thus it shall be in the end of the age.

41- The Son of Man will send his angels and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and those who do iniquity⁶⁰.

42- And they shall cast them into the furnace of the fire- there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43- Then shall the righteous shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father he that has hears to hear let him hear.

44- Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hid in the field, which a man found and hid; and then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field ⁶¹.

⁶⁰ Paul reveals in Colossians that the saints have been translated out of darkness into the kingdom of the dear Son (Colossians 1:13) The kingdom is now realized, in part, through the church which Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit and anointed to be the revelation of His own person in the world of men (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23-32; 1 Corinthians 6:15; 12:27. It is opposed to all that is in the world and is empowered with the authority of the Holy Spirit who also presides over it (Acts 1:8; 13:2,4; 16:6; 20:28; Luke 24:49; John 14:26).

In this second parable describing the kingdom, Jesus once again uses the metaphor of the seed as he did earlier in this chapter. Only this time it is not just the seed of the sower who preaches the word of the kingdom but another kind of seed. This time it is a seed that comes from the satanic realm (13:39). Jesus does not focus on the condition of the world here but on that of His kingdom and of His church. Jesus warned that there would be those who claimed to do great things in His name yet they were still workers of iniquity. Whether they actually did great things in His name was not the issue the point was that they did iniquity and therefore had no relationship with Jesus and no claim to justification by faith (Matthew 7:23; Luke 13:27; Romans 6:2; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:21; Revelation 21:8). As the great evangelist and soul winner Charles Finney said, "...so long as we are actually sinning, it would be monstrous to suppose that God can accept us as righteous, and that we are right in his sight" (The Oberlin Evangelist. August 27, 1845, Seeking the Kingdom of God First- by Prof. Finney.).

We know that seducers will grow worse and that deceiving spirits will push many who are in the church into a great apostasy. In the last days men will not endure sound doctrine but will believe damnable heresies. The greatest deception and seducing spirit that we see at work today is the propagation that we are all unrighteous and that God understands that we are going to sin everyday. This subtle demonic lie plays off of the mercy and grace of God and ruins any defense against the deceptive power of Satan who accomplishes all of his destruction through sin and iniquity. If someone is telling you that it is okay to participate in any form of sin they are under the influence of a demon spirit and are propagating doctrines of devils. Be assured that one day the Lord Jesus will send His angels and will gather out of his kingdom everyone who causes sin and who does iniquity.

⁶¹ God has given us an awesome and unspeakable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15; 4:7). Through the deliverance that He purchased for us, He has given us access into the realm of the kingdom (Ephesians 2:18; 3:2; 2 Peter 1:11). Once a person has tasted the glory of the kingdom; then the joy, the peace, and the

- 45- Again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant man seeking beautiful pearls.
46- who finding a very precious pearl goes away and sells everything that he had and bought it.
47- Again the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the lake which gathered every kind.
48- When it was filled was drawn up to the shore and having sat down they collected the good ones into vessels and the bad they cast away.
49- Thus shall it be at the end of the age the angels shall go out and separate the wicked from the midst of the righteous.
50- and shall cast them into the furnace of fire there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
51- Jesus said to them, have you understood all these things? They said yes Lord.
52- And He said to them because of this every scholar disciplined in the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a master of a house that brings forth out of his treasure things new and old.
53- Afterwards when Jesus had finished these parables He departed from there.
54- And He came into His own country and taught them in their synagogue so that they were amazed and said where did this wisdom and mighty power come from?
55- Is not this the builders son? Is not His mother Mary and His brethren James, Joses, Simon and Judas?
56- And are not all His sisters here with us? Where then did all these things come from?
57- And they were offended by Him but Jesus said to them a prophet has no honor in His own country and in His won house.
58 And He did not do many deeds of power there because of their unbelief⁶².

righteousness of it become a treasure beyond all riches (Romans 14:17; Hebrews 6:5). The kingdom is the riches and fulfillment that all men seek when they pursue whatever it is that they have set their hearts on. Yet the fulfillment and splendor of what they seek is never realized. Then when one tastes the glory of this realm where the Holy Spirit dwells, and where Christ Jesus is enthroned; nothing else matters. All that one has labored for and everything that one has learned to trust in no longer has meaning and value.

Immediately upon discovering this glory realm, a person no longer is concerned about their clothing and food, nor their wealth and honor; but instead all that fills their thoughts is the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Then turning from all that has been acquired, we lay hold on the greatest treasure of all - the kingdom - and we take it for our very own. The price of it goes far beyond all that anyone can afford; yet when we are so hungry and thirsty for it that we are willing to trade all that we have, this eternal place of glory and honor becomes like our very own possession (Isaiah 55:1; John 4:10; Ephesians 1:17-20).

⁶² Unbelief is a force. It is the activity of the powers of darkness that stand before men to prevent them from walking into the glorious benefits of the working of God's mighty power. We may think of doubt and unbelief as fearful thoughts or even as the logical conclusions to impossible situations. But in reality unbelief is anti-faith. Unbelief is not something that finds its origins in the mind of men's logical conclusions but are the forces of hell that have come out to fight against God and. One of the first things observed about the works of Satan was how he sowed doubt and unbelief in the heart of Eve. Satan first question what God said in such a way as to create a suspicion and doubt in Eve's thinking. Ultimately Satan's seeds of suspicion became accusations and statements of slander against God (Genesis 3:1-5). It was then Satan's lies and deception that had created the doubt and unbelief turned into treason (Genesis 3:6; 1 Timothy 2:14). We must deal with the unbelief that we face for what it is, demon power! When we recognize that everything concerning the kingdom of God is advanced by the operation of faith it is little wonder that Satan fights so hard against it. Because of faith miracles work that reveal the mighty power of God, because of faith devils go out of those who are possessed by them. Through faith all of the great exploits take place that reveal the mighty power of God. Through faith the mouths of lions are stopped, the violence of fire is quenched, kingdoms are subdued, the armies of the aliens are put to flight, mountains

Chapter 14

- 1- At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus
- 2- And said to his servants, this is John the Baptist he is risen from the dead and because of this works of power operate in him.
- 3- For Herod arrested John bound him and put him in prison on account of Herodias the wife of Philip his brother.
- 4- For John said it is not lawful for you to have her.
- 5- And willing to kill him, he feared the multitude because they regarded him as a prophet.
- 6- But when Herod's birthday was celebrated the daughter of Herodias danced for Him and it pleased Herod.
- 7- Whereupon he promised her with an oath to give her whatever she asked.
- 8- But she being prompted by her mother to say- give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter.
- 9- And the king was distressed but because of the oath and those that sat at the table he commanded it to be given.
- 10- And he sent and beheaded John in the prison.
- 11- And his head was brought on a platter and was given to the girl and she brought it to her mother.
- 12- And his disciples came and took his body and buried it and came and told Jesus.
- 13- And hearing this Jesus went away by boat to a desert place and the crowds hearing of it followed Him on foot from the cities.
- 14- And when Jesus went out He saw a great crowd and He had compassion on them and healed their sick⁶³.
- 15- But when it was evening His disciples came to Him saying, this is a desert place and the time is late send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food.
- 16- But Jesus said they have no need to go away you give them to eat.
- 17- But they said we have nothing here except for five loaves and two fishes.
- 18- And He said bring them here to me.

made into plains, valleys are filled, the desert blossoms like a rose and the captives are set free! Let us begin to deal with doubt and unbelief like the enemy of the truth that it is. Let us come out against it my the Spirit of the Lord and by the anointing destroy its yoke from off of us!

⁶³ There are those who wonder why we should focus on miracles failing to realize that a miracle is the provision for someone's need. Our God is a God of love who is moved with compassion and mercy towards the needs of humanity. The best that one man can do for another is attempt to offer comfort and temporal relief in the time of need but God comes with His miracle power of deliverance.

We should recognize that the same God who loves us also has the power to heal us. As much as he wants to communicate His love to us He wants to communicate His healing power to every need. As freely as He gives His love to those who will receive it even so He will supply His healing power. Just as God's love is supplied to us by Christ Jesus so is His healing power. You cannot know God's love and salvation until you know Jesus neither can you know His healing apart from the ministry of Jesus. Jesus is the means by which all of God's goodness flows out to a lost and needed humanity. Today if we will come to Jesus, as they did then we will discover that Jesus has the same compassion towards us and the same power to heal us. He will save us. He will heal us. He will supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory all we have to do is believe.

19- And He instructed the crowds to set down on the grass and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven and blessed it and breaking it He gave the loaves to the disciples and the disciples to the crowds⁶⁴.

20- And they all ate and were satisfied and they took up of the fragments that were left over twelve baskets full.

21- And those who ate were about five thousand men besides woman and children.

22- And Jesus immediately compelled His disciples to enter into the boat and to go before Him to the other side while He dismissed the crowds.

23- And having dismissed the crowds He went away into the mountain to pray and it was evening and He was there alone.

24- But the boat was in the midst of the lake being tossed by the waves for the wind was contrary to it.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them walking on the water⁶⁵.

26- And the disciples seeing Him walking on the lake were troubled saying, it's a ghost and they cried out being afraid.

27- And Jesus responded immediately saying to them be of good courage it is me, fear not.

⁶⁴ Five thousand men not counting women and children not only had a piece of fish and bread but ate until they were full. This miracle was so great that not only did the people have plenty to eat but there were 12 baskets full of loaves and fishes left over after everything that was not eaten was gathered back up. This miracle is a model for the way all miracles take place. The first part of the miracle was the multiplication of the loaves and fish so that each of the disciples would have a portion. Then Jesus, commanded the disciples to do just as He had done to break off a piece of bread and a piece of fish and give it to the people. As they obeyed the directions of the Master the same miracle that took place for them took place through them. They continued to break off a piece of bread and a piece of fish until more than 10,000 people had eaten to the full.

If we will give place to the Holy Spirit who has come to reveal Jesus then we will discover that we can enjoy a similar relationship. As we sit in the presence of Jesus and follow His directions His glory and power will be revealed. All of the realms of heaven flow to us from the throne of God and of the Lamb. No miracle or display of the glory and power of God will happen apart from the manifest presence of Jesus. We must be willing to make Him welcome in our lives and in our meetings. He comes with His love, joy and peace and many are actually offended by the manifestation of His glory and are unwilling to make Him welcome. However, if we are willing to sit in His presence and allow the realms of His glory to take over our attitudes and emotions we will discover that His power will also be revealed. If we will allow God to have His way then there will be the living proof of the resurrected and glorified Jesus in our lives and in our meetings.

⁶⁵ Of the many miracles that Jesus performed walking on the water has to be one of the most outstanding. Jesus demonstrated His authority over the physical realm and showed how that faith is superior to all the laws of nature. Jesus willing to make anyone who desires to be part of the miraculous realm of faith responded to Peters request and invited him to come and walk on the water too. Peter began to walk toward Jesus but became overwhelmed with fear and began to sink. Through this event Jesus further revealed the unlimited realm of faith that was available to anyone who was willing to believe. He made it clear to Peter that doubt is the only limitation that we are faced with. If we will step out beyond the limitations of a "little faith" and allow the Spirit of God to develop our faith then the things of the natural realm will not cause us to be overwhelmed with doubt. An increase in faith is not something that will happen independent of our willingness to participate with God but is the act of obedience to His word. As we step out in obedience to the word faith comes to give us a divine ability to function in the miracle realm of Jesus. At first we may find ourselves only able to move a few steps beyond our doubt as we set out to imitate Jesus but God will perfect those things that concern us and cause faith to increase in our lives. Faith is strengthened by use and God will make sure that it is so refined and purified that not only will all things be possible but it will also be found unto praise, honor and glory.

28- And Peter answering Him said Lord if it is you bid me to come to you upon the waters.

29- And He said come and having come out of the boat Peter walked upon the waters to go to Jesus.

30- But seeing the strong wind he was afraid and as he began to sink he cried out saying save men Lord!

31- And Jesus immediately stretch out His hand and took hold of him saying O you of little faith why did you doubt.

32- And entering into the boat the wind ceased.

33- And those in the boat came and worshipped Him saying surely you are the Son of God.

34- And having passed over they came to the land of Gannesaret.

35- And the when the men of that place recognized Him they sent to all the surrounding country and brought all those that were sick to Him.

36- And they besought Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment and as many as touched Him were made whole.

Chapter 15

1- Then scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus from Jerusalem saying,

2- Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders for they do not wash their hands before they eat bread?

3- And he answered and said to them , and why do you transgress the commandment of God by your traditions?

4- For God commanded saying , honor your father and mother and he who speaks evil of their father or mother let him die the death.

5- But you say whoever shall say to father or mother its is a gift whatever it might be by which I might benefit you.

6- And does not have to honor his father or mother, making void the commandment of God by your tradition.

7- Hypocrites well prophesied Isaiah concerning you saying,

8- This people draws near to me with their mouths and with their lips they honor me but their heart is far from me.

9- But in vain they worship me teaching for doctrines the instructions of men.

10- And He calling the crowd to Himself He said to them, Hear and understand!

11- It is not that which enters into the mouth that defiles the man but that which goes out of the moth that defiles a man.

12- Then His disciples came and said to Him, You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard the word.

13- But Jesus said every plant, which was not planted by my Heavenly Father shall be rooted up.

14- Leave them alone they are blind leaders of the blind and if the blind lead the blind both will fall into a pit.

15- And Peter answering Him said explain this parable to us.

16- But Jesus said, are you still without understanding?

17- Do you not understand that everything that enters the mouth goes into the belly and is cast out into the toilet.

18- But the things which go out of the mouth come from the heart and these defile the man.

19- For out of the heart comes evil thoughts : murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false-witnessings, blasphemies.

20- These are the things that defile a man but eating without washing your hands does not defile a man.

21- And leaving there Jesus went into parts of Tyre and Sidon.

22- And there was a Canaanite woman who came from that region cried out to Him saying, have mercy on me Lord, Son of David for my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.

23- But He did not say a word to her and His disciples came to Him saying send her away for she cries out behind us.

24- Then He replied I am not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25- But she came and worshiped Him saying Lord help me!

26- And He answering said , it is not good to take children's bread and cast it to the dogs

27- But she said , yes Lord for even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters table.

28-Then Jesus replied and said to her, O woman great is your faith be it unto you as you desire and her daughter was healed from that hour.

29- And departing from there Jesus went towards the sea of Galilee and having gone up into the mountain He sat down.

30- And great crowds came to Him bringing with them the crippled, blind, mute, maimed and many others and laid them at the feet of Jesus and He healed them⁶⁶.

⁶⁶ Now, this is the definition of a revival meeting. What a wonderful time it is when people gather together in the presence of the Lord Jesus and the Spirit of God is given control of the meeting so that all who are oppressed of the devil can go free. Oh the joy of watching your loved ones and your friends, and even the people that you don't know, made completely whole. The ministry of Jesus brings complete wholeness to the spirit, soul and body so that all who will believe can walk in the fullness of abundant life. There are many church groups today that have camp meetings and revival meetings but when was the last time you heard of a meeting like this? There are many church services across our nation but when were you at such a glorious gathering last? It is time for a change! Lets give the meetings back to the Lord Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to be in charge. However, it can never even begin unless we are willing to believe. As one great preacher said the miracles of God begin as a promise and then when the promises are believed it produces faith that results in the miraculous.

Many today are afraid to believe that the ministry of Jesus is the same now as it was then. Yet, if we would only step out and begin to proclaim those things that Jesus told us to preach and believe then God the Holy Spirit will teach us how to function in and live under the glory cloud of the ministry of Jesus. The crowds would have not come to Jesus if He could not offer them hope. They would have not brought their loved ones who needed help if He could not supply their needs. If Jesus did not have the power to back up His love for the people no one would have known who He was. There is nothing different about men today. The multitudes of humanity will not know who Jesus is unless He is revealed in the same loving and powerful way. This is exactly why we are commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach with signs and wonders and to demonstrate the power of the Spirit (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1-2; 10:9; 24:49; Mark 16:17,20; John 14:12; Acts 1:8; 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5). The healing of all the people, no matter what their conditions are, is the testimony and sign that we are living in the promised age of salvation (Isaiah 35:5-6). Let everyone who believes begin to say with me, let the light of the glorious gospel now shine! We will be

31- So the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speak the maimed made whole, the crippled walk and the blind seeing and they glorified the God of Israel.
32- And Jesus called His disciples together said I am moved with compassion for the crowd because they have already continued here with me for three days with nothing to eat and I am not willing to send them away hungry for they may faint on their way.
33- And His disciples said to Him, where can we find bread in the desert to satisfy so great a crowd?
34- And Jesus said to them how many loaves do you have? And they said seven and a few small fish.
35- And He commanded the crowd to set down on the ground.
36- And He took the seven loaves and the fishes and giving thanks He brook and gave them to His disciples and the disciples to the crowd.
37- And they all ate and were satisfied and they took up of the broken pieces which were left over seven baskets full.
38- And they who ate were four thousand men besides women and children.
39- And having sent away the crowds He entered into the ship and came to the corders of Magdala.

Chapter 16

1- And the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to Him tempting Him asked for a sign from heaven to be shown to them.
2- And He answering said to them, When evening has come you say it will be fair weather for the sky is red.
3- And if the sky is red in the morning then there will be a storm today. Hypocrites you know how to discern the face of the sky but not the signs of the times?
4- A wicked and adulterous generations seeks a sign and there shall be no sign given to it except the sign of Jonas the prophet and He went away and left them.
5- And His disciples having come to the other side forgot to bring bread.
6- And Jesus said to them see and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
7- And they reasoned among themselves saying, Because we did not bring bread?
8- And Jesus knowing this said to them why do you reason among yourselves because you did not bring bread? You of little faith!
9- Do you still not understand or remember the five loaves for the five thousand and how many baskets you collected?
10- Or the seven loaves and the four thousand and how many baskets you collected?
11- How is that you do not understand what I said concerning the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees?
12- Then they understood that he was not referring to the leaven of bread but of the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees .
13- Now when Jesus arrived in the region of Caesarea Philippi He questioned His disciples saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
14- And they said some say John the Baptist and other Elijah and others Jeremy or one of the prophets.

those who believe that Jesus is alive and that He continues to demonstrate His unchanging power to heal and to save.

15- He said to the them and who do you say that I am?
16- And Simon Peter answered and said you are the Christ the Son of the Living God.
17- Then Jesus said in reply to him, You are blessed Simon Bar Jonas for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father who is in heaven.
18- Now I tell you that you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church⁶⁷ and the gates of Hades shall not win a victory over it.
19- And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven⁶⁸.
20- The He ordered His disciples not to tell anyone that He is Jesus the Christ.
21- From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that it would be necessary for Him to go away to Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and the chief priests and scribes and be killed and then on the third day be raised up.
22- But Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him saying, mercy on you Lord this shall never happen to you!
23-Then Jesus turned and said to Peter get behind me Satan you are an offense to me for your thought are not after God but after men.
24- Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”⁶⁹”

⁶⁷

⁶⁸ A key is a symbol of the power to unlock something; whether it is knowledge, or the authority of the kingdom of heaven (Luke 11:52). There are a number of verses of scripture that give us insight into the power of the kingdom of heaven, to lock things up and to also release them. We can begin with the authority of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, given to preach the gospel. The Spirit of the Lord anoints us to open the prison doors to those who are bound (Luke 4:18; Luke 10:19; Mark 16:17; Acts 26:18). There are angels in heaven that are described as having the keys to chambers in hell, wherein demon spirits are imprisoned (Revelation 9:1; 20:1). In 3 Baruch 11:2 (a book of the apocrypha), Michael the archangel was pictured as the one who holds the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus was given the key of David: to open so that none can shut, and to shut so that none could open (Isaiah 22:22; Revelation 3:7). Furthermore, the concept of authority contained within the keys of the kingdom was further revealed when Jesus died and went down into hell. There He won back the power and authority that Satan had gained over men when Adam rebelled against God (Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:7). When Jesus arose from the dead He came forth with the keys of Death and Hell (Revelation 1:18). Thus, Jesus through death destroyed Satan's power of death; and He alone holds all the power that once belonged to Death and Hell (Hebrews 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:10; Colossians 2:15; Romans 5:12). Death and Hades could not hold Jesus in their grip; and now through the power that is in the name of Jesus, Death and Hades cannot prevent us from the resurrection of the dead either. In fact, we have passed from the power of spiritual death into the life of Christ (1 John 3:14; 2 Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 2:14-15; 2 Corinthians 1:10).

Jesus revealed to Peter and to the others that they now had access into the authority that belongs to the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:18; Luke 10:19). The authority of the kingdom of heaven is superior to all natural and spiritual forces. Such authority ranges from that shown through Elijah, who shut up heaven so that it would not rain; to the authority given to Paul to release men from the power of Satan (Luke 4:25; James 5:17; Revelation 11:6; Acts 26:18). All power has been given to Jesus, both in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18). Every power and authority is subject to Him, and He has given this power and authority to His church: the church that is one with Him, and that is the fullness of Him that fills all things (John 17:21-23; Ephesians 1:21-23; 5:30; 1 Corinthians 12:12). The one who has the keys has been authorized with full authority (Isaiah 22:22).

⁶⁹ Jesus revealed His consecration to the Father as well as how His relationship worked with the Father when He said, “I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not my own will but the will of the Father that sent me” (John 5:30). The realm of the self is one of the most misunderstood subjects and is often confused with the sinful nature or the flesh. However, the self is

the essence of who we are as an individual that must be denied so that we may as the servants of God do His will instead (1 Peter 4:2; John 1:13; Colossians 1:9). Unlike the flesh nature that was crucified with Christ the self that makes us distinct from all other individuals goes on living forever. While we are here in our earthly sojourn it must be denied that we might learn the ways of the Father. All of us have many choices that we can make about our vocations, the things that we are going to do with our spare time and how we are going to spend our money. By definition none of these choices may have anything to do with a sinful action but neither would they necessarily be the will of God for our lives. If we are going to follow Jesus the way that He has called us to follow Him then our own ideas and choices must come to an end. We have to be willing to learn a servitude and a submission to God where we do it all His way. We must be willing to come to a place where we are not going to decide anything for ourselves again. If we are going to live out the life described in the Bible of being those who are the witnesses of the resurrection then we must learn that we can do nothing of ourselves (John 15:5). It is important that each of us understand how this impacts us individually with respect to the choices that we make and how we live our lives. We can make the whole subject simple by saying "walk in the Spirit and mind the things of the Spirit." However, the identification of those things about ourselves that we overlook and refuse to deny will continue to remain somewhat abstract and unattended.

There was nothing evil about Jesus no matter how He was examined everything was perfect. Yet He denied His self. Though He was one with God and God incarnate yet He showed us the perfect submission of a Son who would live only by the mind and will of the Father. He would choose no earthly goal for His life other than to do the Fathers will. How much more must we deny ourselves. We have spent our lives imitating man and now we must choose to imitate God (Ephesians 5:1). The mind and will of the self, which is not necessarily evil must be submitted to the will of the Father. God the Father has chosen the best things for us and we must do as He says if we are going to inherit them. When it comes to doing heavenly things we of ourselves can do nothing. Within ourselves we function out of a logical and rational thinking that is trained by life's experiences and circumstance. There is nothing wrong with the logical and rational mind other than it is severely handicapped and grossly limited when we want to consider the things that belong to the spiritual such as walking on the water and raising of the dead. The rational and logical mind will never concede to the notion that you can command the wind and the waves and they will obey. It will not expect that enough money to pay your back taxes can be found in a fishes mouth. To do these things we must be taught of God. We must be willing to learn how to step beyond that which is limited to a natural realm. Remember the first time you went swimming and began to adjust to a whole new dimension of movement, it was scary! Now God wants to moves us past the elements of the earthly into the dimensions of the heavenly but we have to be willing to step beyond the limitation of what we can physically and mentally do of ourselves and learn how to rely on the Holy Spirit.

That which is carnal or natural is not necessarily bad; it is just earthly and temporal (Romans 15:27; 1 Corinthians 9:11; 15:44). The natural mind would more eagerly look to a human answer or earthly remedy to supply a need. The natural mind is governed by what it sees, hears, and has physical evidence for and therefore would not be submitted to the Spirit of God. We have to be willing to stop trembling with fear as we clutch the side of the pool and stretch ourselves out over the vast expanse of the heavenly and walk in the Spirit. To do this the self must be denied. It does not need to be put to death it just needs to be refused so that we might learn how to function in a whole new way of life. The spiritual mind that accepts the impossibilities of the word of God without the need of any other proofs far exceeds the limitation of what self can understand. The spiritual mind functions in a realm of faith, and depends upon the unseen power of God to supply all that we have need of.

If we confine our thinking to those things that belong only to our own self interest and self preservation then we will focus on those things that we can accomplish through their own efforts and abilities. These limitations of self realization will then govern what we will believe and ultimately what we will do. Without being aware of it we will even filter Gods word through the prospective of these self serving interest. Many of God's children are stuck in this place that has robbed them of their maturity in God. It has limited their confidence in God and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. It is impossible for the realm of self to live in a confidence in God in which one takes no thought for what they shall eat or what

25- For whoever will save his life shall lose it but whoever will lose his life on account of me shall find it.

26- For what does I profit a man if he gain the whole world but lose his soul or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27- For the Son of man is about to come in with His angels in the glory of His Father and then He will render to each one according to his doings.

28- Truly there are some who are standing here who will not taste death until they have seen the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Chapter 17

1- And six days later Jesus took Peter, James and John his brother and He led them to a high mountain by themselves⁷⁰.

they shall wear. It is a place of fear, condemnation, limitation, failure and even defeat. There is little room for faith and submission to the Holy Spirit in the realm of carnal, human thinking where men seek their own interest and rely upon human abilities to accomplish their goals. The natural mind is that state in which men hold on tightly to themselves to preserve their own well-being, and whose securities are their earthly possessions. The carnal mind and ways of men will altogether shut down those things that the Holy Spirit has come to teach us (1 Corinthians 3:1).

Anything that is taught to us by God concerning Himself is spiritual which is in stark contrast to those things that we learn of men, the natural. All that the Holy Spirit does and ministers is that which is spiritual. One day we will exchange a natural body for a spiritual body but right now we must exchange a natural mind for a spiritual one. The things of the spiritual are foolishness to the natural mind, because they are not governed by natural laws. Everything concerning the will of the Father is spiritually discerned. The spiritual is the unlimited realm of divine ability and supernatural provision in which nothing is impossible (1 Corinthians 2:13-15). We are commanded to learn this new way of thinking but we must recognize those thoughts that would confine us to the limitations of what we can do of ourselves and deny them (Ephesians 1:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 14:1,12; Galatians 6:6). God is a Spirit, and we must interact with Him in the realm of the spiritual. Any interaction with the Holy Spirit, or manifestation of the Holy Spirit, is by definition spiritual. Knowing that we are to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit is evidence enough that God demands us to be spiritual in the way that we think and conduct ourselves. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us the spiritual and gives us access to the realms of the spiritual: from which all the gifts of the Spirit flow. We learn to think according to the spiritual (or the manner in which God thinks) by the word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual mind is the mind of the Holy Spirit, the mind of Christ, the life governed by the Spirit of God - where every thought is brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ and the will of the Father.

⁷⁰ What was so different about these three men that made them so special to Jesus. It was Peter, James and John that were permitted to go with Jesus when no others were allowed. When Jesus raised the daughter of Jarius to life again only they were permitted to go with Jesus (Mark 5:37). When the glory of Jesus was revealed in the mountain it was Peter, James and John that were allowed to see the glory of Jesus like no one else. When Jesus was in the most intense battle in the garden and looked around for others to stand with Him it was Peter, James and John that He called (Matthew 26:37).

When Jesus first saw James and John He saw such greatness that He called them the sons of thunder (Mark 3:17). The passion and faith of these two was featured in their readiness to call down fire from heaven on those who mistreated Jesus (Luke 9:54). It was James and John that wanted to set at the right and left hand of Jesus when He came into His Kingdom (Mark 10:35-40). They were the two that were so bold and confident that they were certain that they could drink of the same cup and be baptized with the same baptism of Jesus. John in a similar fashion to Joshua's zeal for Moses refused to allow a person to cast out a demon because he was not with those following Jesus (Mark 9:38; Numbers 11:28-29). It was John who was known as the disciple that loved Jesus and who rested his head upon the chest of Jesus

2- And He was transfigured before them and His face shined like the sun and his clothing became bright like the light.

3- And suddenly they saw Moses and Elijah talking with Him.

4- And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Lord it is good for us to be here if you desire I will make three tabernacles: one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.

5- While he was still talking suddenly a radiant cloud overshadowed them and from the cloud a voice saying, This is my beloved Son in who I am well pleased listen to Him!

6- And hearing this the disciples fell upon the ground being greatly afraid⁷¹.

7- But Jesus came and touched them and said get up and don't be afraid.

8- Then looking up they saw no one but Jesus alone.

9- And as they were coming down from the mountain Jesus commanded them saying tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man is risen from the dead⁷².

at supper when Jesus was betrayed. And finally it was that thunderous zeal and passion of James that made him such a spokesman and leader of the church that Herod took and killed him.

Simon was given the name Peter meaning rock. It was Simon that was so moved by the miracle of Jesus that he said depart from me because I am a sinner (Luke 5:8). Peter's heart was so attached to Jesus and the words of life that when Jesus thought that the disciples might go away it was Peter who said Lord where shall we go for you alone have the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Peter was the man of faith that called out to Jesus to allow him to walk on the water. It was Peter who stood up when everyone else was silent and said of Jesus you are the Christ the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16).

One of the common things about Peter, James and John was their bold faith. Not only were they ready to call down fire or walk on the water they were always right in the middle of whatever was going on. They were the faithful companions of the Lord Jesus whose desire was to be as near to Him as possible. They were in every meeting and always at His side. Like Joshua of old when they saw the glory they departed not from His presence (Exodus 33:11; 24:13). Even when they all fled away in terror and fear it was John and Peter who followed close behind Jesus (John 18:15; Mark 14:54).

⁷¹ One of the amazing things about the great encounters with God is how suddenly they come. Although, these encounters are also gone just as suddenly their impact last forever. Peter, James and John were convinced of who Jesus was above all others yet, the encounter with God that they had experienced took them to a whole new realm of revelation and certainty. Jesus had done more miracles than anyone else but there was still room to believe that He could have been the Messiah who was in the ranks of the prophets. But when this encounter unfolded before their eyes there was no more room for uncertainty for Jesus was not only revealed in His eternal glory before their eyes but the voice of Almighty God declared "This is my beloved Son!" Furthermore, both Moses and Elijah the two greatest prophets of the Old Testament stood there to witness that Jesus was both Messiah and God.

The encounter with the heavenly majesty and glory of Jesus begin to reveal uncertainties that were left in the lives of the most loving and faithful of all the Lord's servants. The things that had been whispered by the Pharisees and held in their thoughts were now disclosed to Jesus. The encounters that Father has in store for those who will faithfully and diligently seek Him will bring to us the revelation and insight that we need to be those who He has called us to be. It will dissolve the doubts and uncertainties and brings light and truth to our lives of faith. Each time we encounter the greatness of God and are allowed to look deeper into the things of the Spirit we lift up our eyes and see no one except Jesus himself alone for both the Father and the Holy Spirit have devoted themselves to glorifying and honoring Him (John 8:54; 12:28; 14:13; 15:26; 16:12-15; 17:1,5).

⁷² Who could have known that God Himself would take the robes of sinful flesh and become for man his righteousness. The Son of Man before unseen now standing radiant before us all. Soon all heaven and earth will sing God's redemption song, for every eye will see and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of Lord's Jesus Christ is King! God in the flesh, Jesus Christ now glorified with the glory that He possessed throughout the ages. What at first was a glance at all His glory will soon become like the radiant sun that shines both day and night. Let all things hasten now to that hour we await when the invisible shall be seen.

- 10- And His disciples asked Him saying why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?
- 11- And Jesus answered and said to them Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.
- 12- But I tell you that Elijah has already come and they did not recognize him but they did to him what they desired even so the Son of Man is about to suffer from them.
- 13- Then the disciples understood that He was speaking of John the Baptist.
- 14- When they came to the crowd a man came and knelt down before Him
- 15- And he said Lord have mercy on my son he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly he often falls into the fire and into the water.
- 16- And I brought him to your disciples and they were not able to heal him.
- 17- And Jesus answered and said Oh faithless and perverse generation how much longer must I be with you how much longer must I put up with you⁷³.
- 18- And Jesus rebuked him and the demon went out of him and the boy was healed from that time.
- 19- Then afterwards the disciples coming to Jesus said, Why were we unable to cast him out?
- 20- And Jesus said to them because of your unbelief. Truly I tell you that if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed you can say to this mountain be removed and nothing shall be impossible for you!
- 21- But this kind will only go out by prayer⁷⁴ and fasting.

⁷³ The audience that Jesus addressed here were nine of his apostles, 70 others that he had appointed, a company of scribes a crowd of people, a father and a demon possessed boy (Mark 9:14-18; Luke 10:1). Certainly, the focus of the address was to those that He had empowered to do the works of God. Jesus addressed three things first the lack of faith, second the inability of the disciples to cast out the devil and finally that such a thing should even exist among God's people who had been given the promises that none of these diseases should afflict them (Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 7:15; Psalms 103:2-3; Matthew 15:26).

Most important of all was the subject of faith. The disciples who had been given divine authority to cast out devils found themselves in a place where they had no faith. They had many successes up until this point but something took place that caused them to be overwhelmed by the situation and circumstances, which resulted in "no faith" (Matthew 17:20; Luke 9:1; 10:17). The foundation of faith is the word of God and the strength of faith is our relationship with God that established trust and confidence in His power to perform all that He has promised. It was totally unacceptable to Jesus that the disciples did not cast out the devil. It was totally unacceptable to Jesus that the boy who was a covenant child of God had a devil in the first place therefore, his response was intense and disciplinary! Without faith in is impossible to please God. Faith is realized through obedience to God's instruction and a trust that He is faithful to do what He has promised. Faith is a trust in God that has been infused with divine authority and power by the Holy Ghost. The perversion and corruption of the mind of men that would hold them back from believing and looking only to God was intolerable to Jesus.

We have been directed by Jesus to cast out devils, heal the sick and execute the power of God over all the works of the devil that has corrupted Gods creation (Mark 16:17; John 14:12). However, such authority will never be realized through religious practices but only through those sold out to doing what God has commanded. Faithful obedience to Christ Jesus and what He has commanded us to do is essential. There are many who only want ritual and icons instead of a relationship with God that demands obedience and requires accountability. We must all decide today where we stand with God. Would Jesus come to us and say faithless and perverse generation or would we be found doing those things that He has demanded. He has given an authority to His people to do His works and execute the will of the Father. We can all be certain that Jesus, who is devoted to our perfection stands ready to both help our unbelief and to strengthen us to walk in all the splendor of His anointing if we are willing and obedient!

⁷⁴ The activity of prayer allows us access into a realm called the spiritual (Romans 8:6; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 14:1; 1 Peter 2:5; Colossians 1:9). It is a place where our souls are quieted to hear from God and see things

22- And while they were in Galilee Jesus said to them the Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.

23- And they will kill him and the third day He shall be raised up and they were greatly distressed.

24- And when they came to Capernaum those who collect the drachma (half shekel) came to Peter and said does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?

25- He said yes, and when he came into the house Jesus expecting him said, what do you think Simon? The kings of the earth from whom do they receive custom or tax from their sons or from strangers?

26- Peter said from the strangers. Jesus said, so then the sons are free.

27- But that we may not offend them go to the lake and cast in a hook and the first fish that you catch take and open its mouth and you shall find a stater (shekel), give it to them for me and for you.

Chapter 18

1- At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2- And Jesus calling to Himself a little child He set him in their midst.

3- And he said with certainty I tell you unless you change and become like children you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven⁷⁵.

for what they really are. When we engage in prayer we engage with the Holy Spirit who will lead us and guide us into all truth. As the Holy Spirit turns on the light of truth in our souls the deception of darkness is overthrown.

In this place of prayer the Holy Spirit strengthens us in the realms of faith (Jude 1:20; Ephesians 3:16). As we are strengthened in faith we learn to function in the authority and power that has been given to us in Jesus name (Matthew 28:18; Acts 3:16; John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23-26). Jesus has given us the authority to be sons of God, He has given us power and authority to execute dominion over all of the powers of darkness, He has baptized us in the Holy Spirit and endued us with power from on high, He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies but we must learn to function in that power and authority through prayer (John 1:12; Luke 9:1; 10:19; 24:49; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:3). One of the most important divine principals that we must learn is that without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). Through prayer the Holy Spirit teaches us how to rely on and move in the life of Christ Jesus and through Christ who lives in us we are strengthened in such a way that "all things are possible" because we can do "all things through Him" (Mark 9:23; Philippians 4:13). Let the Holy Spirit breath confidence and faith into you today!

⁷⁵ Being consumed with status is not what the Kingdom of God is about. Status is all about self importance and being superior such conceit has no place among God's saints. One of the biggest hindrances that people face is running in the error of their own interest and importance. Here they find themselves critical and even despising of others. Many are stuck in the trap of pursuing their own greatness and achievement. Their opinions and interest are more important than anything else. The fruit of such wrong thinking is rivalries, jealousy and strife. From these lust come wars and envies and every evil thing. Self-seekers do not obey the truth and will only find wrath and fury (Romans 2:8).

God says that unless we change and become like children we will never enter into His kingdom. The Kingdom of God is made of people that are teachable they are poor in spirit, and walk in lowliness of mind esteeming others better than themselves. As Christ laid down His life for us we are to lay down our lives for the people of God (1 John 3:16). We are to walk as the servants of all not the lords of all (Matthew 20:26). If we want to be first then we must learn to be last (Mark 10:43). If we want to find our life then we must be willing to lose it (Matthew 10:39; 16:25). It is in this state of heart and mind that we no longer seek our own will but the will of the Father (John 5:30). We know longer seek the honor of men but the honor of God (John 5:44). We know longer live for ourselves but for Christ (Galatians 3:20; Philippians 1:21). We

4- Therefore whoever humbles their selves as a little child the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven⁷⁶.

5- And whoever receives little child such as this one in my name receives me.

6- But whoever shall cause one of these little ones who believes in me to stumble it would have been better for him to have hung a weighty millstone around his neck and be sunk into the depth of the sea.

7- Woe to the world because it causes stumbling for it is necessary that those things that causes one to stumble come but woe to that man by which the stumbling takes place.

8- And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble cut it off and cast it from you for it is better to enter into life lame or maimed than to be cast into eternal fire with two hands and two feet.

9- And if your eye causes you to stumble pluck it out and cast it away for it is better to have one eye and enter into life than to have two eyes to be cast into the fire of Gehenna.

10- See to it that you do not despise one of these little ones for I tell you that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of my Father who is in heaven.

11- For the Son of Man has come to save those who are lost.

12- What do you think, If there should be a man who had a hundred sheep and one of them strayed off would he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountain and go and seek the one that strayed?

13- And if he should find it I tell you for sure that he would rejoice over it more than the ninety-nine that did not stray off.

14- So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones who are before Him perish.

15- But if your brother sin against you go and reprove him between you and him alone. If he will hear you then you have gained your brother.

16- But if he will not hear you take along with you one or two witnesses that by the mouth of two or three every word may be established.

discover the truth, that of ourselves we can do nothing! God would have us to be totally dependant upon Him for everything just as a child is towards their parents. He wants us to turn away from ourselves and from others and trust Him for all that we have need of (Jeremiah 17:5,7). Can you see how helpless you are? Do you see how much you are totally dependent upon God? These are the things of truth and once our eyes are open these things become most evident.

⁷⁶ There are two characteristics that Jesus regarded above all others and referred to those who have them as the greatest in the kingdom. The first and the one most clearly stated is that of being as a child in humility and the second is related to that humility and that is being a servant of others (Matthew 20:26; 23:11; Mark 9:34-35; 10:42).

The humility of a child is chiefly characterized by their dependent state. One may view a child as being at the bottom of the peaking order. This was definitely true in the days of Jesus when children were supposed to be seen and not heard. It is not common for men to accept the lower rank but God looks on such with the highest regard. In the kingdom of men the idea of greatness lies in the ability to subjugated, to be stronger and more powerful than all those around you. However, the kingdom of God does not even closely resemble this for it is a realm of love and servitude where the greatest One of all came as a servant for us and gave His life as a ransom for ours (Philippians 2:7; Mark 10:45; 1 John 3:16). We esteemed Him stricken and afflicted of God but He esteemed us as more precious than His own life. Come now let us walk in the light of the Lord and be willing to be taught His ways. Let us despise pride and arrogance and walk in humility and lowliness of mind (Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3-7; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5). If we would be willing to take on the disposition of heaven then we will find ourselves functioning with the authority of that realm (John 5:19,30; 8:28,54; 15:5).

17- But if he will not listen to them tell it to the assembly and if he fail to listen to the assembly let him be to you as a unbeliever and tax-gatherer.

18- I tell you the truth: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you set free upon the earth shall be set free in heaven⁷⁷.

19- I tell you the truth if two of you agree (denoting harmonious sound; denotes the fitting together of stones together in a building) upon the earth concerning anything that they shall ask it shall be done for them by my Father in heaven

20- For where there are two or three gathered in my name there I will be in their midst⁷⁸.

⁷⁷ Jesus gave His disciples and His church the authority of the Kingdom. The first thing that Jesus trained His disciples to do was to take authority over the powers of darkness. As the representatives of the kingdom of God, they were given authority over every demon spirit to cast them out. As the fighting men of David were invincible against the Philistines, even more were those who had been entrusted with the authority of the Kingdom under the ministry of Jesus. The reign of Christ was only beginning, and those who had joined in to follow Him were made invincible against all their foes; and nothing within the realms of darkness could harm them. It was their assignment to do the same works of Jesus, and declare that through their works the Kingdom of God had come. Never had such power been given to men. Jesus had come to cast out Satan and to destroy His dominion. The demonstration of His absolute power and authority over all of their works had begun through the preaching of the gospel.

The mission that was assigned to the disciples of Jesus was exactly the same as that of the Lord Himself. They were given the assignment to go and cast out devils, heal the sick, and raise the dead. They were to go everywhere and render the power of Satan ineffectual, and restore and make whole those things that the powers of darkness had ruined. They were to do all of this in the authority of the kingdom of God.

The proclamation of the gospel was the announcement that the kingdom of God had come - through the demonstration of the Spirit and power. The gospel both announces and proves the undeniable and absolute authority of God over all things. It is the declaration that Satan has lost his unchallenged power over the lives of men! Therefore, we are given the authority to bind on earth any power of darkness that we encounter. In the authority of the kingdom we are able to loose every prisoner and open every prison door, proclaiming liberty to all mankind everywhere. The message of the kingdom is this: the days of your captivity are over! As we bind on earth, God in cooperation with us will bind in heaven; and whatever we would set free on earth, God will set free in heaven - so that the ministry of Jesus through us will look the same today as it did then.

⁷⁸ We must become more aware of the presence Jesus in His church. We will become aware of the reality of His presence when we believe His word and act accordingly. If we believe that Christ Jesus is actually present in our church meetings and that the Holy Spirit is also there supplying the riches of heaven, then surely we will approach the meeting with great expectation and reverence. It is a mistake to reduce the church to something that consists of manmade programs and personal issues. We should be filled with an awe and reverence for the house of God. We should tread with holy fear upon His holy ground, and approach the throne of grace when we step into the assembly of the saints. If we fail to recognize that our services are being conducted by the Holy Spirit, then we will also fail to interact with Him and yield to Him. We must recognize what the will of the Father is for His church, and surrender ourselves completely to His purpose for the church.

The church is the closest thing on earth to being in the Holy of Holies (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:6; Hebrews 12:22-24). It is the fullness of God, the body of Christ, and it is baptized in the Holy Ghost. Yet in many places, God's glory is reduced to nothing more than the appearance of men! The problem is that many approach the meeting place with God as a meeting place with men, and have reduced it to nothing more than religious ritual. Change will come when we believe what the Bible says about the church, and then move in faith with the miraculous presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, religious ritual is a ditch - and it usually takes a miracle to get out of it. Satan would love nothing more than to reduce the glorious church to little more than an acknowledgment of the presence of Jesus.

Men assume that they can do whatever they think is best, and create whatever programs seem good in order to attract other men. However a foundation has been laid, and the will of God is for the church He has fully revealed in the pages of the Bible. If we expect to be right with God, we can no more

21- The Peter having come to

Chapter 19

1 And afterwards when Jesus had finished these words that he departed from Galilee and he came to the borders of Judea beyond the Jordan.

2-And great crowds followed Him and He healed them there.

3- And the Pharisees came to Him tempting Him and saying to Him, Is it lawful for a man to put away His wife for every reason?

4- But He answering said to them, have you not read that He who made them from the beginning made them male and female.

5- And on account of this shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife and the two shall become one flesh.

6- So that they are no longer two but one flesh, what therefore God has united together let no man separate.

7- They said to Him why then did Moses order that a bill of divorcement be granted to put her away?

8- He said to them, because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to put away your wives however this was not how it was to be from the beginning.

9- But I say to you that whoever puts away his wife unless it is because of fornication and shall marry another commits adultery.

10- His disciples said to Him, if this is the case of the man with the wife then is it better not to marry.

11- And Jesus said to them, not everyone can receive this word but to those whom it is given.

12- For there are those who are born eunuchs and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men and there are eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven- he who is able to receive it let him receive it.

13- Then were brought to Him little children that He might lay His hands on them and pray but His disciples rebuked them.

14- But Jesus said allow the little children to come to me and do not forbid them because these are like those of the kingdom of heaven.

15- And having laid His hands upon them He departed from there.

16- And there came to Him one who said Good Teacher what good thing must I do that I may have eternal life?

17- But He said to him why do you call me good- no one is good except God. Now if you desire enter into life keep the commandments.

ignore God's demands for His church than we can ignore His demands for our individual lives. Today, Jesus is standing in the midst of His churches judging and making demands (Revelation 1:11-20). If we want our church services to be a place where people meet with God, are taught the word of God, and have an encounter with the Holy Spirit that brings change - then we are going to have to be devoted to what only the Holy Spirit can make possible (1 Corinthians 12:7-28; 14:6,23,26; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 4:33). The challenge is that this will be at the expense of what we think is good and valuable, and what the people may demand. Surely the Father will not allow us to continue to do whatever we like with His church. His house is a house of prayer and the representation of the splendor and glory of His only begotten Son. Father will bring glory and honor to His Son; and when we cooperate with Him, we experience the revival of those things that we read about in the New Testament.

- 18- He said to Him which ones? And Jesus said you shall not commit murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness.
- 19- Honor your father and mother, love your neighbor as yourself.
- 20- The young man said to Him, all these things I have kept from my youth what do I lack?
- 21- Jesus said to him if you desire to be perfect go and sell all of your property and give it to the poor and you shall have treasure in heaven and come and follow me.
- 22- But the young man having heard the word went away grieved for he had many possessions.
- 23- And Jesus said to His disciples, with certainty I tell you that it is difficult for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- 24- And again I tell you it is easier for a camel to pass through the hole of a needle than a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
- 25- But His disciples having heard this were astonished saying who then can be saved?
- 26- But Jesus looking on them said with men this is impossible but with God all things are possible.
- 27- Then Peter responding said to Him you see that we have left all things and follow you; what shall there be for us?
- 28- And Jesus said to Him with absolute certainty I tell you that you who have followed me when the Son of man shall sit down upon the throne of His glory in the regeneration you shall also sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 29- And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for my name sake shall receive a hundred fold and shall inherit eternal life.
- 30- But many of the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

Chapter 20

- 1- For the kingdom of heaven is like a man who was the master of the house who went out in the morning to hire workman for his vineyard.
- 2- And having agreed with the workman for a denarius a day he sent them into the vineyard.
- 3- And having gone out about the third hour he saw others standing around in the marketplace.
- 4- And he said to them go also into the vineyard and whatever may be just I will give you and they went.
- 5- Again having gone out about the sixth and ninth hour he did the same.
- 6- And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around and he said to them why do stand here idle all day.
- 7- And they said to him because no one has hired us and he said to them go also into the vineyard and whatever is just you will receive.
- 8-
- 17- And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples aside in the way and said to them.
- 18- Behold we go up to Jerusalem and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priest and scribes and they will condemn Him to death.

19- And they will deliver Him up to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and to crucify and the third day He will rise again.

Chapter 21

1- And when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage towards the mount of Olives then Jesus sent two disciples.

2- Saying to them, Go into the village that is opposite you and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her untie them and bring them to me.

3- And if there is anyone that says anything to you say, The Lord has need of them and immediately he will send them.

4- But this all happened that the the things which were spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled saying,

5- Say to the daughter of Sion, Behold your king comes to you meek and riding on a donkey and a colt the foal of a beast of burden.

6- And the disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.

7- And they brought the donkey and the colt and put their garments on them and He sat on them. □8- And a great crowd scattered their garments on the way and others cut down

branches from the trees and scattered them on the way.

9- And the crowds that were in going before and those that followed cried out saying Hosanna to the Son of David blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord- Hosanna in the Highest!

10- And as He entered into Jerusalem all of the city was moved saying, who is this?

11- And the crowds said this is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.

12- And Jesus entered into the temple of God and cast out all those selling and buying in the temple and He turned over the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling the doves.

13- And He said to them it is written my house shall be called a house of prayer but you have made it a den of thieves.

14- And the blind and lame came to Him in the temple and He healed them.

15- But the chief priests and the scribes seeing the wonders which He did and the children crying in the temple saying Hosanna to the Son of David they were angry.

16- And they said to Him, do you hear what they say? And Jesus said have you not read that out of the mouths of babes and sucklings you have perfected praise.

17- And He left them and went out of the city and spent the night in Bethany.

18- Now early in the morning coming back into the city He was hungry.

19- And seeing a fig tree by the way He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only and He said to it- Let there be no more fruit from you forever and immediately the fig tree dried up.

20- And seeing it the disciples wondered saying how immediately the fig tree is dried up.

21- And Jesus replied and said to them I tell you most absolutely if you have faith and do not waver then not only will you do what has been done to this fig tree but even if you say to the mountain be lifted up and thrown into the sea it will be done⁷⁹!

⁷⁹ How much more emphatic could Jesus have been about faith and the miraculous? Jesus made everything possible for those who would believe. He opened the door for us to believe for anything! Now, in view of this truly we can believe for the miracles that testify of His resurrection and of His on going ministry. Just as Jesus said, "not only will you do what has been done" He also said, "these works which I

- 22- Whatever you ask for by the prayer of faith⁸⁰ you will receive.
- 23- And when He came in to the temple the chief priest and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching saying by what authority do you do these things and who gave you this authority?
- 24- And Jesus answered and said to them I will also ask you one thing and if you tell me I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.
- 25- The baptism of John where did it come from of heaven or of men? And the reasoned with themselves saying if we should say from heaven He will say to us why then didn't you believe him?
- 26- But if we say from men we fear the multitude for all hold John as a prophet.
- 27- And answering Jesus they said we do not know. He said to them neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.
- 28- But what do you think a man had two children and coming to the first he said child go today and work in my vineyard.
- 29- And he answered and said I will not but afterwards he repented and went.
- 30- And coming to the second one he said likewise and he answering said I will go Lord but did not.

do shall you do." Then furthermore, instead of Jesus just leaving it on the miraculous level of a withered fig tree and His own works He pushes it to greater works and says not only will you be able to do this same thing that I have done to the fig tree you will do even more. You can say to this mountain be raised up and thrown into the sea and IT WILL BE DONE! Now tell me who on earth is going to be willing to give themselves over so completely to the Holy Spirit that such faith can be developed? Faith that can look at the great mountains and say be lifted up and there be no doubt or indecisiveness at all.

Faith is miracle power. From the very beginning of the ministry of Jesus faith was identified as the supernatural force behind every miracle (Matthew 8:6-13). If we are going to participate in the greatness of the Kingdom of God, that we have been called to, then we have to be willing to allow faith to be more than our philosophical beliefs and concepts of God. If we can be so developed in faith by the Holy Spirit that we can cast mountains into the sea then surely we can cast out devils from those who are tormented by them. If we can command a tree to wither up and die then we can also command cancer and diseases to wither up and die as well.

⁸⁰ The first step of faith is obedience to the word of God (Romans 10:8,17). As we are obedient to the things that the word of God says the Spirit of God breaths faith into our lives for faith is an activity of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:13). Many people today think that faith is a set of beliefs and regulate faith to ones own personal preferences but the Bible reveals that faith is an activity of the Holy Spirit. It is something that only comes form God and He gives a measure of it to everyman (Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 2:8) .

As we learn to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit we learn to flow in all the different attributes of grace that He supplies us with and one of the very important ones is faith (Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Faith begins in our life when we allow the greatest miracle to take place and that is the miracle of being born of God. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon us and changes us into another person. Our life comes to an end and the glorious life of Jesus begins. Faith does not stop there it grows as we give ourselves to the word of God and the operation of the Spirit of God (2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:10). If we will learn to yield to the Holy Spirit we can be full of faith even as Steven and others of the New Testament (Acts 6:5; 11:24).

The activity of the prayer of faith is as supernatural and belonging to the Spirit of God as any other out working of the miraculous. As we pray and fellowship with God a prayer that is inspired by the Holy Spirit comes flowing forth and this prayer is a prayer of faith. Like the prayer of the Spirit it is God speaking through us. The prayer of faith will receive whatever it ask for. God has chosen and ordained us to have this kind of fruit in our lives that whatever we ask we receive (John 15:16; John 14:13-14; 1 John 3:22). Let us give ourselves to the activity of prayer until we become so saturated by the presence of the Holy Spirit that the prayer of faith flows out like prophesy form our hearts.

31- Which of the two did the will of the father? They said to Him the first. Jesus said to them with absolute certainty I tell you that tax collectors and harlots will go into the kingdom of God before you.

32- For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him. But you seeing it did not afterwards repent and believe him.

33- Hear another parable there was a certain man, a mater of a house, who planted a vineyard and placed a fence around it and dug a winepress in it, and built a tower and and share cropped it with husbandmen and left the country.

34- And when the time of fruit drew near he sent his servants to the husbandmen to receive his fruit.

35- And the husbandmen took the servants and one they beat and another they killed and another they stoned.

36- And again he sent more servants than at the first and they treated them in the same way.

37- Then finally he sent to them his son saying, they will respect my son.

38- But the husbandmen seeing the son said among themselves this is the heir come let us kill him and gain possession of his inheritance

39- And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40- Therefore when the Lord comes to the vineyard what will he do to those husbandmen?

41-They said to Him, he will destroy those extremely wicked men and the vineyard he will lease to other husbandmen who will give to him the proper share of fruits in their season.

42- Jesus said to them did you never in the scripture, the stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This came to pass from the Lord and it is wonderful in our eyes.

43- Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a people that shall produce the fruits of it⁸¹.

⁸¹ Israel was raised up by God to be His witness in the earth. They were entrusted with all of the promises and blessings of being those who represented God among men. Unfortunately, from the time God brought them out of Egypt they did not allow the word that was proclaimed to them to be mixed with faith and as a result they did not profit from all of the things that God had blessed them with. Paul says that as a result the nation of Israel was cut off as a branch from the vine of the Kingdom and that the Gentiles were grafted into that vine. The plea that was given to Israel is underscored in the words of Jesus when He said, " Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desire to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing. Behold your house is left to you desolate (Matthew 23:37-38; Luke 13:34-35). Because of Israel's continual rebellion God gave them a sluggish spirit eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear (Romans 11:8; Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:13-15; Luke 8:10). Their rebellion began when they refused to hear the voice of the Lord when He came to fellowship with them and in His mercy revealed His voice to them as a friend. They were so concerned with their own well being that they refused to listen to the voice of life (Exodus 20:18-20). After Moses had met with God and the glory of God had illuminated His body so that His face shined with the radiance of heaven the same fear kept the people of Israel from coming to Moses (Exodus 34:29-35). Paul reveals that this rejection of the ministry of the Spirit resulted in a spiritual blindness taking a hold of the people of Israel (2 Corinthians 3:13-17).

God has made the church that nation or people that represent Him in the earth today (1 Peter 2:9-10). The glorious church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles, anyone who will believe and except the redemption that is Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:11-22; Romans 3:29; 9:24; Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians

44- And he who falls on this stone shall be broken but whosoever it shall fall it shall grind him to pieces.

45- And the chief priest and the Pharisees hearing his parable knew that he was talking about them.

46- And earnestly desiring to take hold of him they feared the crowds because they took Him for a prophet.

Chapter 22

1- And Jesus responding again spoke to them in parables saying:

2- The kingdom of heaven is like a man, a king, who made a wedding feast for his son.

3- And he sent his servants to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast and they would not come.

4- Again he sent other servants saying, say to those who have been invited behold my dinner is prepared my oxen and fatted beast are killed and all things are ready- come to wedding feast!

5- But they being negligent departed one to his own field another to his business.

6- And the others having laid hold on his servants abused and killed them.

7- And hearing this the king was angry and he sent his forces to destroy those murders and to burn their cities.

8- Then he said to his servants the wedding feast is indeed ready but those who were invited were not worthy.

9- Go therefore into passages of the highways and as many as you find invite them to the wedding feast.

10- And the servants going into the highways brought together all as many as were found both the good and the evil and the wedding feast was full of guest.

11- And when the king came to see the wedding guest he saw a man who was not clothed with the wedding feast garment.

12- And he said to him friend how did you get in here not having a wedding garment but he was speechless.

13- Then said the king to his servants, bind him feet and hands take him away and cast him out into outer darkness- there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14- For many are called but few are chosen.

3:10-11). It is essential that we recognize that God has placed a demand upon those His church to bring forth the fruits of the Kingdom of God. The Lord will come and seek the fruit that He desires and if we fall after the same manner of unbelief and error of the nation of Israel we will also be cut off (Luke 13:6-9; Matthew 3:10; Hebrews 3:7-4:11; James 5:7). Paul made it equally clear that the Gentiles (who were grafted into the vine) would also be cut off if they walked in the same unbelief (Romans 11:20-23). We must have more than just the "leaves" of the people of God for there will be a time that the Lord will come and He will demand fruit (Mark 11:13-14). We were chosen and elected by God (just as Israel was) to bring forth fruit (John 15:16). The Lord is not looking for a superficial relationship with us but one of friendship and companionship. Father has called us to take up His part and do His will in the earth inasmuch that whatever we ask of Him it will be done in order for us to fulfill such a responsibility (John 15:14-16; 14:12-21; 1 John 3:21-23). God has made it all so very simple all we need to do is hunger and thirst after righteousness and we will be filled. All we have to do is to believe Gods report and the miraculous results of being the friends and witnesses of God will begin to manifest in our lives. He who has asked these things of us is also the one who supply the ability to do them if we are only willing and obedient.

15- The Pharisees left and discussed how that might snare Him by His words.

16- And they sent their disciples along with the Herodians to Him saying, Teacher we know that you are true and that you teach the way of God in truth and that you are not concerned about nor look upon the appearances of men.

17- Tell us then what you think- is it lawful to give taxes to Ceasar or not?

18- But Jesus knowing their wickedness said why do you hypocrites put me on trial?

19- Show me the tax money and they handed him a denarius.

20- And He said to them, Whose image and inscription is this?

21- They said to Him, Ceasar's. Then He said to them give to Ceasar the things that belong to Ceasar and the things of God to God.

22- They were amazed at what they heard and they left Him and went away.

23- On that same day Sadducees came to Him who say there is resurrection and they questioned Him.

24- Saying Teacher, Moses said if anyone should die without having children that his brother should marry his wife and raise up seed to his brother.

25- Now there were with us seven brothers and the first one who had married died and not having seed left his wife to his brother.

26- In like manner also the second then the third unto the seventh.

27- And last of all the woman died also.

28- Therefore in the resurrection which of the seven shall he be wife to? For all had her.

29- And Jesus answered them and said you are in error not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God.

30- For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are they given in marriage but they are as the angels of God.

31- But concerning the resurrection of the dead have you not read what was spoken to you by God saying,

32- I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead but of the living.

33- And the crowds hearing this were amazed at His teaching.

34- But the Pharisees hearing that he had silenced the Sadducees gathered unto Him.

35- And one of the doctors of the law questioned Him and said, testing Him,

36-Teacher which commandment is greatest in the law?

37- And he said to Jesus, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind⁸².

⁸² The essence of God is holiness and the essence of holiness is love. The whole duty of Gods people is to love Him with their whole being, this is holiness. The Shema was quoted twice daily by the Jews and summed up the devotion that they were to have for God. Jesus added the word mind to the Shema from Deuteronomy 6:5 which was implied in the Hebrew. "In Hebrew thought a person is not divided into various compartments, as is traditionally done in Greek philosophy, and together these terms summarize the totality of what a person really is. As one scholar notes: "Any one of them would have been sufficient (in terms of Hebrew anthropology) to denote the entirety of a man" (Newman, B. M., & Stine, P. C. (1992). A handbook on the Gospel of Matthew. Originally published: A translator's handbook on the Gospel of Matthew, c1988. UBS helps for translators; UBS handbook series (695). New York: United Bible Societies).

There are so many who would attempt to redefine our relationship with God by the dichotomization of man. The various attributes of man were not presented for us to identify some dimension of our being as having been excluded from the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. On the contrary these attributes of man were given to emphasis that every dimension of mans being is to be devoted to loving and serving God. The doctrine of men that argues that the soul and the mind were not

- 38- This is the first and the greatest commandment.
- 39- And the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
- 40- On these two commandments all of the law and the prophets hang.
- 41- And the Pharisees being assembled together Jesus questioned them.
- 42- Saying, what do you think of the Christ whose son is He? They said to Him, David's
- 43- He said to them, how is it then that David being in the Spirit called Him Lord saying,
- 44- The Lord said to my Lord sit on my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.
- 45- If then David called Him Lord how is it that He is his son?
- 46- And no one was able to answer Him a word nor dared anyone to question Him anymore from that day.

Chapter 23

- 1- Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples
- 2- Saying, the scribes and the Pharisees have set on Moses seat
- 3- Therefore everything that they tell you keep and do. But do not do after their works for they say and do not.
- 4- They bind heavy burdens that are hard to bear and lay them on the shoulders of men but they will not lift a finger to move them.
- 5- And all their works they do to be seen by men: they make broad their phylacteries and enlarge the borders of their garments.
- 6- They love their first place positions at supper and their front row seats in the synagogues.
- 7- And the salutations in the market-place and to be called by men Rabbi, Rabbi.
- 8- But you shall not be called Rabbi for one is your leader and that is Christ and you are all brethren.
- 9- And you may not call anyone on the earth your father for one is your Father who is in heaven.
- 10- Neither be called master for one is you Master, Christ.
- 11- But the greatest of you shall be called servant.
- 12- For whoever exalts himself shall be humbled and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
- 13- But woe to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites because you shut up the kingdom of heaven before men for you do not enter in and those who enter in you deny.
- 14- Woe to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites for you devour the house of the widow and and for a pretense make long prayers, because of this you shall receive more abundant judgment.

transformed leads to a great many errors that bring a reproach to the saving power of God and the glory that He has given us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. God has made our entire being holy: spirit, soul and body so that we may serve Him with all that is within us (1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Peter 1:9, 22; 2:25; Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Every dimension and compartment of our being is filled with the Holy Spirit and the glory of the life of Jesus (Hebrews 8:10; 10:16; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Ephesians 4:24). If we do not believe what God has done this for us and even worse steal from others the finished work of salvation we will never know its full blessings.

15- Woe to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites for you encompass sea and land to make one convert and when he has become so you make him twice the son of Gehenna that you are.

16- Woe to you blind guides say whoever shall swear by the temple it is nothing but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is debtor.

17- Fools and blind for which is greater the gold or the temple which sanctifies the gold?

18- And whoever swears by the altar it is nothing but whoever swears by the gift that is upon the altar is debtor.

19- Fools and blind! For which is greater the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?

20- He that swears by the altar swears by it and all things that are upon it.

21- And he that swears by the temple swears by it and by Him who dwells in it.

22- And he who swears by the heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

23- Woe to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites for you pay tithes of mint and dill and cumin and have put aside the more important issues of the law- judgment and mercy and faith. These are the things you should have done not neglecting the other.

24- Blind guides who strain out the gnat and yet swallow a camel.

25- Woe to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites because you clean the outside of the cup and dish but within they are full of robbery and no self control.

26- Blind Pharisees first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish that the outside may become clean.

27- Woe to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites for you are like white sepulchures which outwardly appear really beautiful but within are full of dead bones and all uncleanness.

28- Outwardly you appear to men to truly be righteous but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

29- Woe to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites for you build the sepulchures of the prophets and adorn the tombs of the righteous.

30- And you say if we had been in the days of our fathers we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

31- While you bear witness to yourselves that you are the son of those who murdered the prophets.

32- And you fill up the measure of your fathers.

33- Serpents, offspring of vipers how shall you escape the judgment of Gehenna

34- Behold because of this I send to you prophets and wise men and scribes and some of them you will kill and crucify and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and will persecute from city to city.

35- So that all of the righteous blood poured out upon the earth should come upon you; from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zecharias son of Barachias whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

36- I tell you for certain that all of these things shall come upon this generation.

37- Jerusalem, Jerusalem who kills the prophets and stones those who have been sent to her how often I would have gathered your children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings but you would not.

38- Behold your house is sent away desolate⁸³!

⁸³ There is no way into the kingdom of God but through Jesus Christ the Messiah. It does not matter whether you are a Jew or Gentile Jesus is the door and no man comes to the Father but through Him (Acts

39- For I say to you, From now on you will not see me until you say blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Chapter 24

- 1- And as Jesus was leaving and was going away from the temple His disciples came to Him pointing out the buildings of the temple.
- 2- But Jesus said to them, Do you not see all these things? I tell you with absolute certainty there shall not be one stone upon another stone which shall not be thrown down.
- 3- And as He was sitting upon the mount of Olives the disciples came to Him saying, Tell us when these things shall be and what is the sign of your coming and the end of the age?
- 4- And Jesus answering said to them beware that no one deceives you.
- 5- For many will come in my name saying I am the Christ and they will mislead many.
- 6- But you are about to hear of wars and rumors of wars see that you are not disturbed for it is necessary that all these things take place but the end is not yet.
- 7- For nation shall rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famine and pestilence and earthquakes in different places.
- 8- For all of these are the beginning of labor pains.
- 9- Then they will deliver you up to be afflicted and will kill you and you will be hated by all nations on account of my name.
- 10- And many will be offended and will betray one another and hate one another.
- 11- And many false prophets shall arise and lead many astray.
- 12- Because of the increase of iniquity the love of many will grow cold⁸⁴.

2:21,38; 14:12; John 10:9; 14:16; Romans 10:13)! Praise God for the nation of Israel and the descendants of Abraham and the house of David! Unfortunately, the leaders of the house of Israel rejected Jesus and for almost 1980 years the nation of Israel has been absent from fellowship with God. There have been many of the descendants of Abraham that have believed on Jesus. In fact, for the first 10 years the church was almost exclusively Jewish. All of the first century preachers were almost exclusively Jewish and over the centuries many Jews have continued to come to Christ Jesus their Savior. However, we must be very clear that there are not two covenants that justify men before God running in parallel, one for the nations and one for the house of Israel (Galatians 3:19, 23-25; 4:5; 5:1-6). The New Covenant has come and the Old has passed away (Hebrews 8:13). The teaching of the scripture is plain on this subject the First Covenant has been abolished (Ephesians 2:15; 2 Corinthians 3:11,13; Galatians 4:23-30).

Someone may say where then does the nation of Israel stand with God? Has God forgotten His promise to the house of Israel? No, God has purposed that the house of Israel shall be saved. We know that in the future God will plead with the nation of Israel and they will eventually recognize that Jesus is the Messiah the Savior of the world (Zechariah 12:10; 14:16-19; Revelation 1:7; 7:3-8; 11:1-8). Paul revealed how the nation of Israel was cut off because of their unbelief and that a national blindness fell upon them as a judgment from God (Romans 11 7-10, 20, 25; Acts 28:26-27; 2 Corinthians 3:14). Our Savior also pronounced the judgment of God against them because of their unbelief (Matthew 13:13-15; 21:43). Does this mean that God has ceased to deal with the Jewish people? No way, there is no difference now between Jew and Gentile. God would have all men repent and come to the knowledge of salvation (Romans 11:23; 2 Corinthians 3:16). The nation of Israel does have a future roll in the kingdom of God but it is a roll that they will live out under the rulership and reign of Christ Jesus (Matthew 19:28; Romans 11:12; Revelation 20:4).

⁸⁴ The bible tells us many things about the spiritual, social and political events of the future. The most important of these are the spiritual events that will unfold. If we are not mindful of the warnings and the signs we may be lead away from the truth that is in Christ Jesus. We must also recognize that some of these false prophets would have already come and be that much more careful that we only hold to that which has

14- And this good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a proof to all the nations and then the end will come⁸⁵.

been written in the bible. We can look throughout the history of the church and see that there have been many who have brought in doctrines that are not in direct keeping with the word of God and that there are even many denominations established on some of these unique ideas that produce a form of godliness but deny the power of godliness. We can see where not only did men attempt to turn the grace of God into lasciviousness in the days of Jude and say let us continue in sin that grace may abound but where there has been an ongoing attack to hold the redeemed of the Lord in the chains of unrighteousness (Jude 1:4; Romans 6:1). Even today we see where many hold the truth in unrighteousness and demand that we must sin more or less everyday (Romans 1:18). However, the foundation of God stands sure, everyone who names the name of the Lord departs from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19). Jesus delivered us from all iniquity but the spirit of antichrist works to place that iniquity upon us and demand that we submit to his demonic influence of sin (Titus 2:14). Yet, Jesus plainly revealed what he will say to the workers of iniquity, depart from me I never knew you (Matthew 7:23; 13:41; Luke 13:27).

The mystery of iniquity and the spirit of antichrist was already at work in the days of Paul but it will continue to get worse (2 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 John 4:1-2). Before the second coming of Jesus there will be a great falling away wherein those who profess the name of Jesus will give themselves over to every evil lust (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Paul described this falling away as perilous times and also spoke urgently by the Spirit of God regarding it (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Jude said that they will be like Cain who slew his brother because his brother was righteous and he was evil (Jude 1:11; 1 John 3:10-12). They will run after the example of Balaam who with a disobedient heart violated the will of God and the anointing so that he could make money. And just like Korah who rebelled against the word of the Lord and the leadership that God had established they fight against the authority of the church (Numbers 16:1-3). Of course we can look throughout the history of the church and see many teachings and beliefs that are different from the word of God. Many today know precious little about the moving of the Holy Ghost and the signs and wonders that Jesus demands of our lives (John 12:14; Mark 16:17-18; Luke 24:49; 2 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 1:23). How far can we drift from the faith that was once delivered unto the saints and still be right with God and hear those gracious words, "well done my good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21-23; Jude 1:3)? This we can no for sure that if we are deceived by the spirit of iniquity and allow sin to have dominion in our lives then we have a witness that we have been swept away by the spirit of antichrist (Romans 6:17-22).

⁸⁵ What is the good news that must be proclaimed if it is not "captives go free?" Whether it is deliverance from demon spirits or sickness and disease or the power of sin and death these are the things that Jesus proclaimed. When Paul was commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ he was given power to set men free "to open their eyes to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God" (Acts 26:18). Who are we to limit the expression of the gospel to what modern ministers know and understand. We can have no other example of what it means to proclaim the gospel than that of Jesus. All others in the New Testament may serve as examples as well but only in light of the fact that they were following the Master (1 Corinthians 11:1).

The good news that Jesus preached finds its meaning in "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me" (Luke 4:18a). The meaning of that is fully realized in all of the miracles and works of power which Jesus did when He set those who were in the prison of sin, sickness and disease free. The proof (Gr- marturion) that Jesus provided was the proclamation that drove out the demon spirits with a word and commanded the crippled to take up His beds and walk (Matthew 8:16; Mark 2:9; John 5:8). When Jesus sent out the 12 and then the 70 others also He told them to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God which He absolutely associated with healing the sick Luke 9:2; 10:9; Matthew 12:28).

Before Satan is allowed to have his way and work great deception in the earth God will have His people walking in the fullness of His gospel (Revelation 13:7,14; 12:12). James seems to refer to this in the use of "precious fruit" that Father has been waiting for and that must be revealed before the end will come. James says, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth and has long patience for it until he receives the early and latter rain." When we consider that the "precious fruit" that God is referring to is not only the harvest of souls produced by the rain of God but the perfect and fully matured fruit of ministry and relationship with Him then we become that much more personally responsible to participate in God's plan (Ephesians 4:12-13). Jesus said that He

- 15- Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (he who reads let him understand).
- 16- At that time those in Judea run into the mountains!
- 17- He who is on the housetop do not come down to take anything out of his house!
- 18- And he who is in the field do not turn about to take his garment.
- 19- And woe to those that are with child and to those that are nursing in those days.
- 20- And pray that your flight be not in winter nor on the sabbath.
- 21- For there shall be great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now nor ever shall be!
- 22- And unless there had been a shortening of those days there would have not been any flesh saved but because of the elect those days shall be shortened.
- 23- Then if anyone says, Behold here is the Christ or over here do not believe it.
- 24- For there will arise false prophets and false Christs and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible even the elect.
- 25- Behold I have foretold it to you!
- 26- Therefore if they say behold he is in the wilderness do not go there. Behold he is in the chambers believe it not.
- 27- For as the lightning comes from the east and appears as far as the west so shall the coming of the Son of Man.
- 28- For wherever the carcass is there the eagles will be gathered.
- 29- And immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.
- 30- And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in the heaven and then shall of the tribes of the land wail and they shall see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- 31- And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds from the uttermost reaches of heaven.
- 32- But learn a parable from the fig tree when its branches become tender and it puts forth its leaves you know that summer is near.
- 33- Even so also when you shall see all these things know that it is near even at the door.
- 34- Truly I say to you that generation shall not pass away until all these things be fulfilled.
- 35- The heavens and the earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away.
- 36- But concerning the day and the hour no one knows not even the angels in heaven but the Father only.
- 37- But as the days of Noah so shall it also be of the coming of the Son of Man.
- 38- For as they were in the days before the flood eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until they day that Noah entered into the ark.

had chosen us and ordained us to bring forth fruit and that the fruit would be revealed by "whatever you shall ask of the Father in my name He will give it to you" (John 15:16; 14:12-14; 1 John 3:21-22). These scriptures suggest that the end of the church age will not come until the people of God begin to function in the fullness of the ministry of Jesus Christ which God ordained for us to have.

When we begin to cry out for the Lord of the harvest to raise up laborers then we must be in expectation that God will release the same power and authority that was released to the disciples in Matthew 10:1 (Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 10:2; John 4:35). There are those who would say, it has already been released. Well then, be obedient to the Holy Spirit and walk in the same power and authority that Jesus did.

- 39- And they knew it not until the flood came and took them all away thus shall it also be of the coming of the Son of Man.
- 40- Then two will be in the field the one shall be taken and one shall be left.
- 41- Two women shall be grinding at the mill one shall be taken and one shall be left.
- 42- Therefore watch for you know not what hour your Lord shall come.
- 43- But know this that if the master of the house had known the time that the thief would come he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.
- 44- Wherefore also you be ready for in the hour that does not seem likely the Son of Man shall come.
- 45- Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom the Lord has set over His household to give them food in season.
- 46- Blessed is the servant whom the Lord shall find so doing when He comes.
- 47- Truly I tell you that He will set him over all that belongs to Him.
- 48- But if the evil servant shall say in his heart my Lord delays His coming.
- 49- And should begin to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with the drunken.
- 50- The Lord of that servant will come in a day which he does not expect and in an hour which he does not know.
- 51- And will cut him in two and his portion will be with the hypocrites there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Chapter 25

- 1- At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
- 2- And five of them were wise and five were foolish.
- 3- They who were foolish took their lamps but did not take oil with them.
- 4- But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
- 5- And the bridegroom tarried and they all became drowsy and slept.
- 6- But in the middle of the night there was a cry, Behold the bridegroom comes go forth to meet Him.
- 7- Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.
- 8- And the foolish said to the wise Give us some of your oil for our lamps are going out.
- 9- But the wise answered saying, No, otherwise we will not have enough but instead go to those who sell and buy for yourselves.
- 10- But as they went away to buy the bridegroom came and those that were ready went with Him to the wedding feast and the door was shut.
- 11- And afterwards the other virgins came also saying, Lord Lord open to us.
- 12- But He answering said, I tell you with the utmost certainty I do not know you.
- 13- Watch therefore for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man comes.
- 14 - For the (kingdom of heaven) is like a man who goes away on a journey: he called his servants and gave to them his possessions⁸⁶

⁸⁶ Every person who has been born of God has a responsibility in the kingdom of God to lay down their lives for the advancement of the gospel. We have been given both a local and a global responsibility. Unfortunately, few are willing to be obedient. In the name of supporting the work of the ministry, many

- 15- And to one he gave five talents and to another two and to another one to each according to his respective ability and then immediately departed from the country.
- 16- And he who had received five talents went out and worked with them and made five other talents.
- 17- In like manner he who had received the two gained another two.
- 18- But he who had received one went out and dug in the earth and hid his lord's money.
- 19- And after a long time the Lord of those servants came and settled the accounts⁸⁷.

turn to their own interests and goals - which consume the vast majority of their time. Consumed by earthly things, they are enslaved to their work and to their bills and have little time to really put their hand to the plow (Mark 4:19). They plan their vacations, yet seemingly have little regard or conviction about the mandate of God to go into all of the world. What everyone must hear is that our Heavenly Father will hold each one of us accountable for how we lived out His divine commands. If we believe that we are on fire for God and do not have a passion for the lost of the world, we are deceived. If we think that we can sit in church and be complainers who have one problem after another, and yet believe we are laying our lives down for the church, we have gone completely mad. The state that many call "on fire for God" is little more than lukewarm.

The Holy Spirit is here to show us things to come, but how many are as interested and as passionate about this as Daniel was? When Daniel realized that he was living in a crucial time, he set his heart to seek the Lord by fasting and prayer. He took personal responsibility for the plans and purposes of God in his generation. We must realize that we are responsible before God and man to know the day and the hour that we are living in. God wants to provide us with the divine revelation concerning the things that are to come, so that we can run with His strategies and have the urgency that we should have about the task. He will give us that insight, but we must be willing to take personal responsibility for the things of the kingdom of God as though there was no one else to do it. If we don't, then how can we say that we are the children of the day who know the times and the seasons in which we live? (1 Thessalonians 5:1-7).

We were not entrusted with sonship and divine authority to sit around in classrooms and teach each other a deeper revelation about God (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:6-7; Acts 1:6-8; 2 Corinthians 4:7). We have not been given the riches of the kingdom to spend our lives pursuing our own goals. We have been given a divine commission to stand before the nations of the world in the place of Christ Jesus, and make known to every creature that Christ Jesus is both God and King (2 Corinthians 5:20; Mark 16:15-17; John 20:21). We are to provide the answers that the world is seeking for, and bring the deliverance that only the name of Jesus can produce. The gospel of the kingdom and the work of the ministry is every person's responsibility - are you ready to give an account for what has been delivered to you? (Ephesians 4:12-14). Have you set your heart to seek the Lord and know specifically what you are supposed to be doing?

⁸⁷ The Lord Jesus has given everyone who will receive something very precious, His life. Each one of us are personally and individually called to come and dwell in Him. If we will come and abide as a branch in a vine then we will bring forth the fruits of this life and the Father will perfect us so that we may bring forth more fruits (John 15:2). Jesus who is that eternal life has made available this life of God in unlimited rivers of life flowing from the deepest part of the womb of our being (John 7:37-39). The life that we now have in Him and the life that we are commanded to live is the life of Christ demonstrated and modeled for us on the pages of the Bible. There is no life outside of Christ Jesus and those who are without Him are dead while they live. Those who have received His life have been entrusted with His goods and God demands increase and will bring us into account for the deeds that are done in this body (Eccles. 12:14; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Jesus described Himself in this story as one who had gone on a far journey and left all of His riches to His servants but then after a long time returns to bring them into account. What each of us must grasp is that the most important thing that has been entrusted to us is the life of God. The life of God is the eternal life, the undiminishing, immeasurable life of the Spirit. It is the gift of God, the treasure that we have in these earthen vessels, the sacred and glorious divine nature imparted to us through the new birth (John 3:3; 1 John 3:24; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Make no mistake it is sacred to the Father and the best and most valuable thing that He could give. It is the very life of Jesus supplied to anyone who will receive, created within each one by the miracle of salvation. It would be a mistake to reduce what God will hold us accountable for to anything less than the life of Christ.

20- And he who had received five talents came and brought to him another five talents saying lord you delivered to me five talents behold I have gained five other talents with them.

21- And the lord said to him well done good and faithful servant you have been faithful over a few things I will set you over many things enter into the joy of your lord!

22- And he who had received two talents also coming to him said, lord you delivered to me two talents behold I have gained another two talents besides them.

23- His lord said to him, Well done good and faithful servant you were faithful over a few things I will set you over many things enter into the joy of your lord.

24- And he who had received one talent also came to him saying, lord I knew that you were a hard man reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter.

25- And I was afraid and went away and hid your talent in the earth behold you may have your own.

26- And his lord answering him said you wicked and slothful servant you knew that I reaped where I did not sow and gathered where I did not scatter.

27- Therefore you should have put my money out to the money changers so that I should have received my own with interest at my coming.

28- Therefore take from him the talent and give it to him who has ten talents.

29- For everyone who has to him shall be given and he shall have great abundance but to him who has not even that which he has shall be taken from him.

30- And cast the useless servant into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

31- But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the holy angels with him then He will sit upon the throne of His glory.

32- And all of the nations shall be gathered before Him and He will separate them from one another as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33- And He will set the sheep on His right hand but the goats on His left.

34- Then will the king say to those on His right hand come blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you from the overthrow of the world.

35- For I hungered and you gave me to eat; I thirsted and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in.

36- Naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.

37- Then the righteous will answer saying, Lord when did we see you hungry and fed you or thirsting and gave you to drink?

The life of God should be so precious to us that we would go and sell all that we have that we might possess this pearl of great price (Matthew 13:46). It is a life that we may only realize when we are willing to loose our own life and no longer pursue our own selfish interest (Matthew 10:39;16:26; Mark 8:34; John 12:25). It is a life entrusted with all the divine nature and authority of God (John 1:12, 7:21-23; Ephesians 2:6; 6:10). To make the tragic mistake and squander this life on earthly pursuits will most certainly meet with a horrific end. God demands increase and the increase that we should pursue is the fullness of measure of the maturity of the ministry of Christ. In value of the life that He has given of virtue and purity our hearts should spring to the call of giving all diligence to making our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10). Our hearts should pant as the deer for the water brook our souls should hunger and thirst to be filled with all the fullness of these things that God has provided for us through the riches of His grace. To neglect so great of salvation would rightly meet with the strongest disapproval and condemnation (Matthew 25:26,30; Hebrews 2:3; 4:1).

- 38- And when did we see you a stranger and too you in or naked and clothed you?
39- And when did we see you sick or in prison and came to you?
40- And the king will answer and say to them, Truly I tell you that when you do it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me.
41- And then he shall say to those at his left depart from me you cursed into the eternal fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels⁸⁸.
42- For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink.
43- I was a stranger and you did not take me in; naked and you did not cloth me; sick and in prison and you did not visit me.
44- Then they will answer Him and say, Lord when did we see you thirsting or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not minister to you?
45- Then He will answer them saying, I tell you truly in that you did not to it to one of the least you did it not to me.
46- And these will go away into eternal punishment⁸⁹ but the righteous into eternal life.

⁸⁸ The indication that Jesus gives is that hell was made for the devil and his angels. However, it is also certain that those who refuse the saving Grace of God that is only found in Christ Jesus will also be cast into this eternal judgment of fire. There is not much information in the Bible concerning the “devils angels.” In fact, of the 302 times that angels are mentioned in the Bible only eight of those times are evil angels mentioned (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 9:11; 12:7, 9; 14:15). There are also three additional times in the New Testament that we may assume that the devils angels are being referred to, Romans 8:38, Galatians 1:8 and Ephesians 6:12. There are several things that we do know about these evil angels: 1- The fate of these angels are sealed. 2- Some of them are already bound in hell (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). 3- Michael and his angels will fight against the devil and his angels and they will be cast into the earth during the tribulation (Revelation 12:7,9). Although we know that Satan has no more power over the saints, we are still in a battle against him and his angels (John 12:31; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Ephesians 6:11-12). We have been given authority to drive back and destroy every work of Satan in the earth whether it comes in the form of sin, sickness or disease. In fact, God desires that we even defeat Satan in the realms of death by raising the dead to life again. Finally, there are two other terms used in the Bible that refer to angels, sons of God and stars (Genesis 6:2,4; Job 1:6, 2:1; 38:7 Isaiah 14:12-13; Daniel 8:10).

⁸⁹ It seems today that many do not want to hear about eternal judgment; but regardless, it is a certainty that each person will soon face. Are you ready to give an account to God for your life? Based upon your obedience to God, you will either go into an eternal punishment or into an eternal life.

Jesus was not shy nor reluctant to talk about the eternal consequences of the deeds and actions of mankind. He often spoke of hell and the eternal judgment that awaited those who were unwilling to obey God. Even though there are those who would attempt to dilute the message of eternal judgments, and almost do away with hell all together; it is still a living reality, and as much a part of the truth of God as the message of salvation. There are those who will say that so long as you believe that Jesus is the Christ, you will not need to worry about hell; but the fact is the devils believe and tremble, and yet they are still hell-bound. Jesus made it very clear, over and over again, that obedience to the will of God would be what made the difference between heaven and hell (Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:47; 1 John 2:17; James 1:22-23; James 1:25). Make no mistake: this is not a "good works"-based salvation; this is about receiving a new heart and a new spirit, and then coming under the rulership of the Holy Spirit, and doing the will of the Father from the heart.

Jesus described hell as a furnace of fire, a place of outer darkness where there would be torment and weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12; Matthew 13:42,50; Matthew 22:13; Matthew 24:51; Matthew 25:30; Luke 16:23-25; Luke 16:28). Those who would not bring forth good fruit, or who were like chaff, would be cast into the fire (Matthew 3:10,12; Matthew 13:40; Luke 3:9,17; John 15:6). Anyone who called his brother a fool would be in danger of hell fire (Matthew 5:22). Those who participate in wickedness are going to be thrown into the fires of hell, unless they repent/change (Matthew 5:29-30, Matthew 18:8-9; Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-46). We are commanded to fear God, who has the power to

Chapter 26

- 1- And after Jesus had finished all these sayings He said to His disciples.
- 2- You know that in two days the Passover will take place and the Son of Man will be delivered up and crucified.
- 3- Then the chief priest were gathered together along with the scribe and the elders of the people in the court of the high priest who was called Caiaphas.
- 4- And they took counsel together in order that they might by deception seize Jesus and kill Him.
- 5- But they said not during the feast lest there should be an uproar among the people.
- 6 Now Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the Leper.
- 7 There came to Him a woman having a very costly alabaster flask of ointment and poured it on His head while He reclined at the table.
- 8- But His disciples were very upset when they saw it saying, what a waste!
- 9 For this ointment could have been sold for much and been given to the poor.
- 10 But Jesus knowing this said why do you cause trouble for this woman? For she has done for me is a good work.
- 11 For you will always have the poor with you but you will not always have me.
- 12 But when she poured this ointment upon my body she did it for my burial.
- 13 I tell you for certain that where ever this gospel shall be preached in all the world what she has done shall also be spoken of.
- 14- Then one of twelve who was called Judas Iscariote went to the chief priest.
- 15- Said, what will you give me and I will deliver Him up to you and they offered him thirty pieces of silver.
- 16- And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.
- 17- Now on the first day of unleaven bread the disciples came to Jesus saying to Him, where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the passover?
- 18- And He said go into the city unto somebody and say to him the teacher says my time is near I will keep the Passover with you, with my disciples.
- 19- And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.
- 20- And the evening having come he reclined at the table with the twelve.
- 21- And as they were eating he said, truly I tell you that one of you will betray me.
- 22- And being exceedingly grieved each of them began to say to Him, Is it me Lord?
- 23- But He answering said, He who dips his hand with me in the dish he will betray me.

destroy both body and soul in hell (Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:5). Make no mistake: those who reject Christ Jesus and the message of salvation will suffer the damnation of hell (Matthew 23:33; Mark 16:16).

Jesus preached as much on the consequence of sin and its eternal judgment as He did on righteousness and its eternal reward. To think there is one and not the other is to believe a lie. To think that there is not a consequence for sin is to mock God (Galatians 6:7-8; Romans 6:23; James 1:15; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:16; 1 Corinthians 15:56; James 5:20). Hell is a terrible reality - but sin is as well. We must come to terms with the fact that more than the thought of hell being horrific to man, sin is a greater horror to God. God has made a way of escape for all men! Today if we will hear His voice, we must flee from the wrath that is to come. If mankind instead chooses sin and iniquity over the ways of truth and life, and accuses God of being unjust; then it is because of a stubborn heart. These people in reality would rather have the world of iniquity and torment that now exists imposed upon all creation forever. Praise God it will not be; because the King of Righteousness Christ Jesus will come and reign supremely over all creation!

24- Indeed the Son of Man goes as it has been written concerning Him but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed it would have been good if that man had not been born.

25- And Judas who betrayed Him responding said Is it me Rabbi. He said to him you have said.

26- And as they were eating Jesus took the bread and blessing it broke and gave it to His disciples and said, Take eat this is my body.

27- And taking the cup and giving thanks He gave it to them saying, All of you drink

28- For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is poured out for many for the removal of sins⁹⁰.

⁹⁰ Our salvation rests solely in the person of Jesus Christ. It was through His death that He poured out an unlimited supply of forgiveness - not only for our sins but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2; Matthew 18:21-22). His body and blood are the elements of His sacrifice for our sins. It was not just by His life that we live, but also by His death. For the New Covenant is established by the death of the testator, and remission of sins is granted through the blood which represents His death (Hebrews 9:16). When we consider the activity of communion in which we partake of these tokens of the blood and body of Jesus, we are testifying of our personal application of His blood to our lives and of our faith in the blood of Jesus (Romans 3:25). Through His blood, we are granted repentance and given forgiveness of sins. Through His blood we are made a new creation in which Christ Jesus dwells. Through the body of His flesh we are presented holy, unrebukeable, and unreprouvable (Colossians 1:22). Communion is one of the most obvious applications of the blood of Jesus to our lives, but certainly must not be the only way in which His blood is applied. Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and He does this by His blood (1 John 1:7; 2:1). But it is by our faith in His blood that we receive the forgiveness which He supplies by His blood.

We must recognize that all of our communion and fellowship with God is found only in the body and blood of Jesus. When we worship or when we pray, any interaction that we have with God is through the body and blood of Jesus. Our participation in the communion (of eating and drinking the elements that represent His body and blood) is an acknowledgement of the means by which we were made acceptable to God, and are allowed to enter into His Holy Presence. Therefore, just as the High Priest would take the blood of the sacrifice and come into the Holy of Holies, we take the blood of Jesus in our day-to-day and minute-by-minute interaction with Him, and come with all boldness into the Holiest place of all (Hebrews 10:19).

When we partake of the juice that represents the blood of Jesus, we are testifying of how the life of Jesus came into us. We are testifying of how our sins were washed away and how they are removed (if we commit such an act again). When we partake of communion, it is a testimony of how we were sprinkled with the blood and brought into the relationship of the New Covenant, which takes away sin and creates the life of Jesus within us (1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 10:22; Exodus 24:8; Hebrews 9:19). It is the testimony of how He dwells in us and how we dwell in Him and live by Him (John 6:56-57). Just as in the first Passover in which the blood was applied to the house of those who put their trust in God's salvation, the blood of Jesus our Passover Lamb is applied to our lives - and we continually live in Him and by His blood (1 Corinthians 5:7; Exodus 12:7).

Jesus served this communion to His disciples, and established the practice of the communion service when He said: "This is my body, take it and eat it," and "This is the blood of the new covenant; drink it all" (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25). This was not to be done just once, but often. Unlike the Passover celebration which took place only once a year, this communion was to be continually observed. Although there was no clear definition of how often this kind of communion service should take place, Paul simply said that as often as you do it you show His death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26). The larger issue that must be understood is our need to recognize that communion extends beyond the table of a communion service, and it is a token and a reminder of how we are to continually live. It sets the tone for the quality and intimacy of our interaction with Christ Jesus. The life of Jesus and His blood are inseparable, and all our life in God is found in oneness with Christ Jesus (John 15:4-5). Just as Jesus lived

29- But I tell you that I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the day when I drink it anew with you in the kingdom of my Father.

30- And having sung a hymn they went out to the mount of Olives.

31- At that time Jesus said to them all of you shall go astray from me tonight because it is written, smite the shepherd and the sheep of the flock shall be scatter⁹¹.

32- But after I am risen I will go before you into Galilee.

33- And Peter replying to Him said, Even if everyone is offended by you I will never be offended.

34- Jesus said to him I tell you for certain that tonight before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.

35- Peter said to Him, Even if I should die with you there is no way that I will deny you. Likewise said also all of the disciples.

36- Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane and he said to the disciples sit here while I go over there and pray.

37- And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee he began to be grieved and deeply distressed.

38- Then He said to them, My soul is deeply grieved even unto death remain here and watch with me.

39- And having gone a little ways He fell upon His face praying and said my Father if it is possible let this cup pass from me but not as I will rather as you.

40- And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping and said to Peter, were you unable to watch with me just for one hour?

41- Watch and pray that so that you do not enter into temptation for indeed the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

42- Again a second time He went away and prayed saying, My Father if this cup cannot pass from me except I drink it- Your will be done.

43- And He came again and found them sleeping for their eyes were heavy.

44- And He left them and went away again praying a third time saying the same thing.

45- Then He came to His disciple and said to them, sleep on now and take your rest for now the hour has come and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46- Rise up lets go for now he who betrays me is near.

47- And as He was still speaking behold Judas one of the twelve came and with him a great crowd from the chief priest and elders with swords and sticks.

48- And he who betrayed Him gave them a sign saying, whoever I kiss He is it- seize Him.

49- And he quickly coming up to Jesus said, greetings Rabbi and kissed Him.

50- But Jesus said to him, friend for what reason have you come. Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

51- And behold one of those with Jesus drew a sword, stretched for his hand and struck the servant of the high priest and took off his ear.

52- Then Jesus said to him put away your sword for everyone who uses the sword shall die by the sword.

by His union with the Father, we live by our union with the Lord Jesus. Our union with and through the life of Christ Jesus was made possible by His blood, and by our reception of it and faith in it (John 6:53).

⁹¹ Jesus did not need for all to stand for Him, He stood for all! Jesus did not come to be loved and accepted by everyone He came to show the love of God to everyone.

53- Don't you realize that I am now able to call upon my Father and he will send me more than twelve legions of angels.

54- But then how should the scriptures be fulfilled!

55- At that time Jesus said to the crowds, are you come out against a robber with swords and sticks to take me? I sat daily with you in the temple teaching and you did not seize me.

56- But this has all come to pass that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled, then the disciples forsaking Him ran away.

57- But they who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest where the scribes and elders were gathered together.

58- And Peter followed Him from afar unto the court of the high priest and entered in and sat with the officers to see the end.

59- And the chief priest and the elders and the whole sanhedrim sought false evidence against Jesus so that they might put Him to death.

60- But found none even though many false witnesses came forward they found none. Then at last two false witnesses came forward.

61- This man said I am able to destroy the temple of God and in three days build it.

62- And the high priest stood up and said to Him, Have you no response to what these witness say against you?

63- But Jesus was silent the the high priest responding said to Him, I command you by the Living God that you tell us if you are the Christ the Son of God!

64- Jesus said to him, you have said it, moreover I tell you that after this you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the power and coming with the clouds of heaven.

65- Then the high priest rent his garments saying, He has blasphemed! Why would we have any more need of witnesses. For now you have heard His blasphemy.

66- What do you think, And they answering said He deserves to be put to death.

67- Then they spat in His face and buffeted Him and some struck Him with the palm of their hands.

68- Saying prophesy to us Christ, who is it that struck you?

69 But Peter was sitting in the court and a maid came to him saying you were also with Jesus the Galilean.

70- But he denied it before them all saying, I do not know what you are talking about.

71- And when he went out into the porch another maid saw him and said to those who were there, This man was also with Jesus the Nazarene.

72- And again he denied with an oath- I know not the man.

73- But after a little while those who stood by came to Peter said, Truly you are also of them for even your speech reveals it.

74- Then he began to curse and to swear, I do not know the man and immediately the rooster crowed.

75- And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, before the rooster crows you will deny me three times and he went out and wept bitterly.

1- When the morning came the chief priest and the elders took counsel of the people against Jesus so that they might put Him to death.

2 And binding Him they led Him away and delivered Him up to Pontius Pilate the governor.

3- Then Judas who betrayed Him seeing that He was condemned, regretted what he had done and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priest and elders.

4- Saying, I sinned betraying innocent blood but they said what is that to us, you keep it!

5- And throwing down the silver in the temple he went away and hung himself.

6- And the chief priest taking the silver said, is no lawful to put them into the treasury since it is blood money.

7- And having taken counsel they bought with them the field of the potter for a burial ground for strangers.

8- As a result the field was called the Field of Blood unto this day.

9- Then that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled saying, And I took the thirty pieces of silver the price of Him who a price was set on the price set for the sons of Israel,

10- And gave them for the field of the potter according as the Lord directed me.

11- But Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him saying, are you the king of the Jews? And Jesus said to Him you said it.

12- And when He was accused by the chief priest and the elders He said nothing.

13- Then Pilate said to Him, Don't you hear these many things that they have witnessed against you.

14- And He did not even answer him one word so that the governor was exceedingly amazed.

15- Now at the feast it was customary for the governor to release one prisoner desired by the multitude.

16- And they had a notable prisoner called Barabbas.

17- Therefore being gathered together Pilate said to them whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?

18- He knew that through even they had handed Him over.

19- Now as he was sitting on the judgment seat his wife sent a message saying let there be nothing between you and this righteous man for I have experienced many things in a dream today about Him.

20- But the chief priest and the elders had persuaded the crowds that they should beg for Barabbas and should destroy Jesus.

21- And the governor answering them said, which of the two do you want me to release to you and they said Barabbas.

22- Pilate said to them what then should I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all said to him, let Him be crucified.

23- And the governor said, Why, what evil did He commit? But they cried out the more saying let Him be crucified.

24- Now Pilate seeing that he availed nothing but rather an uproar grew; he took water and washed his hands before the crowd saying I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man, its your responsibility.

25- And all the people replied saying, His blood be on us and on our children.

26- Then he released Barabbas to them but Jesus having been scourged was handed over to be crucified.

27- Then the governors soldiers took Jesus to the praetorium and all the divisions gathered against Him.

28- And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe around Him.

29- And having platted a crown of thorns they put it on His head and a reed in His right hand and bowing before Him they mocked Him saying hail king of the Jews!

30- And they spit on Him and took the reed and struck him on His head.

31- And when they had mocked Him they took off the robe and put His own garments back on Him and led Him away to crucify Him.

32- And as they went they found a man, a Cyrenaeen by the name of Simon- they compelled him to carry his cross.

33- And having come to a place called Golgotha which is called the place of the skull,

34- they gave him vinegar mixed with gall to drink but tasting it he refused to drink it.

35- And having crucified Him they divided His garment and casted a lot so that which the prophet said might be fulfilled, they divided my garments among themselves and for my apparel they cast a lot.

36- And they sat down and kept a watch over Him there.

37- And they put in writing over His head His accusation: This is Jesus the king of the Jews.

38- Then two thieves were crucified with Him one at His right and one on the left.

39- And those passing by blasphemed Him shaking their heads

40- and saying, you who can destroy the temple and in three days build it save yourself! If you are the Son of God come down from the cross!

41- And also in like manner the chief priest mocking Him along with the scribes and the elders said

42- He saved other but He is not able to save to save Himself. If He is the king of Israel let Him come down now from the cross and we will believe Him.

43- He trusted on God so if He would have Him let Him deliver Him now, for he said I am the Son of God.

44- And in the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him reproached Him.

45- Now from the sixth hour darkness was over all of the land until the ninth hour.

46- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice saying, Eli, Eli lama sabachtani which is to say, My God My God why have you forsaken me.

47- Then some of those who were standing there who heard this said He calls for Elijah

48- And immediately one of them ran and took a sponge and filled it with vinegar and put it on a reed and gave Him to drink.

49- But the others said leave it, lets see if Elijah will come and save Him.

50- And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.

51- And behold: the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom, and the earth quaked and the rocks exploded⁹²

⁹² The body of Jesus was as a veil between God and man. His life was as a door, through which all mankind would be allowed to step into the forbidden presence and glory of God. The veil of the temple that separated the holy place from the most holy place represented the veil between heaven and earth and between God and man. There was no one who could transcend that veil, except one man who had received a special anointing from God to do so - and that only once a year (Leviticus 16:2,13,17,34; Exodus 25:22).

- 52- (And the tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep arose.
- 53- And after He had arisen they went forth out of the tombs and entered into the holy city and appeared to many.)
- 54- But the centurion and those who kept the watch over Jesus having seen the earthquake and the things that took place feared greatly saying truly this was the Son of God.
- 55- Now there were many women who had followed Jesus and ministered to him from Galilee looking on from far away.
- 56- Among who was Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses mother and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.
- 57- And when evening was come a rich man came Josph by name from Arimathea who himself was a disciple of Jesus.
- 58- He had gone to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus which then Pilate commanded that the body be given to him.
- 59- And Joseph took that body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth.
- 60- And he placed it in his new tomb which he had hewn in a rock and rolled a great stone as a door to the tomb and went away.
- 61- And there was Mary Magdalene and the other Mary there sitting opposite of the sepulchre.
- 62- Now on the day after the preparation the chief priest and the Pharisees were gather to Pilate.
- 63- Saying, lord we remember hat the deceiver said while he was living that after three days, "I will arise."
- 64- Command therefore that the sepulchre be secured until the third day lest His disciples come by night and steal Him and say to the people He is risen from the dead amd the final deception be worse than the first.
- 65- And Pilate said to them you have a guard go and make it secure as you know.
- 66- And they went and secured the sepulchre sealing the stone along with a guard.

Inside the veil was the dwelling place of the Most High, representing His throneroom in heaven. The announcement had been made that no man was allowed to come in; the voice of God could still be heard echoing from Mount Sinai: "Do not come near" (Exodus 3:5; 19:12; Hebrews 12:18).

When Jesus went to the cross, He took all of the sins of the world upon Himself and died (1 Peter 2:24; John 1:29; 1 John 2:2). He paid the just penalty for sin, and in His death the door was opened for all mankind to come and behold the glory of the Father. The sin that separated us from God was removed by this one act of grace. Peace would be sounded out to everyone, to those both near and far away: "Come on in;" into a fellowship with God! (Ephesians 2:17). A way has now been made into the Holiest place of all by the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 9:8). A new and living way has been provided for anyone who will come, through the body of the Lord. Like a veil, His body was torn in two; and the Holy Ghost and the Father said to all men everywhere, both Jew and Gentile: "Come on in and behold the glory" (Hebrews 10:19-20). The middle wall of partition has been broken down, and Father stands with His hands extended with great love for all! (Ephesians 2:14). The cherubims with their flaming swords, who guarded the way and prevented man from stepping back into the paradise of communion with God, have been removed (Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18; 26:31; 2 Chronicles 3:14). God tore the heavens open and came down - He destroyed the enemy of our soul through Jesus' death on the cross so that now we may live forever! (Isaiah 64:1; Hebrews 2:14; Genesis 3:15).

Chapter 28

- 1- Now late on the the Sabbath at tusk towards the first day of the week came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.
- 2- And behold there was a great earthquake for an angle of the Lord descended coming out of heaven rolled away the stone from the door and was sitting upon it.
- 3- His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white like snow.
- 4- And those who kept guard trembled from fear of him and were as dead men⁹³.
- 5- And the angel responded to the women and said, Fear not I know you seek Jesus who was crucified.
- 6- He is not here for He is risen and also he said, Come see the place where the Lord laid.
- 7- Go now quickly and say to His disciples that He has risen from dead and He goes before you into Galilee there you shall see Him, behold I have told you.
- 8- And quickly leaving the tomb with fear and great joy they ran to tell the disciples.
- 9- Now as they were going to tell it to His disciples then suddenly Jesus met them saying, Rejoice! And they came to Him and hugged His feet and worshipped Him.
- 10- Then Jesus said to them fear not, Go and tell my brethren that they are to go into Galilee and they shall see me there.
- 11- And as they left behold some of the guard went into the city and reported to the chief priest everything that happened.
- 12- And they were assembled with the elders and counsel who took a lot of money and gave it to the soldiers.
- 13- Saying, say that His disciples came and stole Him at night while we were asleep.
- 14- And if the governor hears about this we will win him over and make you safe.
- 15- And they took the money and did as they were told and the report spread among the Jews until this present time.
- 16- But the eleven disciples went into Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had appointed.
- 17- And seeing Him they worshipped Him but some doubted.
- 18- And Jesus came speaking to them, saying: “All authority⁹⁴ has been given to me⁹⁵ in heaven and on earth.

⁹³When an angel shows up men are knocked out with the power of his presence. Its like shutting down the power supply- the overwhelming presence of the divine leaves a person pretty helpless (Daniel 10:8). When Christ Jesus shows up in His glory how much more the profound effect. When Paul encountered Jesus he fell to the ground (Acts 9:4). When John was in the presence of Jesus he was like a dead man (Rev. 1:17). I love the presence of Jesus!

⁹⁴ The authority that Jesus displayed in His earthly ministry was like none that had ever been seen before. He cast out devils with his word, and commanded the stormy winds and waves - and they obeyed. There was no sickness or disease that could defy His authority. He was God manifested in the flesh, baptized in the Holy Ghost; and nothing was impossible for Him. He came to destroy the works of the devil and through His death he stripped him of all his power to torment and afflict men (Hebrews 2:14; John 12:31; 16:11; Colossians 2:15). Yet when He stepped into His resurrected glory, an even greater authority began. All authority in heaven and earth was given to Him when God raised Him up from the dead and set Him at His own right hand.

Jesus took hold of His authority and poured it out upon His church. The Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of grace and power, came to testify that all authority in heaven and earth was placed in the name of Jesus (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-21). The unlimited and absolute authority of Jesus has been given to us through His name and our biggest need is to come to know and truly understand that this is true

19- Go make disciples⁹⁶ of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

20- Teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you⁹⁷ and realize that I am with you every day until the end of the age, Amen!

(Ephesians 1:18-19). Christ Jesus is looking for someone to believe that He has all authority on earth and cooperate with Him in the realms of that faith. In His name and through faith in His name, every power in heaven and earth must obey. With the authority of His name we are to set the captives free and make disciples out of nations (Acts 26:18; Matthew 28:19). Through the name of Jesus every power must obey from governments to death and pain. Every power unlike God must flee away when the authority of Jesus' name is believed upon and applied.

⁹⁵ The Father delivered all things to Jesus and placed all of creation in His hand as the One who would be the Savior of the world (Matthew 11:27; John 3:35; 13:3). As the Son of Man (God made flesh) Jesus was given the absolute power to judge everything and to give eternal life to as many as the Father would give Him (John 5:27; 17:2). Furthermore when Jesus had by Himself purged our sins He was exalted to the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:2; Ephesians 1:20). At the right hand of the Father He was glorified with the same glory that He had always had prior to the incarnation (John 17:5; 1:18; 10:30; Hebrews 1:3; 1 John 1:2; Colossians 1:17). Yet now as man's redeemer He was given a name of authority and power above all those authorities that had claimed a sovereignty over mankind (Ephesians 1:21-22; Philippians 2:9-10). All the powers that had attempted to alienate man from God are now subject to Him. He was set in authority above all principalities and powers, might and dominions so that every influence of death and the demonic would have to loose mankind through the authority of His name Acts 3:16; 26:18; Mark 16:17).

The One who had made the worlds had always had dominion over it but when He became the Lamb of God He laid all of that aside (Philippians 2:7; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Hebrews 2:9; John 17:5). In His life and death and resurrection He overthrew the powers of darkness and in His coronation as the redeemer and Savior no power could usurp its authority over His degree for man. Jesus vested this authority in anyone who would believe. He commissioned us to be His representatives upon this earth. We are to demand and even command that His will be done! As truly as Joshua had been given a commission of conquest to dispossess the inhabitants of Canaan even so we have been given a commission of conquest to cast out every demon spirit and power that is contrary to the will and love of God. We have been given the authority of Jesus and endued with the power from on High to accomplish this task. The name of Jesus has supreme authority over all things. Along with this investment of authority the greater One, Christ Jesus, dwells in us so that we find ourselves more than conquerors in every endeavor of faith as we participate in the advancement of the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

⁹⁶ The great commission demands that we make disciples of all those that we reach. Each person has this responsibility anything less will not do. Paul demonstrated for us how this is supposed to work. He and Barnabas went from city to city preaching the gospel and those who believed they made disciples of them (Acts 14:20-21). To "make disciples" commands a kind of evangelism that does not stop after someone makes a confession of faith. Jesus model this for His disciples and therefore we can be certain that they understood that they were to reproduce what He did and then watch the multiplication as they taught others to reproduce the same. In view of this each person should reach to God to give them a miracle of just one. As they do they will discover two then three as the Lord adds unto the church (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

We must face a lost world not on the basis of our own authority but by the authority of Christ Jesus. We must not look to ourselves but rather to the mighty power of the One who has commissioned us and given to us the authority of His name which is greater than all other authorities. The faith which is by Christ Jesus will not only move mountains it will set the captives free from their sin, sickness and disease.

⁹⁷ While it is true that every command of Jesus, of the Law and the prophets can be comprehended within the command to love one another we still must recognize that there are more than 800 commands in the New Testament and some have counted as many as 1050. The commands of Jesus and His description of the conduct and nature of those belonging to the kingdom of God can be number up to 65 in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 alone. We must recognize that this is not the letter of the Law that kills but the spirit and life of the words of Jesus Christ, our creator and redeemer. God desires that we grow from newborn babes into the fullness of the measure of Christ maturity (Ephesians 4:13; 1 Peter 2:2). To remain as babes and by

neglect fail to mature in Christ is a dangerous position that leaves one vulnerable to every device of Satan (Ephesians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:3; 5:12-14).

Equally there is a significant list of fruits or outcomes that should be evident in the life of those who are of God. Being taught of God has brought us into a relationship with the Lord that teaches us to abide in Christ Jesus (1 John 2:27). Choosing to live our lives in Christ Jesus will result in all of these things pertaining to the life and will of God being revealed in our lives (Romans 8:4; 2 Peter 1:4). There is no greater life than the life of walking in the Spirit and being filled with all the wonders of the presence and blessings of God. Obedience to Christ Jesus causes us to live in a realm of faith, which will produce the works of God in our lives. Allowing the word of God to rule over our lives through the teachings of the Lord Jesus causes us to leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ and fully mature in God (Hebrews 6:1). Obeying the commands of Jesus is the same as allowing the word of God to abide in our hearts- a word that gives us authority over sin and the devil (1 John 2:14, 3:9; John 1:12; Luke 10:19; 1 Peter 1:23).