

TREASURE IN THE FIELD

(A Variety of Subjects)

One Baptism

«one faith, one Lord, one baptism»

(*Eph. 4:5*)

The Bible displays different baptisms

The words baptism, baptize (Gr. *baptizō, bapto*) mean: washing: to wet completely; to dye a garment. Spiritually the word refers to the change of quality or properties of the thing or person.

Baptisms that use water symbolically to portray the power of God to cleanse us Spiritually i.e. invisibly: making us acceptable to live with God forever. Other verses of the Bible use the word baptism to display the invisible power of God that produces visible results from the invisible reservoirs of God's Power. The Law and the baptisms related to it, lead us as a tutor, taking us from the visible to the invisible things not seen except through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God: Rom 8:16; Gal 3:23-25; Hbr 4:12, 11:7: Faith is the ultimate resource for God's power that cleanses and sanctifies us from sin, carnality, and the base for our growth in His plan; this all comes through the Power of the Holy Spirit i.e. from God: Rom 1:16-17; 1Cr 6:11; Gal 2:16, 3:2-14, 5:22; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Tim 4:1. Other baptisms display the power of God that produce visible results that affect us and others with invisible and eternal consequences: Acts 2:1-4, 11:15-16: these results that are recognized and visible in the Scriptures through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, Our Comforter: Jn 14:26 (the word comforter/helper, in the Greek, implies an intimate teacher-student relationship).

Washing The Feet

It could be that there is nothing more important than washing the feet. We can maintain almost every form of good hygiene above the ankle and be vibrant but if we fail to maintain good hygiene below the ankle it would eventually affect the whole rest of the body: 1Cor 12:26. Sooner or later walking would be increasingly difficult because of infection and all the related complications; not to mention the obnoxious smells that would develop around us and others. It gets to the point where the person infected with the problem notices less and less the smell and more and more feel the pain related to confinement that limited mobility produces in us; whereas the people in our periphery are more and more aware of the smell and begin to have less and less concern for those of us who are infected; others just wanting to keep their distance. This distance makes them feel safe from what seems to them as being instability and doubt. When God is making it evident that we have infections in the spiritual sense it can seem to be a confusing time for us.

Problems with the feet are one of the easiest infirmities of the body to prevent. Yet once falling into the advanced stages of infection; even if the condition clears up there is a greater likelihood of relapse; the habits of the past can be the flaw that starts the problem all over again. There are a wide range of infections affecting the feet that all produce different types of smells. Shortly before our Lord's sufferings and departure to heaven: Jn 13:1, He girded Himself for work and proceeded to wash the disciple's feet: Jn 13:5-17. When the Lord came to Peter and refusing to cooperate, the Lord informed Peter that He would have no dealing with him unless he submitted to this washing, and of course we know the outcome of the story. In our Spiritual walk it is inevitable that our feet will be soiled by a missed step here and there, these missed steps when unnoticed produce division. Spiritually this condition is passed from one Generation to the next and for a time can go largely unnoticed or at least these problems being accepted as the norm.

The idea spiritually is that we get used to dirty feet and nobody notices it anymore until the infection advances. Then we feel a sense of limited mobility that many would like to break free of if they could. Dirt built up on the feet in the early stages is more noticeable to other people and not as much so to the persons or groups having the problem. These problems represent accumulation of the defilements related to the [world;] and realize this: it was inevitable that this would happen. The Church has an active force against it; this force is determined to pervert our way: 1Tim 4:1. This attack of Satan against the body of Christ can not reach above the ankle: Gen 3:15. Satan is able to bit at the heal in the worst case and his defilements may seem OK to the individual or group having it but appears repugnant to others not having that particular problem; but certainly we have our own problems too.

Truth can never divide the church; Truth can only divide believers from the unbelievers, and this is a good thing. The things that divide believers from believers is deception and deceit, the very things that stress our relationships with God. Erroneous concepts divide true believers from the harvest/elect of God/the standing grain. God's gifts don't go into the realm of the bazaar and things that can't be confirmed; these things only producing speculation. We have come to the point where there can be no [truly unified] effort to mobilize for the Gospel. Here is the major point: the Lord was requiring the Apostles to wash each other's feet; this enabling close inspection and proper cleansing; but this is to have a symbolic meaning of spiritual cleanliness: Jn 13:10-11. This relates to what pastors should be doing for each other. Not any group, or any one of us for that matter, is going to have all the answers: 1Cor 10:12. But collectively we do, because the body is one and there will come a time when we need each other to find our way back to the truth. Any person or group thinking they are right is caught in the very spirit of division. Pastors should be washing each others feet/heart. This is reformation; deciding what the scriptures mean using the scriptures and not relying on old witnesses/ commentaries, and above all not resting on our personal experiences as a standard of truth. Once this has been started then it needs to be maintained from there after. God made it so pastors have a spiritual capacity to better notice spiritual defilements on the other pastor's foot more so than they would notice their own. Pastors have to rely on each other in order to effectively rid the body of things that are counterproductive to its growth. Pastors are not growing if they don't wash each others feet; therefore their congregations will eventually stagnate also becoming increasingly worldly and having less and less concern for the pastors.

False doctrines are stimulating to the pride; promoting speculation, competition and division rather than advancing the Gospel. False doctrine can not be confirmed whereas true doctrine is easily confirmed. I have never seen a division because of truth. One pastor can not pretend to ignore the other pastor's feet; this will never progress the plan of God and is in fact the lie that advances the lie. Reformation is not without pain and no one can get up and leave the table until there's unity. Satan's counterfeits can be easily detected by a very close examination of the scriptures with at least two or three pastors or even more being at the same table. This is the principle of letting every matter be confirmed by at least two or three witnesses. It is inevitable at this point in church history that all at the table are going to have various opposing ideas but the bible holds the keys to understanding. Very important: sooner or later the false doctrine in any person will always and inevitably be a source of doubt permeating the spiritual life leaving us with feels of nakedness: A little leaven leavens the whole lump: 1Cor 5:6-8; Gal 5:9. The pride of not wanting to be wrong propagates the unwillingness to admit these doubts; therefore producing the critical attitude; and yes the critical attitude has to come out of us. The root of the critical attitude is selfishness: Jer 6:13-19. So to protect this lie in our hearts we have to put it into a rational such as: "I and so many others have believed this for so long; how can we all be wrong?" or, "Dear old Dr. so & so said this so it must be true." or, "This denomination has been very successful on a world wide scale so how could this be wrong." Well the scripture says that Satan deceives the whole world; it would be reasonable to think at some point we are all going to succumb to some type of demonic influence at some point in our walk with God: Rev 12:7-9. But on the other hand our God is able to make us stand despite ourselves: Rom 14:4. And God shows us Israel and their cycling back and forth from orthodoxy to deception over and over again. God also states the principle of everybody everywhere repenting and passing over and beyond a time of ignorance: Acts 17:27-31.

If God is ready to make a move towards orthodoxy, then things are going to seem more and more darkened and in need of repair before there would be a willingness on our part to make the necessary changes. There were times when Jerusalem needed rebuilding and much of the material had to be removed from the city and be replaced with the materials related to God's specifications: Neh 4:10. Here is another principal: If a person says in his heart: "This is what this means to me," and another person looks at the same thing and says, "This is what it means to me." If the views are antithetical i.e. opposite, then it would be reasonable to believe that there might be something wrong. Maybe one person is wrong, maybe their both wrong, maybe their both right and in fact seeing two different things. God wants there to be unity among us. He wants us to speak the same things: 1Cor 1:10. We should see the Bible is showing us right and wrong; providing information to produce corrective measures in us: 2Tim 2:15. This is only possible if we are humble and admit to our doubts.

God is able to make us stand even if we have married some foreigners and brought them into our lives. When God is ready to remove these foreigners it can seem as though all work has stopped. These foreigners i.e. false doctrines are now in a position where they have to go so there can be unity and the resultant Joy that we knew in the past. Reformation is necessary so the harvest is not defiled and therefore divided up in greed that resulted from these false doctrines i.e. the spirit of division: Jer 12:13. A Very Important Principal: If there were no false doctrines than there would be no division; the adoption of truth can only unify. Because there is division we know there are false concepts and deceptive practices. We know there are false teachings because the Bible says there are and there will

be in the future; the scripture also indicating we would be affected by them: Eph 4:14; Tts 1:9. It should be of no surprise to any of us that we have adopted some deceitful practices paying attention to deceitful spirits; the scripture promises that this would be the case in the latter days of the Church; and God could even turn us over to a spirit of error if some how we think our hands are completely clean. We are at a point in history where the ten virgins seem to be falling asleep; this is challenging and symbolizes a lack of Spiritual vigilance on the part of the five true virgins/believers: Mat 25:1-13. This is a time when pastors have agreed to not wash each other's feet; agreeing not to disagree even though there are various smells coming from each other's feet still noticeable. So the result is a tapestry of subtle compromise; being caught in the net of the trapper with the possibilities of a dark age coming upon us. The feet need to be washed before the preparation of the gospel of peace can go on: Eph 6:15; therefore with the shield of faith making the body fully prepared for battle; having no stumbling blocks set in the path of new converts: Mt 18:6-7; Lk 17:1. The infections of the feet cause unfavorable colorations to the Gospel; once the erroneous is taken out of the way then there can be a concerted effort to harvest the grain without those involved having conscientious objections harbored in their souls. Not having thoughts of suspicion towards one another: this problem was inevitable but on the other hand it can be preventable for our future, and for those allotted to our charge.

Indeed we are clean above the ankle because of the regeneration of the Holy Spirit happening at the point of our trust in Christ. We are at a time where reformation is necessary and having a spirit that considers all things community property being willing to give so no one wanting to change can be black mailed by the enemy: Acts 2:43-47, 4:32. In this time in history Satan is stealing the Glory that God had intended for us to have. The only thing that gets lost is the glory God had intended for us; God is able to get his harvest without us. Grain is standing in the field and it's white for harvest. I hope we don't trample the grain which would be scattering the sheep: Jer 10:21. If this happens again it will be because of dishonesty and greed, and it will not work to say "let us each go to our own house." God is willing that we move ahead together. I don't want to be subjected to cruel slavery again; I don't want to turn back out in the desert again when the good land is so near. We need to learn the things that are necessary to take possession of the land; conquering the enemy along with the giants in the land; leaving behind the idols of Egypt. How blessed are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!!
-Isa 52:7.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Throughout all Old Testament times salvation was appropriated through faith in Messiah i.e. the Christ that was to come, the Son of David: Gen 15:6; Isa 11:1-5; Rom 4:1-7; Gal 3:6-9; Rev 22-16. The Old Testament ministry of the Holy Spirit was limited to only a very small number of people, one could safely say it was less than one percent of all those who would believe in God. This was an empowering ministry, the overt power of God. This ministry of power could be taken away if sin persisted in the person's life: Psa 51:11; 1Sam 16:14. This older ministry needs to be distinguished from the present ministry of the Holy Spirit i.e. now all believers are "indwelt" by The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Jn 14:23; 2Cor 3:17, which can't be lost: Jn 6:27; 1Cr 6:11; 2Cor 1:21-22; Eph 1:13-14, 4:30; Rev 1:5, 3-8, 7:3-4, 14. This Church "indwelling ministry" was first given to the disciples

immediately upon our Lord's return from being resurrected from the dead: Jn 14:23; whereas the overt and visible manifestations of the Spirit were first given to the Apostles and then progressively to all those who believed on and after the day of Pentecost: Acts 2:3-4, 33, 38-39; 8:14-17; 10:44-47; 11:12-16; 15:6-11; 19:1-7. 1Cor 12:4, 7-11. Gal 5:22-25.

God's Discipline

The Spirit's ministry in our lives i.e. the overt manifestations can often be suppressed or extinguished by our involvement in sin: Eph 4:30; 1Thes 5:19, God is in us, and has the final word, even if it means discipline is coming to turn us from our sins so we look to Him for restoration of fellowship: Heb 12:4-11; Psa 38:18-23; 51:1-4; 1Jn 1:5-9. This discipline from God comes not to injure but to heal, just as a parent's discipline to their child is provided so the child will be well adjusted to life and its circumstances. Most parents will guide and even sacrifice for their children in such a way that will maximize their opportunities for success in their adult lives. Our Father in heaven is the same way: Heb 12:4-15. The Father desires that we give Him undistracted devotion through His Spirit: 1Cor 7:35: without this we live a life dominated by worldly lusts leading us to shame and punishment. Read Hebrews 6:1-9, this commentary of God's Word expresses the idea regarding believers that have not taken their relationship with God sufficiently beyond the point of salvation, not capitalizing on the indwelling Spirit's power because of erroneous distractions. Potentially we can have a fruitless life unless we turn to God and set our path straight in submission to Him: Hbr 12:13; Psa 119:35. If our insubordination to God remains unchecked a greater portion of our works will be burn up at the judgment pending for believers: 1Cr 3:10-15; Heb 6:8; 1Pet 4:17.

The following five verses show both sides of the spectrum i.e. serving and not serving God: Rom 2:7-11. The main reason for our shortcomings with God is normally because of one or two sins that we are prone to do. We can call these sins our areas of weakness, but God calls us to lay aside these distractions: Heb 12-1-3. Our area of weakness is the platform from which many other sins can be activated, in turn polarizing creating a dysfunctional Spiritual life: Rom 6:19; 2Pet 2:17-19. Discipline will also be received because we give regard to the past failures of others, and also our own: Phil 3:13-15; Psa 66:1. These verses however do not excuse us if we forget to continue in the progression God has for us: Jam 1:22-27. If we are going to be successful in God's plan we need to participate in a disciplined manner: 1Cr 9:24-27. The main concern at hand is that when we sin we need to confess it to God, and set it aside so we can continue with our Spiritual growth: 1Jn 1:9, 3:4; Rom 4:8; Psa 32:1-7.

Old Testament Prophecies regarding the Holy Spirit Given to Israel

Here is a partial list of verses displaying the Old Testament ministry of the Spirit being limited only to a few: Ex 31:3; 35:31; Num 11:16-30; Deu 34:9; Jdg 3:10; 6:34; 9:23; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6,19; 15:14; 1Sam 11:6; 1Kings 18:46; 2Kings 2:15... Let us now turn our attentions to prophecies in the old testament that indicated the Spirit would be given in the

future to all those who would believe in Messiah i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was the first human being to receive this uniquely new ministry that involved the indwelling of God Himself: Isa 61:1-3; Lk 4:14,18-19; Jn 8:56, 10:30; 17:11, 21; 14:8-9; Heb 1:6-13, 10:5-10; Col 1:15-20; 1Cor 1:18-21; 3:18-23. The most vivid example portraying this universal ministry of the Spirit is found in Joel 2:28-32. Although this reference contextually is regarding the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of Millennial times it gives us a good reflection of the Spirit's ministry to the Church: Gal 3:14. It's important to understand that God foresaw in eternity past that Israel would not be prepared, and or in a suitable condition to receive their Messianic King, although the opportunity was made available to them- Mat 4:17; Mk 12:34; Lk 13:34-35. This opportunity is clearly seen in the words of John the Baptist, and the earlier public ministry of our Lord. All this can be seen in the gospels i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Last Events in History

Israel will carry out Her final responsibilities to their King in the final seven years and one thousand years of prophecy related to this present creation; God at the end of these two expanses of time will destroy the present heaven and earth and create all things new: 2Pet 3:10-13; Rev 21:1. These epochs are divided into three different administrations of time, starting first with the Rapture of the Church: 1Cor 15:51-53; 1Thes 1:10; 4:13-17; 5:9 which subsequently begins the time known as the Tribulations totaling seven years which, in turn, are seen as two parts i.e. the first three and a half years being a time of relative peace but beset with power politics: Dan 9:27; the next three and a half years consisting of broken treaties or alliances and the outbreak of war (this second period being called the Great Tribulation: Mat 24:21, also called the time of Jacob's Distress: Deut 4:30; Isa 63:1-6; Jer 30:7-9, 24; Dan 12:1; Zech 12:1-3, 14:1-2.)

Joel chapter two verses one through seventeen describes events (after) the Rapture of the Church i.e. (the beginning of the Tribulations). This is a panorama of events that takes place during this seven-year period, leading to the promises of deliverance: verses 18-27; proceeding into the promised ministry of the Spirit coming at the beginning of our Lord's thousand-year reign, this being described in verses 28-32. Jeremiah thirty-three, verses fourteen to twenty two and many other passages display this thousand-year period. Absorbing much of the book of Daniel, Revelations, and the Gospels along with numerous other books in the Old Testament are prerequisites that enable us to understand these final days in history.

The Church Era

The Church was not revealed in Old Testament prophecy, and it will remain in operation until its completion as the Future Bride of Christ: Mat 25:1-13; 2Cor 11:2; Eph 5:25-27; Rev 21:17; Mat 25:1-13; 2Cor 11:2; Rev 21:17. In the Matthew parable five virgins trusted only in the works of Christ, and not those of their own. These represent true believers of the Church having the anointing oil of the Spirit's power in their lives i.e. the Full Jars of oil they possess is indicative of the Holy Spirit: 1 Sam 16:13; Lk 4:18, read also

all of Revelation 21 and Rev 22:17. The expanse of time the Church will remain in operation is undeterminable: Mat 24:36-44; 25:1-13; Mk 13:32-37; Lk 12:35-40; 17:20-30; Acts 1:7; 1 Cor 15; 1Thes 1:10; 4:13-5:1-11; 2Thes 2:1-12.

Four (4) “Days of the Lord”

It is important to note that all of these passages indicate (four different [“days”] of the Lord): Lk 17:22. The first one i.e. the Rapture, which can’t be anticipated: Mat 24:42, but yet the following three *can* be; these being: His coming just before the end of the tribulation: Mk 13:14-26; Rev 19:11-21, His thousand-year reign: Rev 20:1-6, and His destruction of the present heaven and earth and creating all things new: 2Pet 3:10-13; Rev 21:5. It is important to note and remember that Satan and all his fallen angels will be bound and incarcerated for this thousand-year period; then will be released near the end of this epoch only to start a revolt among the people: Rev 20:1-3. Once this final revolt climaxes it will be snuffed out by our Lord: Rev 20:7-10; Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39.

Once again, when studying all these passages regarding the end times bear in mind that something that CAN’T be anticipated needs to happen first i.e. the Rapture: 1Cor 15:52 before those things which *can* be anticipated. With this in mind, it will all make sense after a thorough investigation: 2Tim 2:15.

The Church and The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

At present the Church remains to deliver the truth of God’s existence; i.e. the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: to spread THE WORD OF GOD throughout the Earth: 1Tim 3:15-16. The Spirit of God within those who believe in the name of Jesus: Acts 4:12 is the driving force of this great endeavor: Eph 1:18. Throughout all human History related to this present creation there have been and will be religious unbelievers that are determined to distort the Word of God: Mat 7:15; 2Cor 11:3-4; Gal 1:6-9; 1Tim 4:1; 2Pet 3:15-16. Many of these people will try to indicate that Jesus is “a god” and not “The God”; when in fact the scripture displays One God that manifests or displays Himself in different ways: two being invisible with visible manifestations, and others being visible with invisible and visible manifestations; please note these verses: Psa 2:11-12; Pro 30:4; Isa 9:6-7, 44:24; Col 1:15-20: note in this Colossians passage the statement “first born of all creation” this refers to the fact that Jesus was the first (human being) to surpass the limits of (condemnation i.e. death or separation from fellowship with God) imposed on the whole human race as the result of the original sin of Adam: 1Cor 15:22, 45; Rom 5:14. Through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice the door to heaven was open to all those that had and would believe in Him: Jn 10:7-9; Acts 4:12. The picture we see of this is the veil of the temple being torn in two seconds before Jesus exhaled His Spirit to the Father: this indicating that the door to heaven was opened: Mat 27:51; Lk 23:43-46. Please note that the way to heaven was opened before Christ said His last Words. As the result of Christ’s gift many Sons were brought into Glory: Heb 2:10. God’s heavenly family is constantly increasing, as more and more of His Children die in the flesh: 2Cor 4:16; 5:1-8; Phil 1:21-23.

In John 4:35 our Lord comments to his disciples: “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.” In reality there was four months to go before the wheat harvest would be ready to cut. Jesus shared this insight with His disciples though they may not have been completely aware of the wonderful things He was giving them. The soil had already been prepared and sown with good seed, it had sprouted and grown to maturity and was ready to cut. Jesus also informed them that the harvest was already underway and that He was sending them into a harvest of which they had not labored. Jesus indicates that those who had sown and those who are reaping should rejoice together: Jn 4:35-38. The most astounding thing of all is that the grain is standing and ready, just in the same way the Samaritans were standing ready having a faith in Messiah: Jn 4:25. So the question wasn't whether they believed in Messiah or not, but: Was this person named Jesus actually the Christ? We see that God, existing in Jesus, was able to convince a portion of the Samaritans of His true identity: Jn 4:39-42.

It's a very common, and sometimes destructive misconception to assume those coming to a crusade are unbelievers seeking salvation. It's more important to assume they are already saved: Mk 6:34. Certainly this passage and so many others in the Bible support a conclusion like this. We live in a time where the shadows of darkness are obscuring more and more of these simple truths of God's Word. Of course we are not to assume that all coming have an understanding of the Gospel, this would be unwise also: Mat 3:7-10. God saves people because they have an appreciation for the truth: 2Thes 2:10. These Samaritans had an appreciation for the truth such to the extent they invited Jesus to stay with them. Jesus accepting stayed with them for two days and many others received Him, them realizing also He was the savior of the world: Jn 4:42. If people are willing to receive us in good faith because we are followers of Jesus then the scripture indicates we're to assume they are saved also: Mat 10:40-42. Once these simple truths are realized much suffering can come into our lives; Satan is willing that we abandon these convictions for a (faith plus Gospel) that can only result in further ungodliness and the propagation of doubt.

These days the harvest would be no less viable because the principles Jesus presents here still stands: that the harvest is already there because others have sown and they are already reaping. For us to assume they are not saved is to doubt the very system that God Has established. There is no reason to doubt people who are willing to receive us in the name of Jesus: Mt 10:40-42. If we have doubts about the salvation of the people God would gather to us, then why should they not doubt our salvation and be suspicious of our intentions? A person would not walk into a field of standing grain and think it was not there, unless of course he couldn't see it. A person is in the field because he knows the grain is there. But if it were because of the enemy's deception and therefore non biblical processes used to call in the sheep then we will have our reward in full with all the thorns and thistles. If we are blind to these things for sure we are going to walk into God's field trampling down the grain promoting doubt rather than the furtherance of the gospel of Christ: Jer 12:10; Gal 1:7, leaving God's people with the impression their faith in the past was not effective for salvation; causing them to forget their former purification of sins: 2Pet 1:9. As a result this generation being plowed under because no one could see them (the grain) for what they were. Sure the grain needs to be cut and then thrashed to release the perfect result of God's word: Isa 28:23-29. Knowing what to do with the land, the plow, the seed and so on will determine what the land will produce. God at times will graft a wild olive into a cultivated tree; are we cultivated enough?

Because of the Holy Spirit's ministry, the Elect are willing to concede to God that they are sinners in need of a savior: Jn 16:8-11. The standing grain is already aware of sin righteousness and judgment i.e. the most basic elements of why we need a savior. So what is the more important issue considering they are already saved?: To give them the pure milk of the word of God so they can become more and more convinced of the salvation they already possess: Mk 6:34; Col 1:3-12; 1Pet 2:1-2; 2Pet 1:19.

The second epistle of Peter communicates the tragedy of persons forgetting their former purification of sin. Read 2Peter 1:1-15, verse 9 being the key verse. It is impossible to renew a salvation that was already completed at the moment the Holy Spirit indwelt us; along with the Father and the Son: Heb 6:4-6. God's elect can't become unelect; as many as were appointed for eternal life will be saved: Acts 13:48. God chooses those that He knew would choose Him: Eph 1:3-14. The only way to receive the gift is the positive response to the call of the Holy Spirit; seeing in our heart that we need the savior; listening to the Gospel message with faith: Col 1:4-6. Crying or feeling sorry for the sins, or Doing the repeat-after-me prayer are not an indication of salvation but can obscure the true essence of the Gospel. These things should not be the criteria when considering whether a person was saved or not; yet these are the very things being recognized as the signs of a person's salvation. The only true sign of salvation is a Good confession of faith. It is important to note that all of these things previously mentioned represent (things we can do), yet the Bible could not be clearer that Spiritual Death is [dead] and can do nothing to be saved: Eph 2:1-5. The only true sign of salvation is an accurate confession of the tenants of the Gospel and a life that reflects the glory of Christ. Another extremely important thing to know is that Spiritual Death does not have the power of invitation; We respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit by expressing faith towards the merits of Christ, not the reverse invitation commonly heard: Isa 55:1-3; Mat 11:28-29.

Because of the inaccurate handling of God's word, Revelation 3:20 has been used for the Gospel; this passage is not an invitation to an unbeliever but on the contrary the carnal believer. This passage is God's call to His Children who are out of fellowship with Him: Rev 1:4-6, 3:19; Heb 12:5-8. Believers at a crusade that respond to this message are crucifying the Son of God afresh if they are under the impression they are rededicating their life to Jesus. The wrong impressions are being given by the inaccurate handling of the word of God: Acts 18:26; 2Tim 2:15. This whole message gives the impression they were never saved or they had lost their salvation and now they're gaining it back. These traditional and non Biblical methods of evangelism are the flaws that inadvertently set in motion the lie. Where in Paul's epistles do we even once see the various dynamics of the sinner's prayer taught? Yet this is the Message being used and the impression a person can have after they do all this is they are saved because of a process of man made precepts; the speaker often adds at the end, "We believe if you have prayed this prayer you are saved; welcome to the family of God." Where in the scriptures do we see this asserted to be true? Sometimes this repeat after me thing is done out loud: the preacher encouraging all to join in; the people feeling a sense of obligation to join in for the sake of not being embarrassed. Then little Susie hearing all of this looks over to her Mom and says, "Mom look Uncle Bob is receiving Christ as his Savior." Yet when you later ask many of these people about it they are willing to admit they had felt pressured and embarrassed and that is why they did it. So now the result is: Uncle Bob's niece is under the impression that uncle Bob is saved because she heard him repeat what's called "the sinner's prayer". People are being pressured into confessing Jesus with their mouth in the name of filling a few more pews, yet these methods just represent greed and coercion rather than effective evangelism.

We hear it all the time, ministers saying or insinuating that the Churches seem to have a lot of unbelievers in them these days; the minister has the thinking; “I wonder if they are really saved...they don’t seem to be responding to the message.” Yet these are the same ministers who just weeks, months, and years earlier said; “We believe you are saved if you did the repeat after me thing; welcome to the family of God.” So what we’re seeing is a lot of this type of gross contradiction, and this is being noticed by true believers. Ignorance and possibly greed are the underlying causes of these problems; pressures to fill the church is a tragic flaw that is yielding the harvest of thorns and thistles that are close to being cursed: Heb 6:8. Of course the foundation can not undergo any type of destruction but Paul warns those who are edifying to use appropriate materials in the superstructure. Those who worked the soil planted the seeds and did the watering can not go unacknowledged or some of the truth is going to be lost. Satan would like us to forget these things and see us cursed with no Glory; all our dead works being burned up though we still are saved: 1Cor 3:1-23.

Who Abides in Jesus?

Among a few sects of these unbelievers are those who say that Jesus was indwelt by an angel; of the other major sect they say that Christ and Satan are brothers (once again, Christ being an angel and not God). These people are always determined to distort the Scriptures just as Saint Peter said they would do: 2Pet 3:16. Because of this demonic darkness against the truth, they will use any discrete area of Scripture to support their claims that Jesus Christ is actually Michael the Archangel; despite Jesus continually saying that He was “the Son of man” [i.e. Son of David who was to be indwelt by God Himself: Mat 1:1; 1:16; 26:63-64; Lk 4:18; Acts 2:29-30; Rom 1:3-4]. It is important to note that the literal meaning of the word angel in both the Hebrew and Greek is “Messenger” [i.e. “Angel/Messenger of the Lord”, “Of God”, “From God”]; these words are always dependant of the context because in the original languages i.e. Greek and Hebrew these words are the same as our English word “Messenger”; and of course if we hear someone say that a messenger has arrived we don’t think of a spirit being with wings. We also see in the bible the word [APPEARED] to identify the fact that the person in question is a [Spirit Being i.e. an angel from heaven.] In the Old Testament Hebrew the word “Mal’ak” is rendered about 111 times as angel, and about 98 times as messenger, and the Greek word “Aggelos” in the New Testament is rendered about 179 times as angel, and 6 times as messenger; these numbers vary slightly depending on the translation... Note these references from the New Testament where “Aggelos” is rendered as “Messenger”: Mat 11:10; Mar 1:2; Lk 7:27, 9:52; 2Cor 12:7; Jam 2:25. We will see very clearly in the following passages that “God did not subject to Angels/Messengers the world to come”: Heb 1:13; 2:5. God purposefully put these verses in the Bible to dismiss any doubts that may arise in true Believers as a result of those who teach a different Christ: Gal 1:6-9. It’s very important, and you should note that in this Galatians passage Paul says “WE” two times [vss. 8, 9], indicating himself and the other Apostles and “or an angel/messenger from heaven”. Paul and his companions never said in any verse that Jesus was indwelt by an angel; but in verse after verse the WORD indicates that THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE FATHER would, did, and still do, indwell Him. Jesus, of course, gives personal testimony to this fact: Jn 14:10.

Only the Lord is Holy: Rev 15:3-4; only One God is ruler of the heavens and the earth: Isa 9:6; Dan 2:44; Mt 28:18; Rev 1:5, and always will be in the person of His Son The Lord Jesus Christ: Psa 89:3-4; Dan 7:27; Lk 1:31-33; Rev 11:15-17. The Lord/Christ was a “VISIBLE” part of

God: Num 12:8. John 1:1, 14. As said in the Gospel of Saint John, “no man has seen God at any time”: John 1:18, 6:46; but He Himself existed in God, and God in Him; and that which we know about God we know through His eternal Son: 2Cor 4:6; Col 2:9; Heb 1:1-3; these verses reflect that Jesus not only represents God, but also within Jesus was the very substance of God i.e. DIETY: 2Cor 5:19. These verses along with many others confirm that God was and is in Jesus: Titus 2:13. Many visible manifestations of God in the Old Testament were that of the Eternal Son; THE OUTSTRETCHED ARM, [I.E. “THE FATHER’S MESSENGER”], Him being a visible part and the very proof of God’s existence: Col 1:15, just in the same way (born again) Catholics and Christians alike are visible parts of God: St John 3:3-7; 1Pet 2:5. It is important to remember that seeing part of God is not seeing all of God; seeing the arm and hand of a person is not seeing the complete person: Deu 5:15, 26:8; 2Kings 17:36; Psa 44:3, 89:1-52; Isa 30:27-33, 40:1-31, 52:10, 62:8; Ezek 20:34-35; Jn 12:36-41.

Some of God’s Names

The following verses are just a very small portion of the total demonstrating this fact, and take notice that the “Word of God” indicates that Jehovah i.e. LORD (ALL IN CAPS) was visible and speaking in the form of a burning bush: Ex 4:5-6. It is important to note that when the “WORD OF GOD IS SPEAKING, “THE WORD” REFERS TO HIMSELF AS “LORD” OR “GOD”. When HUMANS were addressing the LORD they addressed Him as “Lord” with a Capital L then [“ord”] in lower case i.e. “Lord” which is the Hebrew word “Adonai” i.e. “Please Sir” in the case of Ex 4:10. This was done by all persons who knew God and was simply done out of respect, just as many people in our day address people whom they think are important as “Sir” and not by their actual name. After this visible part God refers to Himself as LORD i.e. JEHOVAH by the WORD OF GOD in Gen 17:1; then and from there after, God speaking, refers to Himself as “I am God Almighty” Gen 17:1b, and also “God”: Gen 17:3. This latter verse is the plural Hebrew word “ELOHIYM” referring to the visible and invisible characteristics of God. The name “God Almighty” in the Hebrew looks like this “SHADDAI ‘EL”; these prior two verses include three different names for ONE GOD. Turn to Genesis seventeen one and read through to verse three and you will see these three different names for one God. In verse one the LORD i.e. a visible manifestation of God “appeared” to Abram. At the end of the verse we see God i.e. “EL”, and Almighty i.e. “SHADDAI”; this name is referring to His preeminence and power over all things. The next one in verse three i.e. ELOHIYM refers to God’s whole being which is everywhere in the universe at all times and is indicative of His whole nature. In verse twenty-two we see that ‘ELOHIYM “went up”; at this point Abraham was no longer able to see Him. Please note that these names for One God can be found in many different arrangements and yet the Bible includes many more names than just these three. Scrutiny in regards to giving more importance to one name of God over the other names is only indicative of evil divisive thinking; and, certainly, that is the strategy of the Wolves; their full intentions are to steal us out of the true folds of sheep.

All of God is and will be united

God can not be divided; all of God is united in ONE PLAN, ONE PURPOSE, AND ONE POLICY: Jam 1:17; Heb 13:8; 1Cor 12:4-7. There was and still is, a new part of One God; that being Jesus, the Father’s eternal Son (when He took on flesh: Jn 1:14), and also Jesus’ new

disposition in His resurrection body: Jesus being the Son of David and the Son of God forever. Then there is His Church, destined to be His future Bride: Rev 21:2; this, when complete, will be (eternally) a fifth part of One God: 1Cor 15:28; Eph 4:6; 5:27, 30. We can also see from scripture that those who overcome will have the names of God on themselves: 1Jn 5:4-5; Rev 3:12, 22:4. The wise of this world might say "This can't be": 1Cor 1:26-31, 3:18-20; 2Cor 4:2 but yet with God everything is possible: Gen 18:13-14; Lk 1:47. Those that believe in Him are His Children and are called by His name: Isa 43:7; Gal 3:26; and none of this can be divided because it's of God and in God forever.

Hades: Abraham's Bosom; The Alternate Compartment

There are also those in Abraham's bosom: Lk 16:22, 23, these persons in his bosom represent all those of the seed of faith; which we see is of Christ: Gal 3:16; Heb.11. Take the time to read all of Hebrews eleven; take special notice of the last two verses in the chapter. It is very important to know that without the Church there would be no future Holy City made by God: Heb 11:10; Rev 21:10-14, as was promised to the saints of old. These saints that had fallen asleep i.e. died in the flesh prior to Jesus speaking His last words on the cross (post*). These believers were kept in a temporary compartment in the heart of the earth called Hades; this area being a place of comfort and rest; versus the punishment of those across the Great Gulf: Lk 16:19-31; these refusing the redemption solution that is only through Jesus Christ and the **Post: Rom 3:24; 1Cor 1:30. Upon Jesus speaking His last words on the Post, His Spirit went to the heart of the earth where He made announcements regarding His victory over the world, the flesh, and Satan: Mat 12:40; 1Pet 3:19-22; Jude 1:6.** After three days and with all announcements completed: Jesus took with Him to heaven the saints of the Old Covenant just prior to His Spirit being reunited with His body in the grave: subsequently, the resurrection of Christ from the dead, The Indestructible Life: Heb 7:16.

Eph 4:8-10 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

This temporary compartment, Abraham's Bosom, remains vacant but was the residence of all those that believed in Christ prior to Him bearing our sins on the post. The alternate compartment of the dead (i.e. unbelievers and demons) will be judged at the Great White Throne; this being at the end of time as we know it: Rev 20:11-15. Once God paid the debt in full regarding sin the door of heaven was opened to these Saints of old and also to those in Christ i.e. His Body: Eph 4:7-10; Psa 68:18; Rom 10:6-8 Acts 2:31-32.

Jesus' Companions upon His Coming

The Bride/Church will be visible in the perspective of Christ: The head and Body united as a visible manifestation of God: Rev 19:7-8. The one hundred forty-four thousand tribulational

Jewish Evangelists: Rev 7:1-8, the Old Testament Saints who loved (not) their life to death: Rev 12:11, and the Holy Angels: Mat 25:31 will be following the Lord back to Earth upon His return near the end of the tribulations: Rev 14:1, 4, 19:14. All these will rule with Him for one thousand

** stake.- Correct translation of the original Greek word “staurus”; later translated into Latin by “crux” (“cross”). Instrument of torment used by the Romans made out of wood*

years: Rev 20:6; the exception to these are all those of the mixed multitude slain during the tribulations, all these will have the Great Honor to personally serve God in the throne room of heaven: Rev 7:9-17. It is important to note so there is no confusion: the criminal that received the Word of Jesus, him being crucified alongside Jesus: Lk 23:39-43, was taken directly to heaven as was the Human Spirit of Jesus immediately upon departing His body: John 19:28-33. We also see that direct entrance into heaven was a reality, God causing the large curtain of the holy of holies to be torn in two: Lk 23:45, indicating that heaven was open to all that would put their trust in Jesus Christ just as did the criminal beside Jesus.

Future Manifestations of The Church

In the future there is to be two visible manifestations of the Church; one being the Lord Jesus Christ Himself i.e. the Head and Body in completion. The other visible manifestation of the Bride is the Great City, The New Jerusalem which is to be inhabited by all the Old Testament Saints upon our Lord's destruction of the present heaven and Earth: 2Pet 3:10-13; Isa 65:17-18; Rev 21:1-5. This coming after the last judgment that involves only those that had rejected the grace of God: Rev 20:14-15; this then being the end of time and the beginning of eternity: Gen 13:15. 1Thes 4:17-18.

Abraham's Seed

The promise made to Abraham was he would be the father of many nations; this is in reference to his regenerate Seed which, once again, is Christ. Abraham's seed is representative of all peoples from all nations that have existed on earth, with the exception of the Church, which is under Her own unique covenant from God. There also remains the promise of a new covenant to Israel which will be enacted at the beginning of the millennium: Jer 31:31. So, regardless of what group we are in, it's all One Family of one SEED: that being of Christ.

The New Jerusalem. The Present Jerusalem

We are now going to look at a series of passages shedding light on things that have been hidden. These things remain hidden until the light of the Spirit is cast upon them: Dan 2:22. Turn first to Galatians 4:24; here we find the word “ALLEGORY” only used one time in the New Testament Scriptures. This word suggests the symbolic and hidden nature of what is being talked about, but is intended by the person who is presenting it to shed light on these hidden elements. In Gal 4:21-31 a very important truth is revealed, that being that the present Jerusalem is not the (eternal) inheritance of those descended from Abraham, but the New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven (being created by The Spirit of God): Rev 3:12, 21:2. This is the enduring city whose

founder and (builder is God): Heb 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14, this is the city that was promised to Abraham and his descendants. In the same way, the children of the flesh are not heirs with Abraham, but those of the Spirit: Gal 4:23, 28-29; Eph 1:13; Gal 3:16, 29. We see that the seed represents the Spirit of God in those of the same faith as Abraham. Since the Seed is of God, and not of the flesh, there is one passage that ties all of this together so we can completely understand; please turn to and read Romans 4:17-25; in verse 19 we see that Sarah and Abraham were almost 100 years old and far beyond the age to have children, but there still remained a promise for God to fulfill: Gen 17:15-22, 18:9-15. Abraham, Sarah, and God all knew that there was no possible way for them to have a child aside from a direct miracle of God. God wanted Abraham, Sarah, and the whole world to know that this child they were to have was from none other than the power of the Spirit i.e. God. This power calls into existence things that do not exist except in God. Please read Romans 4:17 again and then the whole passage again (i.e. verses 17-25). It is this same power that gives (life to the spiritually dead), and is able to give us a life together with Him: Rom 8:11.

Moving on we see scripture indicating that The LORD, the God of our fathers' memorial name to ALL generations is: "THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB": Ex 3:15-16; Jer 33:25-26. If there's a cause to debate the Name's of God then it stops with this: "THIS IS MY MEMORIAL NAME TO GENERATION OF GENERATION": this is what the literal Hebrew (i.e. what God) says to end all debate.

Shedding More Light on Who Jesus Christ Is

Here I want to break in and cover a subject that sheds even more light on who Jesus Christ is, namely what Jesus Himself was implying regarding His own Person. Before doing this there are some very important principles to know. God is NOT obligated to reveal Himself to those He knows will reject Him. Just in the same way a person would not give something of great value they possessed to person they knew wanted to (intentionally) destroy that thing. God knows our hearts and is not obligated to give us something of Himself that He knows will be rejected or destroyed. People who hate God know nothing of God and if they did they would just want to destroy it. These people who hate God see people who they presume have something from God; their presumption is correct, because every living thing on earth is from God; yet the thinking of these people is set against the truth and they seek to suppress or subvert the truth to their own destruction: Acts 17:29-32; Rom 1:18-19; 2Cor 4:2; 2Tim 2:18. What these same can see with their eyes and hear with their ears can, in fact, be destroyed, but what they can't see with their eyes nor hear with their ears cannot be destroyed: Mt 10:28; 1Cor 2:9; 2Cor 4:18.

Is Jesus God?

Some people don't like the idea that Jesus could be God: Jn 9:40-41. Some people don't know and don't care; but with these people this is always a temporary condition. Then there are the people who don't know if Jesus is God or not; or just aren't sure but want to know one way of the other: Mk 9:24; Jn 9:35-38. Of these latter two groups, God is obligated to reveal Himself. Of these latter two groups; many of them will want what God has for them and will always receive the gift He had planed for them from the beginning of time: Mat 25:34. Those of the first group don't want anything to do with the one and only true God because they are against the thought of this

God having Sovereignty and Justice Mat 25:41. These people will be happier in hell than they would be in heaven. In hell there is only one concession to God they will face: and that is God's Judgment: Rev 20:11-14. . These same people will know no truth because they wanted not the truth: 2Cor 3:14, 4:4, 6; Phil: 2-6; 2Thes 1:10-12; Rom 9:5; Phil 2:2:2-6; Col 1:15. Heb 1:3. All truth is in Jesus Christ: Jn 1:14. Not liking or feeling uncomfortable with the idea of Jesus Christ being our God is indicative of your destiny: the scripture says to REPENT, (I.E. CHANGE YOUR MIND) BECAUSE JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS TO BRING US OUT OF OUR DEATHS INTO HIS LIFE: Lk 1:79; Jn 12:46.

Life and Death Issues

We would not exist if it were not for the love of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Sometimes a mother because complications in the process of giving birth dies, but yet the child lives. Even though the mother has died the child still lives and owes his or her life to that woman. For now, in this world, everything must die so others things and people can live, this is true with everything in the world, at this time, as I speak. Speaking in human terms; sometimes good people must die so good and bad people can live another day. This is good, and it happens everywhere in the world all the time. Who would ever hate something or somebody who saved their life? Who would hate the person who wanted to save your life? In fact these very words that I speak can be hated: although I am obligated to say these words: 2Cr 4:13; 1Cr 9:16. I didn't want to say all these things in the beginning, but now I am without choice. I learned that I couldn't always please myself, but that I was obligated to please the one who gave me life: the Lord Jesus Christ: Jn 8:29; 1Cor 7:32, 10:33; Gal 1:10; 1Thes 4:1. All these things are considered true with God and with man in his basic intellect. We all want things, and we all need things. We all have had some bad deals, and some of us have had some good deals. There are people that the only good thing they ever knew was to suck on their mother's breast only to die shortly there after because of sickness or there just wasn't enough milk. Most of us want to live but sometimes it's better to die. Sometimes we might want to die, but it turned out better that we lived. There are those who hate and murder, they need to do this, by doing this some of them decide they need God. I know this sounds extreme, and yes, it is, we are all in an extreme situation whether we be in comfort or distress. There are also animals that suffer and die: Rom 8:22.

I know that I'm not the only person in the world who knows these things, everything I have thought and said since I could think and talk has already been said and done. There's nothing new under the sun: Eccl 1:9. Every thing keeps going on like it did from the beginning: 2Pet 3:4. Now, less and less is able to surprises me because of the truth: Jn 8:32. Between now and our death in the flesh there's injustice and justice, the lie and the truth, health, sickness, and above all misunderstanding. We all live in it. We either see it, or we don't see it. Some of us think about it, and some don't know what to think about it. This one thing I know for sure, and that is that God is the only one who sees' the whole picture: 1Cr 4:5. He knew what it was going to be like, and we think we see what it's like, but He says don't be judgmental: Lk 6:37; But He also says to judge with righteous judgment: Jn 7:24, and with this, the truth can prevail by life or by death: Phil 1:20; Rom 5:10; 1Cor 3:22.

Some see that there are things to do. Or we might say "what", well we need take a closer look at the Bible and then we might think "they need" rather than "I want": Rom 15:1. It's all about sacrifice: like when you eat a piece of fish or like when we bend over and pick something up

that a child has dropped and putting it where it should be. God came into the world in the person of His Son to present Himself as a guilt offering for the many who would desire the gift: Isa 53:10; Heb 9:28. Jesus is someone to admire and to love: Mk 12:28-32.

Jesus Lord

(Mar 12:35-37) And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Anointed one/Christ is the son of David? “David himself said by the Holy Spirit, **‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, ‘SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET.’**” “David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; so, in what sense is He his son?” And the large crowd was gladly hearing Him.

Erroneously, translators chose a less reliable source for Mark 12:36 I.e. from the Septuagint which is a good translation but on the other hand includes a very grave error. The Septuagint Translation is where the two Lords were created; thus contradicting the Scriptures of ONE LORD as confirmed previously by Jesus, **the one and only Lord of the scriptures**. The truth of One Lord is also confirmed by the Apostle Paul listing seven tenants of faith essential for Unity to exist in the Body of the Anointed One/Christ.

(Eph 4:3-6) Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one Body** and **one Spirit**, just as also you were called in **one hope** of your calling. There is **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father** of all who is over all and through all and in all.

In Mark 12:36 the first LORD in the verse should be rendered Yahweh/Jehovah; doing so gets us appropriately back to one Lord in the Scriptures; again, that Lord being Jesus. Mark 12:36 is a Quote from Psalm 110:1. In the End everywhere the proper name of God has been changed from Jehovah/Yahweh to LORD will be rectified. Attacks on the scriptures such as this are divisive; Satan seeking confusion amongst God’s people. The following is Psalm 110:1 rendered as it should be in faithfulness to the original Hebrew Manuscripts:

(Psa 110:1) **Yahweh/Jehovah** says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

Jesus absolutely would have quoted the scriptures in this way; Him having complete understanding that His Father was/is Jehovah/Yahweh of the Hebrew Old Testament. Jesus would not have taught things that contradict the word of God. For that matter, Mark 12:35 and 36 have been so abused to support something that is entirely untrue; thus being fogged in; very few even get to the point Jesus is trying to make. First of all, with the corrected translation there is one Lord that being Jesus. Secondly, we get to the heart of His question which is pointing to the human aspect of Jesus. The answer to Jesus’ Question is he’s David’s son according to Genetics I.e. according to the flesh.

(Mark 12:37) “David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; so in what sense is He his son?” And the large crowd was gladly hearing Him.

We also know that God was in the Body of Jesus from birth (if not from conception because The Holy Spirit/The Father created the seed, thus planting it in Mary; God

provided for the fertilization of the egg resulting in a Virgin Pregnancy absent from the contamination of the original sin of Adam.)

(2Co 5:18-20) Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them; and He also, having placed in us, the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

This was an act of Creation resulting in the birth of the Second Adam.

(1Co 15:42-47) So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven.

Even though God was in Jesus more often than not, Jesus was continually drawing attention to His Humanity, calling Himself the Son of Man/Adam. After all the Lamb of God had to be true Humanity in order to qualify to be the Savior. Over twenty times in the Gospel of Mathew Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of man; and we will say that no less emphasis should be given to His Godliness because God is in Him.

(Mat 12:8) "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

(Mat 13:37) "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man".

(2Co 5:19a) God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

Christ Took on the Form of a Servant

In Matthew 10:37 we see that we are to have a great love for Jesus the Savior, more than any family member. The only reason we can have this great love for The Lord Jesus Christ is because He is One Spirit with the Father just as we are one Spirit with Christ: 1Cor 6:17. Notice in this verse that we are One Spirit with the LORD i.e. Kurios. We Have ONE GOD with many manifestations. There are also those who say; "Jesus said that the Father was greater than Him": Jn 10:30. First of all, it's normal for any loving son to think this about his father, but yet this doesn't make his son any less human, it does however indicate that the child is in agreement with the word of God: Eph 6:2. The word of God says that if a man aspires to be great he is to become a servant: Mk 10:44-45. Also the Word says to consider all other persons as being more important than ourselves: Phil 2:3-5. God also asks us to give more honors to those who are in need: 1Cor 12:24. It is true that "for a little while" The Eternal Son took on the form of the Servant Jesus: Heb 10:7. The Father asks us to also become servants: Jn 13:12-17. Christ restricting the independent use of His own omnipotence took on the form of a servant during His time on earth: Jn 10:17-18; Col 2:9-

10. Jesus was to utilize power of the Holy Spirit: Lk 4:1, 14, 18. Jesus the Man who is also God did this in (perfect) compliance to the Father's plan: Mat 17:5. There is nothing greater than God, the creator of the heavens and the earth: Isa 44:24; Col 1:15-16. One part of God's being surpasses what we can see, hear, and even experience: Isa 40:12-18; Jer 51:17. God is Great and is worthy of praise because He serves all of us: Isa 55:1-10.

Only one God to be worshiped

Only One God is to be worshiped, Him being in the person of Jesus whom the Father has sent. If our Lord Jesus Christ were not God, He would have told His disciples, who were putting their trust in Him, not to worship Him: Mat 2:11, 8:2, 9:18, 14:33, 15:25, 28:9, 28:17; Mk 5:6; John 9:38, 20:28. Without God we can do nothing: John 15:5. Jesus is our forerunner regarding the same life He lived. This opportunity is available to anyone willing to put their trust in Him. The scriptures ask us to follow Jesus Christ: Heb 6:20; 12:2. We are to imitate Jesus Christ: Lk 9:23; 1Pet 2:21. When living a life that's pleasing to God not everyone around us will always like it: Gal 1:10; Col 1:24; 1Thes 2:14-15. Saint Paul asks us to follow in the pattern of what we have seen and heard about Jesus: 1Cor 4:16; Phil 4:9. To put our trust in anything other than God and His Word can put us under a curse: Jer 17:5-8. We worship God in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit: Mathew 28:19.

Another point of those who are against the idea of Jesus being God is found in 1Cor 15:20-28; give special attention to verse 28: here these people will draw attention to Christ being under subjection to the Father. The greater truths escape their notice because they lack guidance from the Holy Spirit: 1Tim 4:1. Christ is not yet in complete subjection to the Father. There is still much work for Christ to do, and Christ, "THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH": Eph 1:22, 4:15; Col 1:18, "THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE": Rev 1:5, 3:14, 19:11 at present remains incomplete, having not His Body in complete subjection (i.e. the CHURCH), His future Bride. She is not in all Her Glory: Heb 2:8; Rev 21:2. With His Body/the Church in its completion at the RAPTURE, we will meet our Lord in the clouds above the earth: 1Cor 15:51-52; 1Thes 4:17, and during the seven years of tribulations we will be united with Him in Holy Matrimony: 1Cor 6:17; Eph 5:31-32; Rev 19:7-9. We are part of God/Christ such to the extent that Saint Paul said this statement to the Roman Believers: "The God of Peace will soon Crush Satan under (Your Feet)": Rom 16:20. Paul is saying under Their Feet; yet this is a future event.

Upon our Lord's return, near the end of tribulations, we will be in Him in the Father and will rule (in God and with God, in participation with Him in all He/we do/does), just prior to our thousand-year kingdom and reign in Christ/God on the earth: Rev 2:26-27, 19:14. All those not willing to concede with God's authority will be wiped off the face of the earth just prior to the tribulations ending: Rev 19:17-19; subsequently the thousand-year reign of Christ begins: Rev 20:1-4. This 1000-years kingdom of Christ begins with a surviving remnant of believers on the earth, without any unbelievers remaining alive in the Body: Dan 2:35. A restored environment will come after all the dead bodies are eaten up by the birds. All the unbelieving souls of those who hate God will be delivered to perpetual punishment: 2Thes 2:10; Mat 25:41; Rev 14:9-11; 19:20, 20:10-15, 21:8. The exceptions to this are all those who received the love of the truth through Faith in Jesus: John 3:16; Eph 2:8-9. As these (believers) perish because of the plagues and persecutions/martyrdom: Rev 9:18-19

their soul will be delivered to heaven until the total number of their brethren is slain as (they) were (i.e. the Old Testament Saints: Rev 6:9-11); this reaching its ultimate conclusion on the final day of the Tribulations. The souls “under the altar” and “resting a little while longer” are representative of the prophets of the law i.e. Teachers that were slain because of speaking the truths of God’s Word during the Old Testament Times: Mat 23:37-39; Lk 11:47-51. In the subsequent thousand years all the nations and peoples are subjected to God’s/Christ’s authority, Him ruling with a rod of iron: Rev 2:26-29; 19:15. Here is a continued list displaying that we have One God: Mk 12:29; John 10:30, 17:11, 21; 1Cor 8:6; Gal 3:20; Eph 4:6. It should be noted that dozens of other verses in the Old Testament make this perfectly clear. Look at Zechariah 12:10; in this passage (Jehovah) indicates that he was crucified; look also at Revelation 1:7-8, 17-18 and you will see that this is all true.

If there were no Holy Spirit there would be no God

It is also said by some of these wolves that: “the Holy Spirit is only a force”. They may or may not use the word “ONLY” when they say this, but this is exactly what they are implying. God is powerful in every way, and to divide God into the lesser or the more important in our minds is the very essence of evil thinking: Rom 11:16. If there were no Holy Spirit there would be no God, there would be nothing. God would not be God if He did not have a Holy Spirit, and there would be no Word of God. So, to say that the Spirit is a force is to acknowledge part of God. Yet all of us, sooner or later, are under obligation to acknowledge all of God: Isa 45:21-25; Rom 14:9-11; Phil 2:9-11; Rev 1:5-6... Here are more references of Old Testament prophecies indicating the universal ministry of the Spirit that was to be given in the future; these being a simile to the Church: 2Cor 3:3, and prophetic to Israel’s future after the Church’s Rapture: Isa 32:15; 44:3; Jer 31:33-34; Ezek 36:26-27; 39:29; Zech 12:10.

Our Lord Reveals The Church

It is important to note (again) that the Church was kept hidden: Col 1:26-27; 1Cor 2:7; Rom 11:25; Eph 1:9; 3:4-9 from all people in the past and was first revealed by our Lord in Matthew 16:18. A common misconception regarding Matthew chapter sixteen verse eighteen is that Peter is THE foundational element of the Church, but yet looking at the original Greek we see a different picture. In the Greek we see that the word “Peter” i.e. “*petros*” in the Greek, refers to a small rock; but yet the second word “ROCK” i.e. “*petra*” is a very large rock. It’s also important to understand that the appropriate English rendering of the first “AND” in this verse should be translated as “ALSO,” i.e. “*kai*” in the Greek. This is an acceptable and an accurate rendering of the Greek word *KAI* in this case. It should be important to note that the Greek word *kai* is rendered as the word “ALSO” in close to 514 verses in the New Testament scriptures. When understanding this verse in its proper context it still does not exclude Peter from being a foundational element of the Church, because he is in fact just that: Rev 21:14, and we can see by Peter’s words: 1Pet 2:5-7 that we are all “Living Stones” in the same Church, and “Christ being the Chief Cornerstone”.

To gain further insight in regarding all of this read the following verses: Acts 4:11-12; Rom 12:5; 1Cor 3:11; 12:12-13; Eph 5:23. Without this understanding it can only lead to evil divisive thinking amongst the true Church, and allusions of superiority: Gal 6:3; Rom 12:3. These previous verses are just a very small portion of the total expressing these principles of unity in one body: Rom 12:5; 1Cr 10:17, 11:3, 12:13; Eph 2:16, 4:3, 4:15. Christ is the head of the body i.e. the Church: Eph 5:23. To the extent that we are ignorant of these things is to the extent that we can find ourselves against God's Truth: 2Pet 3:14-18.

The Ministry of John the Baptist

Now pressing forward we will see Old Testament prophesy regarding John the Baptist's ministry; (which preceded our Lord's public ministry: Mat 3:11). These prophecies provided John with credentials that would enable him to have credibility amongst his countrymen: Isa 40:3; Jn 1:19-23. John's destiny was to be the herald of our Lord Jesus Christ: Lk 1:16-17; Jn 1:30-31. To divert any unnecessary misunderstanding that would occur from passing out of one epoch of time that knew God by means of Angels i.e. messengers, dreams, visions, actual physical manifestations of God, and of course the Law i.e. the Old Testament Scriptures: Heb 1:1-2, God would need a bridge and that bridge was John the Baptist; his ministry was of such a nature that the multitudes of people, especially Israel: Mk 1:5 could immediately relate the symbolic nature of John's ministry to that of various levitical washings required of the priests and also the people: Ex 19:10-14; 30:18-21; Heb 6:1-2; 9:8-14. John's ministry's central focus was to communicate to Israel that their Messianic King was soon to arrive on the scene: Jhn 1:6-8. Everything that Israel represented as a nation was soon to be realized with the appearance of Jesus Christ: Jn 7:25-31; Gal 4:1-7.

John's ministry provided them the opportunity for consecration, to set their hearts in order to receive their King in good conscience, in other words, to be in good faith upon Jesus' appearance: Lk 3:7-18. Because of the God's power John's ministry was highly successful and all of Israel was going to be baptized by him: Jn 3:27-28. Since we are saying that John's baptism was the bridge between two different administrations of God, why then does Jesus not give indication of these changes but yet before His departure to heaven reaffirms the on going practice of water baptism: Mat 28:19-20? The answer to this question is simple, God had not yet seen fit for the bridge's removal. Naturally water baptism would have an ongoing benefit beyond Jesus' departure. In fact this benefit would extend beyond the completion of the New Testament scriptures because there remained the need to circulate them throughout the world. One could say the process of circulation is still ongoing.

Nevertheless God has seen fit that greater insights be given those with the opportunity and willingness to absorb these new instructions, or as they are called "better promises: Heb 8:6" You might ask yourself, Why is any of this important? The answer to this question is critical; the Bible is a progressive revelation that reflects ongoing changes (i.e. the manifold wisdoms) of God: Eph 3:10. There is a principle that resides: sometimes it is essential to understand major portions of God's Word in order to understand discrete portions. Approximately twenty two years after the departure of Jesus in bodily form: 2Cor 5:16 the Apostle Paul indicated in first Corinthians that things had not yet been seen

clearly, or in totality, regarding this new administration God was unfolding before their eyes: 1Cor 13:12; 2Cor 3:18; Jam 1:23.

The Potential of the Written Scriptures

The last portions of New Testament scripture were not completed until around A.D. ninety-five when John penned the last amen of Revelations: with the scriptures complete there would now be the potential of gaining these greater insights (2Pet 1:3-4, 19) that God had kept hidden from previous generations: Rom 16:25; 1Cor 2:7; Eph 3:9; Col 1:26. These portions of scripture recorded during this transitional period incorporate multifarious changes reflecting new realities, passing us from the shadows of the law into the realities of the light i.e. the New Covenant to the Church: 1Cor 11:25; Heb 12:23-24. The most important thing to remember is; these new instructions regarding this new age would be given progressively throughout this Apostolic era which extended out about sixty-two years beyond the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. Much of what we see in New Testament scripture supersedes, and in fact “fulfills” doctrine seen in the Old Testament: Mat 5:17, even some of the instructions we see given to the Apostles by our Lord while on the earth have been subjected to change as we will see in the New Testament epistles. God used the Apostle Paul to record for us the greater portion of these changes amid a time beset with confusion and or resistance to change. Since the day of Pentecost, i.e. ten days after our Lord’s ascension, the greatest extent of God’s grace and power has been poured forth upon us (read all of Ephesians) through the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead i.e. the power of the Holy Spirit Rom 8:11. Now this saving power comes upon us at the moment of positive volition towards the gospel of Jesus Christ i.e. putting our faith in Him: Eph 1:13, 2:8-9; Gal 3:5-9,14; Jn 1:12. At the very second faith is expressed towards Christ we receive this baptism. This invisible but yet real power is in fact what saves us and washes us from our sins: 1Cor 6:11.

The Cross (the post) *, the Final Verdict

The cross was the final verdict in regards to sin; Jesus Christ paid the price; He bore the judgment and the suffering demanded of the Father; Read all of Isaiah 53. God was now able to receive the Old Testament Saints that were held in captivity: Eph 4:8; Lk 16:22. Our Lord’s atoning work on the cross would make way for their entrance into heaven because they had been acquitted of any wrongdoing: Col 2:14. It was and still is this invisible and sovereign act of God that saves us, just as it saved Jesus and the Saints of old: Acts 2:22-36; Psa 16:1-11. The visible results of this invisible power to save were God causing our Lord and some of the departed saints to appear after the resurrection: Lk 24:34; Mat 27:52-53. We see this power to save and to cleanse from sin displayed symbolically with water, this being the shadows of good things to come: Heb 6:1-2; Jam 1:17. There is now only one thing that we can hear with our ears, and is visible to our eyes that can save us: The Word Of God: 2Pet 3:3-7; Jhn 16:8-11. Just as the heavens and earth exist by the Word of God: Heb 11:3; Isa 45:18, likewise our salvation was called into existence by the Word of God: 2Cr 4:18; 1Cor 2-7; Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:5,11.

In the last days God by his WORD will draw all men to Himself: Jn 12:32; Rom 5:18. Without the Word of God man would not exist :Gen 1:27; Eph 2:9; 4:24, without the Word of God all men would be left in darkness: Mat 4:16; Lk 1:79. God has a plan that we can pass out of the darkness into His light: Jn 8:12; 12:46; Acts 26:18; Rom 13:12; 2Cor 4:6; Eph 5:8. If we reject Jesus and his words, it's not Jesus that will judge us, but the "WORD at the last day": Jn 12:47-48. The Lord Jesus Christ is The Word: Jn 1:1-2, the Amen: Rev 3:14; 22:21.

Symbolic Usages of Water

The earliest display of consecration by water we see in the Old Testament is found in Exodus 19:10-14. This consecration would most closely resemble John's baptism because it displayed outward cleanliness i.e. the removal of dirt from their clothing. This washing with water and John's baptism foreshadowed the ultimate results of the cross and the subsequent resurrection from the dead (i.e. the context of Ex 19 reflecting the appearance of God on the morning of the third day. The resurrection of Christ is the visible proof of God's Power to save us and to give us eternal life in Himself: Jn 14:6. John's ministry was of immense importance in that it enabled specifically Israel to consecrate themselves prior to the appearance of their King: Lk 3:7. True Israel: Rom 9:6 could readily relate to the significance of John's baptism because their God ward heritage was steeped in symbolic displays of cleansing by water; this water; symbolically; is analogous to the WORD OF GOD. The Word of God cleanses us from sin: Eph 5:26. The Word of God: Jn 1:1 being the active and living force to cleanse us from our sins: Heb 4:12.

In Exodus 29:4-7 we also see the symbolic consecrations of Aaron the high priest, and his sons also being of the levitical order having their bodies washed with water and then being anointed with oil; these displays foreshadowing the Holy Spirit's indwelling ministry in Christ: Lk 4:18-21, and there after every believer priest in Jesus Christ: 2Cr 5:17; Gal 6:15; 1Pet 1:9. The reality of this complete anointing took place 47 days after our Lord's resurrection from the dead: that day being called Pentecost: Acts 2:1. On this day the Spirit's outward manifestations were being made available first to the Apostles: Acts 2:1-4 then progressively to all those who believed and were willing to progress in God's Plan: 1Cor 12:7. This power of the Spirit provides each advancing believer with a unique ability, i.e. (A special gift that incorporates the Power of God in us to serve Him and others 1 Cor 12; 14:3; Eph 4:11-12)... In Exodus: 30:18-21 Aaron and his son were to wash their hands and feet prior to conducting service to God and the people. This displayed in shadow portrays confession or admission of sin and the resultant fellowship with God; not doing this meant certain death: Lev 15:1-27.

In the law mentioned above we also see infirmities related to the body either flowing secretions i.e. a symbolic picture of the overtly obvious sins of humanity i.e. those types of sins that are obvious to all; whereas the restricted secretions are a picture of concealed sins, i.e. not overtly obvious to others, yet, nevertheless obstructive to the persons progression with God and His people, after cleansing with water they were to remain unclean until the next day i.e. evening. (With Israel evening was the start of the next day.) The next day representing another opportunity to serve God, ideally not repeating the sins of the previous day: Lev 15:1-33; Psa 37:8. In reading all of Leviticus 15 we see

symbolic displays of various situations involving visible infirmities. These verses depict our interrelationships with those of an unclean condition i.e. sin. These also depict the inevitable influence that these persons will have on those in their immediate vicinity. Whether a sin is concealed or obvious it will inevitably affect those in our periphery: 1Cor 15:33-34; Heb 12:15; 1Cor 4:5, 5:6; Gal 5:9.

Bear in mind that in these cases, the Word of God does not call for complete separation from Church Bodies or individuals. Complete separation would be in order in the case of a leper. The overtly visible infirmity of the leper would suddenly appear or disappear: Lev 13:40-14-57; Num 12: 1-15. The reason for this person's sudden infection is because he has crossed a line that God calls for the complete separation of that person from the congregation. This is to protect God's plan and His people. These people are in an active rebellion to God's authority, but not to the extent that death is in order. They have been forewarned not to be doing what they are doing regarding sin: Mat 18:15-18; 2Thes 3:15.

Whereas the previous infirmities involve sin, but yet these do not represent a direct rebellion against God's authority. Another way to put it is, these are sins are completely disruptive to the plan of God for the person infected, and also the people around that person. Old Testament infirmities of the flesh are always analogous and symbolic to the inward infirmities i.e. sins that will inevitably be present in our spiritual lives we have with God and His people. This outward spot of the leper can best be seen in the light of the Church; in the following verses; which call for complete separation from these individuals: 1Cor 5:11-13; 2Thes 3:6-9; 1Pet 4:17. The reason God calls for these drastic measures is to keep His Church free from defilement, apostasy, and deception: Heb 12:15. The only other command that the Word of God provides for us regarding separation is to not hold interpersonal relationships with unbelievers: 2Cr 6:14-18. The exception to this is when a believer is married to an unbeliever: in this case the Word of God calls for the believer to remain with the unbelieving spouse unless he or she chooses to end the marriage: 1Cr 7:10-17.

Finally we see in Numbers 19:7-5 and many other passages the individuals involved in handling sacrificial animals or their final remains i.e. the ashes; were to; after these activities; wash their body and clothing and were to be considered unclean until the next day. God had this ordinance for the sake of all men; to show them that though they participated in these sacrificial displays, no credit was due them; only to God who cleanses us from sin: Jer 13:16; Isa 64:6; Lk 2:14; Jud 1:25; Rev 1:6. God all by Himself provided everything that was necessary to save us: Mat 1:21; Eph 2:8-9. These washings symbolically portrayed cleansing from allusions in the thinking of the priest's or the congregation that there be any merits outside that of the works of God to save. It is simply our privilege to serve Him well: Psa 100:2. We see in Leviticus 20:7-8 and Ezekiel 36:22-33 and dozens of other verses that only God can empower us to serve Him Jn 15:5. Only God through His Spirit, i.e. (the power of God) are we able to serve Him in truth: Jn 4:23-24.

In Isaiah 64:6 and 1 John 1:5-9 we see that none of us can claim immunity from wrongdoing and sin: Rom 3:23. The whole human race is condemned in Adam, he being the source of the Old Sin Nature passed on to the whole human race: Gen 2:17; 1Cor 15:22. We were all plunged into this spiritual death i.e. separation from God and unable to have

fellowship with Him: Eph 2:1-2. Christ is our only hope for reconciliation with the Father: Acts 4:12. This hope of reconciliation would first be mentioned immediately after the original sin of Adam and Eve. In Genesis 3:15 we see Christ first referred to as the Seed of the woman. Another is a virgin was to give birth to God in the flesh: Isa 7:10-14; Mat 1:23. For a SIGN: the baby Jesus was wrapped in the cloth for the burial of the dead: Jesus at birth was already being identified with the death of the Cross: Lk 2:12. Christ was our substitute: Rom 5:8; 1Pet 2:24-25; 4:1-2 the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world: Jn 1:29; Rev 6:16. Without this Gift no man would be able to serve God and in fact we would remain condemned by Him: Jn 3:35-36

The True Essence of our Salvation

Hebrews 6:1-2 indicates that teachings about the various Baptisms were among the most basic from God; these enabling us to understand the true essence of our salvation: Heb 9:8-14. In fact to understand the most advanced principles regarding salvation one must turn their attention to the righteousness and justice of God (i.e. The Father's perfect values: Mat 3:17; 17:5.) There has never been a greater value to the Father than Jesus Christ His Son; Jesus was that precious value the Father's justice demanded to purchase us from the slave market of sin: Jn 8:34-37; Eph 2:1-5; Col 2:13. It's always important to bear in mind that it all was through Christ's sacrifice of Himself; and that this made way for the resultant power of the Holy Spirit to be given to us: Jn 16:7. Notice in this verse that Jesus says that HE would send the Spirit; this sounds like something that the Father does: Jn 14:26; 15:26! The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the very power that saves all those that believe: Rom 6:5; 1Pet 1:3. Our sins were the cause of Jesus' spiritual death: Rom 6:10-11 i.e. the separation from fellowship with His Father. When our sins were being poured out upon Him from noon to shortly before 3:00 PM He kept crying out to the Father who had for that brief period severed fellowship with Him: Mk 15:34. There could have been no greater test than this separation; and with His integrity maintained through the power of the Holy Spirit, the great mission to atone for sin was completed: Jn 19:28; the certificate of debt was nailed to the cross: Col 2:14. With all things completed regarding sin, Jesus said; "it is finished": Jn 19:30; and in His final exhale said "*Father into your hands I commit my Spirit, You have redeemed Me O Lord God of truth*": Lk 23:46; Psa 31:5.

The sins of all human history past, present, and future were poured out on Jesus 2Cor 5:21, and the Father judged them in Him: Isa 53:5. Jesus gave His sinless body to be pierced through with our sins: this satisfying God's Righteousness 2 Cor 5:21. Jesus gave His spiritual life for our spiritual death: Isa 53:12. The Old Testament shadow displaying this transfer of sins is seen when the persons' who offered the sacrifices placed his or her hand on the head of the animal, and at the same time with their other hand cut the animal's throat: Lev 4:4, 15, 24, 32; 16:21. Read all of Isaiah chapter 53; this is the perspective of Jesus' life from youth until now, and in the future: give special attention to verse six, and also Psalms 22:1-18. This Psalm passage gives perspective of some of what Jesus said, but mostly Jesus' thoughts concerning what He was experiencing, and what He was anticipating while on the cross from nine in the morning: Mk 15:25 until noon when there was still light, and from noon almost till three PM when there was darkness: Mk 15:33-34. These passages give us some of the best perspectives of what our Great God and Savior did for us on the cross: Tts 2:13.

The Blood of Christ

Now moving on it is important to note the phrase “The blood of Christ”. This phrase is often misunderstood: Eph 2:13. Our Lord informed a group of people and His disciples that unless they drink His blood and eat His flesh they have no life in themselves: Jn 6:53. By this we see that they needed something beyond flesh and blood to arise out of their deaths. They were alive and breathing so Christ’s blood and flesh could not improve their physical health and no portion of Jesus’ literal body or blood were ever eaten. The need that they lacked was the Spirit’s power that kept the flesh of Jesus alive while in the grave: Jn 6:61-64, though the body was considered dead, yet it remained alive despite His blood being poured out at the base of the cross: Jn 19:34. This display of blood and water was the visible proof that His invisible soul and spirit had been “poured out” of His body, and that without the exclusive power of God there would be no hope for Him or for us: Eph 2:12. The Holy Spirit transported Jesus’ human Spirit to the Father and also took the human Soul of Jesus to the heart of the earth: Lk 23:46; Mat 12:40; Acts 2:31; Eph 4:9-10; Rom 8:11. This three-part division of Jesus represents the insurmountable barrier that no ordinary man could surpass: Rom 10:6-7; but Jesus was not an ordinary man: Jhn 10:18, He is the Son of man, and the Son of God: Mat 1:20; 9:6; 17:5 Acts 7:56! The people and the disciples were disturbed by this symbolic suggestion to eat His body and drink His blood, but by Jesus doing so He revealed the greatest truth there is; without God there would be nothing: Col 1:16. He later informed His disciples that He had been speaking of the Spirit: Jn 6:63. This same Spirit, being the very power that had and would save all those that did and would put their trust in One God: Jn 3:16; 2Pet 3:9.

The indestructible parts of us that have come from God i.e. our soul and human spirit in the case of the believer, and the souls of unbelievers, will return to God’s custody after the death of the flesh; and the body will return to the dust from which it was made Eccl 12:7; Gen 2:7. The exceptions to this are those believers that are alive at the time of the Church’s Rapture. These believers will disappear having their bodies of Flesh changed into a different substance compatible with God and Heaven. This once again is the same power as the resurrection of Christ: 1Cor 15:35-58. “The blood of Christ” needs to be understood as the perfect Human Spirit, Soul, and also the Spirit of God within Jesus: Rom 8:11, just as the glass of grape juice in Jesus’ hand at the last supper speaks of drinking the Holy Spirit of promise: Mat 26:28; 1Cor 12:13, the invisible fountain of life: Rev 21:6.

One thing that is very important to know is that Jesus did not die from loss of blood. When a person bleeds to death the water and the solids of the blood do not separate as did that of Jesus: Jn 19:35. When the sacrificial animals were to be slain by cutting their throat the blood was collected in a pan and only a small portion of the blood was used to put on the four horns of the altar i.e. with one finger, also the blood was sprinkled with “one finger” on the various articles of the tabernacle once a year on the day of atonement; then the majority of the blood was poured out at the base of the altar: Ex 29:12; Lev 4:7, 18, 25; 9:9. Note that the altar was the symbolic representation of the cross. The blood on the four horns represented the blood that came out when the hands and feet of our Lord were nailed to the cross: Ex 27:1-3; Eze 43:15-20. Without any sin of His own: 2Cor 5:21, but bearing all of ours in His own body: 1Pet 2:24, Jesus by His own will (Jn 10:18; Isa 53:10) “poured

out” His Soul and human Spirit to the Father: Lk 23:46. With the resultant departure from His body, the Spirit remained to care for it: Psa 16:10; Acts 2:27-31. This is the indestructible life!! Acts 2:24; Heb 7:16-17. He suffered in His body, soul, and human spirit for our sins: 1Pet 2:24, and was cut off from the land of the living: Isa 53:8. Jesus is the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world: Jn 1:29.

The Water, the Word of God

It’s now time to step back into the middle of what is a great sea of glass: Rev 4:6; 15:2. We see here in these verses those who (refused to receive) the mark of the Beast or the number of his name i.e. the 666: they received the Reward of righteousness that comes through Faith in Jesus Christ our Lord: Phil 3:9. These same are being seen standing on the Water of the Word of God: 1Pet 1:23-25, the power of God to save all those who believe in Him. We also see Peter standing on this same power to save and yet even though he doubted, the Lord rescued him out of his doubt: Mat 14:25-33. This power is active and waiting to save all those who desire to have a life with God: Mat 11:28-30.

Various Covenants

We will now look at a subject that is little known. This subject is regarding the Old Covenant to Israel, the New Covenant to the Church, and the New Covenant to Israel. First of all a covenant is a binding agreement made between two parties with certain conditions set fourth for both sides to fulfill. We will first cover a Covenant made to Noah: Gen 6:18, 9:9. This Covenant is unique in that it reflects a promise made not only to Noah and his SEED, but also to the whole human race. Noah believed in God as He had revealed Himself at that time. If you remember earlier in this study we saw that the seed of Abraham was in fact a miracle of God creating a life out of death; the miracle enabling Sarah and Abraham to conceive a child. We saw that God created this miracle. The seed of Noah is exactly the same thing. God gave the promise of eternal life to Noah at the very moment he expressed faith i.e. when he believed in God. This faith was reckoned to Noah as righteousness. Noah received the promise of a future life with God in Heaven, a life sanctified and suitable to live with God Forever: Tts 3:5. This Seed of those that believe is now the salt of the earth: Mat 5:13. For the sake of this Seed i.e. Christ and the elect of God Rom 8:33; God will never again flood the earth and destroy all flesh: Gen 9:8-17. You might be asking yourself right now, “Why did God destroy all flesh in the first place?” This is a very important question that deserves a thorough explanation. Turn to Genesis 6:1 and read through to verse 8. In verse two and four you will see the words “sons of God”. This Hebrew construction is found in only three other verses in the Old Testament: Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7. If it were not for Job 38:7 and a few verses in the New Testament we might not know who these are. God in His scriptures, and in due time, will always provide enough information to understand any given subject, and this subject is no exception. We know from Job 38:7 that this account being stated is that of Angels because man was not created for some time after this account. Also ALL of the angels shouted for joy indicating that the fall of Satan and his angels had not yet occurred. So it is safe to say that the sons of God in Genesis 6:2 were a type of angels that had capability to cause pregnancy in humans. If this is hard to

believe turn to and read 1Peter 3:18-20 and also Jude 1:6. The results of this forbidden stroke of the fallen spirits under Satan's dominion' was a half-man half-angel combination and the resultant trend of violence: Gen 6:11-12. It seems that after 120 years a majority of the true human race had succumbed to this invasion, and had not God caused the flood, true humanity would have disappeared from the earth: Gen 6:3. This new creature was called the Nephilim and proved to be a formidable enemy to true humanity and also God: Gen 6:4, and yet because of the grace from God even these would have an opportunity to believe and be saved: Rom: 11:5 just in the same way during the tribulations, though starting with all unbelievers; after a succession of judgments there is a multitude in heaven too numerous to count: Rev 7:9, 14:13, 15-16.

So we can see despite any circumstance God will get His harvest from the earth. Despite God having to destroy all flesh with water: Gen 7:17-24 these half man half angel creatures still had the opportunity to put their faith in the Words of Noah "A preacher of righteousness": 2Pet 2:5. We can have confidence in God that a great number of these were turning to Him in their final days, hours, minutes, and seconds of their lives on earth. The principle to remember is that God will always get His Harvest of the willing. God's love and judgments always prepare us either to receive Him with hope or prepares those who won't concede for their final destiny.

The following passage is about the rich man and Lazarus. Don't be deceived by that rich man, if we gave him the water he desired it would only be a lie and contradictive to God's plan: this man would not even take in Lazarus and wash his wounds and yet the dogs had mercy. Jesus sets the truth strait, while the rich man was just lying: Lk 16: 19-31; Rev 21:8. Some rich people will read or hear this parable and believe in Jesus.

The covenant promise that God made with Abraham was to his Seed according to the Spirit: Gal 3:16, this was also promised to his descendants according to the Spirit: Rom 4 (all the chapter)... In the future Abraham's descendants will possess the greater portions of the middle east i.e. the Palestinian covenant: Gen 13:14-15, 15:18-21, 26:3-5, 28:4,13-15; Num 34:1-12; Deut 34:1-12; Josh 1:2-4. At no time has Israel possessed in totality all of this land. God foresaw that Israel would break the covenant He made with the Sons of Abraham. To this day the promise is still valid and will be carried out in our Lord's thousand-year reign on earth. This total allotment of land will be acquired for them solely by our Lord Jesus Christ: Rev 19:15. No advance or retreat in terms of Israel's current land holdings is indicative of our Lord's return Mk 13:5-8. Notice that our Lord said, "*Those things must take place*", referring to war and false prophets: the context also includes social and environmental disasters; and Jesus says not to be (afraid). This word in the Greek more so reflects (to not be disturbed); yet does not exclude us from concern to help those caught in these situation or disasters. Another thing to note from this passage is that Jesus said, "these things are the beginning of birth pains". Women can and usually do have some pains right from the onset of pregnancy to their final days when the water breaks: it is at this time that she and others SEE for certain that her time has come. What we see in terms of Israel's' land holdings in the Middle East today represents just (a minute fraction) of the total land she will have in the future.

Until our Lord's return at the end of the Tribulations, Israel will be continually persecuted by those who hate Her and the true God: Gal 4:29. Nations that chose to give mercy and grace to the Jew will be blessed, but those that choose the alternative will be

cursed: Gen 12:3. Until the Church's Rapture God will use Gentile nations to progress the Gospel: Mat 21:42-43; Mk 12:9-11; Lk 20:15-17. These nations He will bless in extraordinary ways enabling missionaries to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world: Rom 10:14-15; 11:25; Psa 33:12[a]. These passages reflect responsibilities Believers have in terms of Stewardship of the Gospel until the Church's Rapture. At the time of the Rapture Israel will once again carry these responsibilities that were given to the Church for a time: Mat 23:37-39.

Please read the 49th chapter of Isaiah... Nations and the peoples with these responsibilities will always and inevitably be targets of persecution and oppression despite freedom and the outpouring of generosity. The exception to this is our Lord's 1000-year reign... Historians can trace roughly 11 or 12 of these blessed nations starting first with the Roman Empire in the first and second centuries. Just as these nations are blessed in great ways: Psa 33:12; Prov 14:34; Acts 10:34-35, they are also punished severely when they fail to deliver on God's truth and promises: Gen 11:1-9. When these nations begin to crumble because of decadence, God is always preparing a new nation to take the light of His Word afresh to those to whom God knows have the desire to hear it: Rom 1:7-8.

The next covenant in line made by God was to a single recipient, that being King David. This Covenant Promise is the regeneration of life Promised to David at the moment David put his trust in God. This promise was fulfilled in his future Son the Lord Jesus Christ. The promise to David was that he would have a Son that would reign on his throne forever: 2Sam 7:8-17; 2Chro 13:5; Psa 18:50, 89:20-37; Lk 1:32-33; this Son being the person of our Lord Jesus Christ i.e. the Prince of Peace: Isa 9:6; 1Kings 2:33. This Son i.e. Jesus would not only be his Son according to genetics: Rom 1:3 but also according to the Spirit of God Rom 1:4. Jesus is the Son of God, being indwelt by God from birth: Heb 1:5-6; the body of Jesus was also created by God through the virgin birth Lk 1:34-35. Mary was the mother of Jesus according to the flesh/genetics (which God also created), but God was the Father of Jesus also according to the Spirit. The Holy Spirit was the cause and source of Mary's conception. We have seen in previous verses that in fact The Lord is the Spirit and that the Lord Jesus is Jehovah in the Flesh i.e. the Son of God... Here is a principle: you can't be the Son of God and not be God, just as you can't be the Son of man and not be Man. We are all Sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus: Gal 3:26 and God is not ashamed to Call Us Brethren: Heb 2:11 because God is not ashamed of Himself; and if we are brethren then we are one Spirit in God: 1Cor 6:17. We are also in one body, Christ being the Head: Eph 4:4, 15. Those who accept these things are in and of, One God.

Being Made into His Same Image

God has a constantly increasing number of manifestations of Himself because All believers drink of one Spirit: 1Cor 12:13. We are being made into His same image: 2Cor 3:18. The natural man does not know of these things because he lacks the Spirit of God to appraise these things because for the time he's not in God: 1Cor 2:14. Those that are Sons of God are Sons of God according to His election and predestination as adoption of sons: Rom 8:15, 9:11; Eph 1:5; 1Pet 1:23-25. God chooses those that He knew would choose Him. God tabernacles among us and in us i.e. in the temporal tents of our flesh: John 14:23; 2Cor 5:1, 13:14. Although the Abrahamic covenant was in regards to many nations arising

from the Abraham's seed i.e. Gentile nations: Gen 17:5, His seed was to take on a unique path creating a new race of people: Gen 35:10 that also was to arise as a new nation: Gen 35:11[b] to serve God in a unique way: Gen 35:22,23 (notice in verse 22 that there are twelve sons born to Israel, these represent twelve tribes which is to be One New Nation). God said that "through Sarah your wife, your seed shall be established": Gen 17:17-20, 21:12-13. God refused Abraham's aspirations regarding Ishmael being his heir as to the regeneration of life from the dead i.e. Abraham's future impotence: Rom 4:19-20; Heb 11:11-12. There needed to be a miracle that would set this son apart from the previous child (Ishmael) born to Abraham by natural means rather than the supernatural means of God (Ishmael being conceived through Sarah's servant prior to Abraham's impotence: Gen 16). After the birth of Ishmael there was the necessity for more time to pass -14 years-subsequently taking Abraham to a point beyond sexual impotence, where there was no hope for him outside that of God to have a child through Sarah. When all possibilities within ourselves evaporate, then in many cases we are finally ready to concede in our hearts to God i.e. to put our trust and focus towards God rather than in our natural abilities, things, and people: Deut 4:16; Psa 56:11, 118:8, 146:3-5; Prov 3:5-8; 29:25.

In our lives as Believers we are always receiving blessings from God; much of the time we are not even aware of it. At some point between faith in Christ and our death in the flesh, God will take us to the end of ourselves i.e. any human solutions, and create a situation that potentially has the ability to take our hearts closer to Him: Lam 3:19-39; Psa 119:75. This is a blessing that God always tries to give every believer before He takes them home to be with Him. This is to take us from a small faith that can't please God to a great faith that exemplifies God's abilities in the person's life: Rom 4:20-21; this is an extended, more complete love and appreciation for God. Much of what we can see in our lives with God is a miracle just by nature of what we are not able to do ourselves; and in fact we would be able to do many things if it were not for God preventing our aspirations from coming to pass: Gen 11:5-9. He has a plan for our lives that we often resist, therefore creating delays in His ultimate plans for us: Lk 13:34. Just in the same way parents often stand in the way of their child's desires, so too our Father in heaven will subvert some things we are trying to do through the energy of the flesh: Rom 8:8. God does not want us to realize success in something that is counterproductive to His plan for our life. Another way to put it is: God doesn't want us to think we are good at something that is contrary or distracting to our Spiritual skill He gave to us at the point of salvation: Rom 12:6[a]; 1Cor 7:7; 1Pet 4:10-11.

An Old Life. A New Life

To some extent we will all lose our old life to gain the new one with God: Mat 10:34-39; Mk 10:29; Lk 9:23-24. Quite often we will desperately try to cling to our old life only to experience a dysfunctional life mingled with suffering and discipline disappointments: Heb 6:7-8, 12:11-13. We also can fall into the principle of reaping what we sowed, or as some call it: "self induced misery": Hsa 10:12; Micah 6:15; Gal 6:7-8.

After Abraham's conversion God called him to leave his homeland and to be a stranger and a foreigner in the land of promise: Heb 11:8-9. This move eventually enabled Abraham to realize better things, the greater things of God: 1Cor 2:9. Most of us will

eventually experience feelings of separation and detachment from our old life: Num 11:5. This is designed to remove erroneous distractions which in turn allows us to explore our new and more important life and opportunities with God: Eph 4:22. These first steps in the believer that is interested in glorifying God are always accompanied with sufferings and Blessings: Rom 8:17; Phil 1:29; 2Tim 2:12, 3:12; 1Pet 3:14, 4:16-19.

There usually is the desire to go back to the old things like the Israelites desiring to go back to Egypt even after being subjected to cruel slavery: Acts 7:39-40. This is a picture of us wanting to go back to our old lifestyles, being enslaved to sin i.e. the heart that wants to go back to Egypt. The only reason this happens is we have not yet learned to capitalize on the new opportunities related to our new relationship with God: 2Cr 4:18; Col 3:1. This happens because we are not yet willing to leave our old thinking and lifestyles behind and to take a truly active role in our new family: the Body of Christ: 1Cor 12:25. When we forsake our assembling together we are not able to reap the benefits related to our mutual interdependence in the body of Christ: 1Cr 12:14-21; Heb 10:25. Distractions regarding this failure are often related to selfishness and greed: Phil 2:3-5. Those who are faithful can suffer because of the unfaithfulness of others just as Christ suffered for us. We need to be willing to set ourselves apart for service i.e. to be sanctified for our new purpose: Gal 5:13; 1Pet 3:15. Once we set our heart towards God and his purpose for our lives, we will quickly begin to realize true happiness and contentment of soul i.e. living in Spirit and in Truth: Jn 4:23-24; 1Tim 6:6. This new lifestyle isn't without suffering, but yet this life does not leave us with continual disappointment: Rom 5:5, but is accompanied with a new keen awareness of an eternal loving relationship with invisible God and His people: Rom 5:2, 12:12, 15:13; Tts 1:2. It is a life where happiness pursues us: Psa 23:6; versus us pursuing something we cannot possibly obtain ourselves; just in the same way Abraham was not able to obtain that promised child on his own.

How to Realize a Greater Faith?

We need to follow God and learn His ways: Mat 11:29. Although Abraham was saved long before his circumcision: Rom 4:11, he became strong in faith submitting to God's instructions to remove the useless skin from his phallus: Rom 4:20, this being a sign analogous to the circumcision of his heart: Rom 2:29; Deu 10:16, 30:6 by this time in Abraham's life he had fully put his confidence in God: Heb 11:6. Once again, when we have exhausted all human solutions then we are ready to put our trust in God. This is what God wants and He deserves this attitude in us: Psa 18:2-3; Jude 1:24-25. When our trust is fully in Him, then and only then are we without fear, illusion, and deception: Psa 18:30, 20:7, 40:4, 62:8, 73:28, 118:8-9, 119:118; Isa 57:4; 2Cor 2:17, 4:2; 1Tim 4:10.

Many people at some point have asked themselves "how can I realize a greater faith than I have now?" The key factor that keeps any of us from attaining a great faith and a productive life with God can be said in one word: UNFAITHFULNESS. When the Apostles of Jesus said "Increase our faith: Lk 17:5" He said: Verses 7 thru 10:

vs. 7: *"Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'?: (No the master would not say this.)*

vs. 8: “*But will he not say to him*”, “*Prepare something for me to eat, and clothe yourself appropriately, and serve me while I eat and drink; and after these things you may eat and drink?*” (Yes, the master would say this.)

vs. 9: “*He does not thank the slave because he did the things that were expected, does he?*” (No he wouldn’t.)

vs.10: “*So you too, when you’ve did all the duties that are commanded; do you say that*” “*We are unworthy slaves; we’ve done that which we should have done?*” (No, the slaves would not think this.)

The idea that Jesus is giving to the Apostles and to us is; we need to do all that’s commanded and expected of us; then naturally our faith will be increased by the blessings of God: Mat 24:46; Lk 11:28, 12:41-48; Heb 6:7; Jam 1:12. The alternative to this is discipline and the resultant unrealized blessings from God: Heb 12:1-15. One could say that the most basic requirement from God for us would be to attend Church: Heb 10:25. Certainly this should be seen as a basic element of faithfulness to Christ and His Body: Psa 101:6-7; Tts 1:9. Right at this point we could start making a lot of excuses but most of these are baseless: Lk 14:12-35; Mk 10:26-31: unless we don’t recognize the Bible as God’s Word. The reasons we have for not being in attendance at Church can only produce more delays, complications, dissatisfactions, and self-induced misery in our lives. There are obvious reasons not to attend, these being of a common sense nature: for example; in the event of fatal illnesses, wars, weddings, being bound in a slave-master relationship in which the New Testament scriptures encourage us to break if possible: 1Cor 7:20-24, conscientious objections to the teachings of false doctrine: 1Tim 4:1, the conditions of a brother in Christ that is in open rebellion to Christ and his Body: in this case the scriptures call for the persons removal from the assembly: 1Cor 5:11-13; and it’s safe to say there are more reasons extending beyond this list: 1Cor 4:5.

“*Mimetes*”: Imitate

The following verses represent the extremes that some will encounter in order to fulfill what God has for them while on earth. The first account that we will look at is that of the Apostle Paul; Paul in the estimation of many is considered to be one who had endured a great expanse of adversity in order to serve God. The Lord told Paul up front that this was to be so: Acts 9:15-16; 2Cor 4:8-12, 6:4-10; 11:23-28. Certainly there are other Christians aside from Paul not recorded in scripture that have suffered for the faith; but Paul has many words of admonishment that would encourage us to be like him. A word that Paul, Peter and the writer of Hebrews used collectively seven times is “*mimetes*”; this Greek word means to mimic i.e. an imitator. In most New Testament translations this word is translated followers. There are numerous words in the Greek that indicate following but the Greek word *mimetes* means to imitate, and yet does not exclude the idea of being a follower. The point is this: followers often do not imitate their leader; but in the following verses we are being asked by the Spirit of the Word of God to imitate those of Great faith: Heb 6:9-13. In this Hebrews passage God is trying to encourage those of us whose faith has stalled out or even suffered decline to move on in our faith, just as Abraham did along with many other believers spoken of in Hebrews 11. It would be well worth the time to read chapter 11 as soon as possible in order to round out the understanding gained from Chapter 6.

The next passage is 1 Corinthians 11:1: here Paul encourages us to imitate him just as he does Christ. At this point we can ask ourselves: “what does it mean to imitate Jesus?” this is the greatest question any believer could ever ask him or herself. Discovering in a more complete way who Jesus was and is will supernaturally accelerate everything that God wants us to know about Him for our immediate existence on earth; and our future destiny in Him. If you have never done so, I would encourage you to read the Gospel of John from start to finish without stopping before progressing any farther in this study.

Here are the four passages remaining containing the word “imitate”: 1Cor 4:14-17; Eph 5:1; 1Thes 1:6, 2:14... In Philippians 4:8-9 we again see the same idea indicating there will be certain believers God provides for our encouragement and growth in His Word: Eph 4:15; 1Pet 2:2; 2Pet 3:18. The scripture indicates that we all should grow to the point that we can teach and encourage others to press on in their lives with God: Acts 14:22; Rom 5:14; Col 1:28, 2:2, 3:16; 1Thes 2:11-12, 4:18, 5:11, 14; 2Thes 3:15; Tts 1:9, 2:3; Heb 5:12. We are all encouraged to be good witnesses; also having a good confession concerning Christ: 1Cor 9:24-27; 1Tim 6:11-14. To know the love of Christ; we need to grow together; we can't come to know God if we don't come to know His Body 1Cor 12:14-27. None of this is possible unless we become active in a Church Body; learning to bear with one another in the love of Christ: Rom 15:1-7; Eph 4:1-3; Col 3:12-15. God is faithful: over time He will provide the right Church for all of us; one that we feel at home, enabling us to grow in love for Him and His Children in the world: Jn 13:34; Rom 12:10, 13:8; Gal 5:13; Eph 4:2; 1Thes 3:12; Heb 10:24; 1Pet 1:22, 3:8; 1Jn 3:11, 4:7,12.

Truth Over Tradition

At certain points in history there is a necessity for God to restore truth on earth, when this happens it is always God prerogative never man's: Mat 15:13; Mk 7:8-13; Acts 17:27-31; 2Cor 6:16-18. The power that enables this has always been the power of God from times of old even until now: Zech 4:6; Isa 11:1-6, 30:1; Jn 15:1-17; Eph 5:8-11. It is inevitable over the course of time that tradition will replace the truth: Deu 4:1-25. There comes the time when God will change nations and peoples He uses to spread His Word in order to restore truth to the rest of the world: Mat 21:43. This restoration of truth happened during our Lord's time on earth and will continue to happen as often as God deems necessary until the rapture of His Church: 1Cor 15:52; 1Thes 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:1-5; 8-11. The principle is that God is faithful to the Faithful despite any ignorance or the adoptions of traditions: Mat 12:20; Isa 42:3. There are always those that desire to walk in His ways despite any ignorance of the times; there will always be those who bow only to the Lord: Rom 11:2-6. There will always be a time when people will begin to desire the Truth over Traditions. These times of change are always mingled with difficulties and persecutions: 2Tim 3:12; Jn 16:2. There will be those who resist change just in the same way the Apostle Paul and others did so close to two thousand years ago: Acts 8:1-3; 1Cor 15-9. Paul was zealous for the Lord despite him not being aware of the truth to a fuller measure prior to our Lord's personal meeting with Paul when Jesus caused blindness to come upon him: Acts 9:1-31. This same blindness God can be caused to overtake us when He is ready to make a new light fall upon us: Rom: 4:22-25; 1Tim 1:20. We need His help to let go of the old in order to grasp hold of the new: Eph 4:23.

The Seven Ones

From here forward this study is going to center on a series of verses in Ephesians 4:1-7, then progressing to verses 8-16. First of all Verse 3 is the supposition to verses 4-6. If there isn't a common faith and understanding of what some call the SEVEN ONE'S then verse 3 cannot be completely attained; also look at verse 13 which further illustrates the idea Paul in the Spirit is trying to convey.

In verse 4 we see the words "ONE BODY: Rom 12:5; 1Cr 12:27"; this is referring to the Church which is the body of Christ: Eph 5:23; Col 1:18. We see in Romans 7:4 that we are the Body of Christ, and that our objective should be to bring forth fruit unto God. As the Body of Christ we are to be equipped for the work of service unto God by evangelists and teachers: Eph 4:11-12... In order to please God we should deploy a Gift from Him in order to Build up the Body of believers we are with and know: 1Thes 4:1; 2Tim 2:4. Though the body be many members we are all one in Christ: 1Cor 12:12; Gal 3:28. We should all have the same care for one another: 1Cor 12:25. *Without us being at peace with all men none of us will see the Lord: Heb 12:14.* The word of God also teaches there are people we are to maintain caution with, because they are not of God: Phil 3:2; Rev 22:15. These same will be against truth and the Body of Christ: James 3:13-18; 2Cor 11:26; Gal 2:4; 2Tim 3:3; 2Pet 2:1; 1Jn 4:1-6.

We see in Ephesians 4:4b that there is ONE SPIRIT. This is referring to the Holy Spirit, which is inseparably part of One God; without the Holy Spirit God would not be God. As Christians, and being of the body of Christ, we are all of the same Spirit: Jn 7:39; Rom 8:23; 1Cor 6:11, 17, 12:7, 13; Gal 3:14; Eph 2:18; 2Thes 2:13; 1Pet 1:2... In Eph 4:4c we see there is only ONE HOPE of our calling Jhn 14:1. We are called to put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ because there is salvation in none other than Jesus: Mat 28:19; Jhn 14:6; Acts 4:10-12; Rom 5:1-5; 1Cor 15:19; Gal 5:5; Phil 1:20; Col 1:5, 23-27; 1Thes 1:3, 2:19; 2Thes 2:16; 1Tim 1:1; Tts 2:13; Hbr 3:6; 1Pet 1:3, 21; 1Jn 2:23-24. As we can clearly see in all these verses our Hope is Four-fold: our hope is the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the Resurrection of the dead... These truths are the most central points distinguishing the sheep from the goats forever: Acts 24:15; Mat 25:31-46.

Moving on to Ephesians 4:5 we see there is ONE LORD, as previously seen in this study (Jesus -Lord).

The next ONE in Ephesians 4:5 is ONE FAITH: these two words are presented specifically to arrest any idea of a universal religion in the world. There is only ONE all powerful God that created the Heavens and the Earth, yet the Word Of God states that there are many gods: 1Cor 8:5; these are fallen angelic creatures whom people put their trust in rebellion to GOD. The false teaching of some in this rebellion is in effect that there is one god that is central to all religions; and yes, this statement is true: Satan is this god and is at the heart of all religions, (excluding) of course Christianity, which is not a religion but THE ONLY TRUE FAITH. The Bible make this clear in too many verses to list; but here are a few of the many regarding demons and religions and those who sponsor them: 1Cor 8:4-6, 10:19-21; Num 25:1-3; Psa 106:37; Mat 4:24, 8:16, 28-34, 12:28; Lk 4:41, 8:30, 10:17; 1Tim 4:1; Jam 2:19; Rev 9:20, 16:14, 18:2.

The sixth ONE in Ephesians 4:5 is ONE BAPTISM: This letter to the Ephesians was written in about A.D. 60, around 27 years after our Lord's departure from Earth in His physical form: 2Cr 5:16. Paul and the other Apostles had had a great many of experiences regarding the Holy Spirit's Ministry: (You will need to read the entire book of Acts in order to grasp much of what is ahead in this study.) The Spirit's hidden and also overtly visible manifestations were being given progressively from Pentecost onward. The resultant recollections of our Lord's Words along with those of John the Baptist's and others provided greater unity in the Faith. Subsequently greater understandings of God power became evident along with the recognitions of the limited potentials of the Law and its Shadows: Rom 8:3; Heb 7:18-19, 10:1. There were cases of misunderstandings and even temporary divisions that had occurred with the Apostles and others over a 20 –or-so- year period of time after the Lord's departure. Yet the Lord told the Apostles that they would be taught all things and would be reminded through the Holy Spirit Regarding things they had forgotten: Jn 14:26. The Apostle Paul had a personal encounter in Heaven with God where He received revelation that enabled him to have understanding not only regarding the progressions in Church doctrine, but God also made him aware of events that had taken place regarding our Lord's walk on Earth and His interactions with the other Apostles: 2Cor 12:1-4; Acts 9:12, 16:9-10, 18:9, 22:17-18, 23:11, 27:23-24; Gal 1:15-2:2. Verse 1:16 of Galatians brings to light the idea being expressed. One can say that this was new information not previously disclosed to the other Apostles, also there was inside information that would only be known by the other Apostles or those close with Jesus. These two spheres of information enabled Paul to immediately gain creditability among the other Apostles: Gal 2:7-12. This was an essential element in God's plan because this new information would draw all things together in a comprehensive way, enabling the other Apostles to gain additional insights regarding God's plan: 2Pet 3:15-16. Paul was to reveal progressively, information that was to uproot much of what was ingrained in the hearts and thinking of the Jewish and Gentile peoples regarding the Levitical activities associated with THE LAW, and also regarding the Jewish heritage according to the flesh (Read all of Romans in your Bible).

Seeing the Invisible in a More Complete Way

Many things the Jews regarded as Sacred were soon to become obsolete: Heb 8:13. The shadows needed to be replaced by the Light of the God's Word: Jn 1:1-3, 3:19-21; Heb 10:1. God's manifold wisdom was to be revealed in Christ and His Church: Rom: 11:33; Eph 1:3,18, 2:7, 3:10; Col 2:2; Jn 3:34. God had prepared things that the eyes have not seen nor had the ears heard: God will give these things to those that love Him and obey His commandments: Jn 14:15; 1Cr 2:9. Much of what the Jew's had known about God was through visual observances, Holy days throughout the year, the sabbatical year i.e. every 7 years, and of course the written Word. All these things were being replaced by the Church where we are to have God's Law written upon our Hearts through the Holy Spirit: 2 Cor 3:3. By the time the book of Hebrews was written the visual observances of the law were already fading away being replaced by the very reality they represented i.e. CHRIST AND HIS WORKS: Col 2:16-17; Heb 8:13. Another way to put it is: those things that were visible were being replaced with the things that are invisible and the true source and reality of all that we can see: Heb 11:27. An invisible God created everything we can see before we could see anything: Col 1:16: He wants us to know Him in greater ways: this requires us

to see the invisible in a more complete way 1Jn 2:3-6. This happens invisibly in our Hearts by learning the Word of God to a fuller extent than in the past or even beyond what we know today as individual believers: Col 3:3; Eph 6:17; 2Pet 3:18. The point is if we are still alive as believers on earth then God is calling us to grow even more through His word: Phil 3:12-14.

Gifts of the Spirit

By the nature of our Spiritual gifts we can and do see visible or outward manifestation of the Spirit, but these are manifested through the invisible power of God that enables the willing to move forward: 1Cor 12:4-7. The point is: nothing related to this present creation can save or deliver us from the judgment of God aside from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which comes through simply faith Jesus Christ and nothing more: Ex 20:4; Deut 4:1-25; Isa 42:17; Mk 7:6-13; Acts 17:27-31; Phil 2:24; only that which is of the new creation saves us: 2Cor 5:17. The new creation is created in us by the invisible power of God through faith in Christ Jesus: Eph 2:10. We are created in Christ through the power of the resurrection of the dead: this power being of The Holy Spirit, whom no one has ever seen: Rom 8:11. Only as a result of this invisible power are things seen and heard in their true light: Jn 4:23-24, 14:17: Truth is only truth when the Holy Spirit illuminates the Word of God in our Hearts: Jn 8:32; 2Cor 4:6; 1Jn 3:1-2. This power creates outward and visible effects: Mt 5:44; Lk 6:27, 35; 1Cor 4:5. Just as Paul said “no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit: 1Cor 12:1-3; Isa 29:13; Mk 7:6. The critical importance of what Paul implies here is often passed over, with the magnitude of it missed. Although all of the word of God is equally important this statement of Paul deserves Great attention. First of all it was impossible for Jesus to be accursed because of the Spirit’s power in Christ, but for all other men, aside from faith in Christ, there is no hope: Eph 2:12. Just in the same way, it is impossible for those in Christ to be accursed Jn 5:24; 1Cor 6:20; however there is more to see here than the previously mentioned truth. It is impossible for the Spirit to lie or to have an outward manifestation that does not exactly reflect the Spirit’s desires: Tts 1:2; Heb 6:18. The Corinthians’ were weak in their walk with God even prior to Paul’s departure: this is not an entirely uncommon situation: Gal 5:15, 26. Paul reflected on this fact in many places throughout first and second Corinthians 1Cor 3:1-3. By the time second Corinthians was received; there was some indication that the true fruits of the Spirit were soon to come: 2Cor 7:5-16; Gal 5:22-23.

A Description of Corinth

Corinth at this time in history was a metropolis of culture in the ancient world, many peoples from many different parts of the world settled there because it was a major trade route and the city was robust in manufacturing. This atmosphere induces a competitive nature because of ethnic diversity; much in the same way the U.S. is today. It also was a city that invited every type of sinful indulgence, and they were readily available, even in a more extreme sense than exists in the U.S. today. The U.S. in these times has a legal system that restrains the most grotesque types of sins, such as, for an example, public

exposition of human sacrifice and many other things of a highly distorted nature. Corinth could be called a Thailand of the ancient world. Yet despite this environment some of the Corinthian's with the admonishment of Paul, and perseverance, were to realize the greater things of God. The principle is: despite any environment, or defect within us, God is greater than our hearts: 1Jn 3:20, 4:4. It is safe to say that some of us are called by God to press beyond our deception, sin, and ignorance to serve Him: Phil 3:12-14; 1Cor 15:33; Gal 6:7; Eph 5:17; Jam 1:5-8, 23-26. This only happens after we submit to Christ, His Word, and His will: Jam 4:7; 2Pet 3:18; 1Cor 16:15-16; Heb 13:17.

More About God's Discipline in the Church

This process is often delayed even to a point close to our death: Rom 6:15-19, 8:13: this being the point where God will intervene and decapitate His Childs' ability to practice sin, lawlessness, and deception: 1Jhn 3:4; 1Tim 1:18-19; Heb 3:12, 10:30-31; 1Cor 11:29-32, 15:56, 5:5. Christians often receive this last minute discipline so they are not judged with those of the world: 1Cor 11:29-32; Jn 17:14-18. If Christians receiving this punishment are willing to see the elders of their local assembly, often these sicknesses will be healed: Jam 5:13-16; the important thing is to go to the Church Body and elders that God intended for us: 1Thes 5:12-13; 1Tim 5:17-20; Heb 13:17... The most vivid examples of the Pastor's duty are seen in 2Timothy 4:1-5. When Paul was with the Corinthians they received through faith the message of the cross and were saved, yet very little progress was made beyond their salvation: 1Cor 3:1-4; Heb 6:9. We can plainly see that Paul had no reservations at all that the Corinthians were in fact saved by God: 1Cor 1: 1-9, 3:10-15, 22-23, 5:1-5, 6:14, 11:27-32; 2Cor 1:20-22, 4:14. After Paul's departure and before the Corinthians received his first letter there was fleshly competition among them that produced jealousy and strife. They were bragging about the people by whom they received their baptisms: 1Cor 1:11-13. There was a lot of name-dropping going on rather than all of them giving praise to God: Heb 13:5; Acts 2:44, 4:32. The scripture only permits us to give testimony regarding the work we do in Christ, and that not of other men's labors 2Cor 1:15. This principal does not exclude us from being bearers of good news regarding work that (God) is doing through Spirit Filled Believers: Rom 16:1, 6-7, 12; 1Cor 16:15-16.

Who/What Saves Us?

Paul had been informed about the declining conditions of the Corinthian Church... First Corinthians is Paul's response concerning information he had received from those closely associated with Chloe: 1Cor 1:10-11. Paul states that he was thankful to God that he had only baptized a limited number of persons among the Corinthians, and also states that Christ did not call him to baptize but to preach the Gospel: 1Cor 1:14-17. Paul assures them that God was pleased to save those that believed the "preaching preached" (i.e. the literal Greek of verse 21.) We are saved by FAITH through the Work Of God, not by water baptism: although our Lord's final instructions to the eleven apostles on the mountain in Galilee included instructions to baptize; the instructions do not indicate whose baptism; and this was for good reason. It is easy to assume that the eleven would understand these statements as to that of John's baptism because by this time the idea of the universal

baptism of the Spirit's power had not yet sunk into their hearts in a more complete way, because they had not yet experienced these powers in terms of the outward manifestations which were soon to come. Over the course of the following years a great many experiences were forth coming that enabled the Apostles to understand that God saves people completely apart from human will, actions, or anything related to the creation at present. Over the following thirty-three years the Apostles were to gain deeper insights regarding the true essence of salvation, not only through visual observation, but also through their recollections of the Lord's words while He was still with them in bodily form.

The book of Acts provides us mainly a historical outline of all their experiences illustrating a progression from the shadows to the true realities and essences of God's power to save us through simply believing the Gospel i.e. FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE. This truth is such to the extent that we can't find any verse in the New Testament saying we are saved by water baptism, but on the contrary we find over 200 verses indicating we are saved by Belief, believing, faith, and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.

As said before John's baptism would have an on going benefit while ignorance remained regarding the true essence of salvation... On and after the day of Pentecost and the years to come there would be a growing awareness of the better promises associated with the Church age. John's baptism was the last of the shadows pointing us to Christ and the baptism of the Holy Spirit: 1Cor 1:21. Paul also stated to the Corinthians that no one can boast before God; and that by God's doings (not man's) we are sanctified, made righteous, and redeemed through Christ: 1Cor 1:29-31. The issue is always: how do we feel about The Lord Jesus Christ? There has never been nor will there ever be any greater champion in the world than Jesus, nor any human being coming in a close second to Jesus: Col 3:11. He is the Lord of Glory: 1Cor 2:8. If there is to be glory for us, it is only through Jesus Christ: reserved for those who please God. The following verses are promises concerning the glories that come through Jesus Christ: Rom 2:10, 9:23, 15:17; 1Cor 1:31, 2:7, 4:7, 11:15; 2Cr 3:18, 10:17; Eph 1:18, 3:13; Col 3:4; 1Thes 2:20; 2Thes 1:4, 2:14; Heb 2:10; 1Pet 1:8, 4:14, 5:10; 2Pet 1:3, Jude 1:24-25.

Exhorting and Admonishing Each Other

Although we can have great blessings because of God; often there is the need for us to be humbled: Lk 14:11; Jam 4:10. The scripture calls all of us to admonish and exhort one another so that we are not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin: Rom 15:14; 1Thes 5:14-18; 2Thes 3:14-15; Heb 3:13. Because the Corinthians were walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit; their Spiritual Gifts were rendered useless. Until God's message being given through Paul is taken to heart, there would be no restoration of fellowship with God for them or for us. With their restoration to fellowship with God they would once again be able to capitalize on the Holy Spirit's true power.

The Gift of Tongues

A major theme of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians was concerning the Spiritual gift of tongues. Because Paul was informed regarding what the Corinthians were doing, Paul was able to address them concerning these allegations: addressing them based on what they thought they were doing... In 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 we see Paul drawing into question the activities of the Church at Corinth. At the end of verse three in chapter twelve he makes clear that utterances of God can only be done by the Holy Spirit. In verses four thru eleven Paul refreshes their memories about the various manifestations of the Spirit, and in verse eleven: Paul once again states that the workings of these gifts are the Holy Spirit's prerogative: the Spirit distributing these gifts as He wills. Verses twelve and thirteen emphasize our common bond in Christ's Body: which excludes racial or social distinctions. Verses fourteen thru thirty-one emphasize the critically important principle of interdependence of the Body of Christ. Paul in verse nineteen indicates the body can't function apart from diversity i.e. God distributing gifts proportionally enabling coordination and the effective function of the Church.

It seems that a major portion of the Corinthians were trying to imitate sounds they heard from those allegedly speaking in tongues (Read verses twenty-nine thru thirty-one of chapter twelve, and also the first verse of chapter thirteen.) Throughout chapter thirteen and fourteen the major focus of Paul's message is to, in a subtle way, redirect the thinking and actions of the Corinthians in a way that would keep their attention so there would not be an immediate rejection of what God was communicating to them. God wanted them to see something of value without causing them to feel humiliated because of ignorance concerning their actions. God adopts us as sons and we are to think like adults: God does not have baby rattle Spiritual Gifts: 1Cor 14:20; Eph 1:3-5. Our gifts from God are limited only if we are carnal, thus we remain in ignorance. In this condition we are prone to deception: being out of tune with The Holy Spirit: 1Cor 3:18-23, 6:5-11; 2Cor 11:1-4; Eph 4:30; 1Thes 5:19-20. This condition makes us vulnerable to the influences of demons: Col 2:20-23; 1Tim 4:1. These negative influences are manifested by the things we say or do, or by the things we should do and don't: Mk 8:32-33. The Corinthians had been taught well prior to Paul's departure; they could not claim ignorance as an excuse for their behavior, as Paul had indicated: 2Cor 1:17-24, 6:11-13. Paul's message to the Corinthians was severe in both letters, just as it is to us in this day. Paul had anticipated the possibility of being rejected by them and us: 1Cor 4:18-21.

Levels of Discipline

There is a very beautiful principle of truth that is expressed by our Lord: some of us will receive heavy discipline and other believers very light discipline: Lk12:47-48. The idea here is: those that have been exposed to extensive teaching from God are expected to put it in action, but there will be those who have believed in Christ that do not have access to extensive teaching, therefore less is expected of them by God. In many cases: those believers not knowing much about the Word will be some of the nicest people we will ever meet. The worst believers are those who are knowledgeable of scripture but do not live by it faithfully: this is the condition of being lukewarm: Rev 3:14-22. These are the ones that know the right things to do and yet do not take action accordingly: James 4:17; Lk 19:15-27. In this Luke parable our Lord uses money figuratively to represent our Spiritual Gifts. As seen by reading this parable: two of the slaves acted upon their God Given

responsibilities to invest (use) the potentials of their gifts from God and subsequently received a reward; where as the other slave acted in disobedience even though he knew the Lord's expectations. The Lord indicates that the worthless slave will be judged based on the knowledge he knew regarding his Master's will: Lk19:22. Because the Corinthians were walking in the flesh Paul was forced to appeal to them based on their erroneous thinking, "as men of the flesh": reasoning as one would with a child entangled in selfishness, and not wanting to yield to reason/reality 1Cor 3:1:3.

When Our Abilities Become Useless

Paul needed to convince them to let go of the superficial by presenting them rhetorical and metaphoric scenarios designed to illustrate their allusions/deception verses the realities of the Holy Spirit's true power and intentions: 1Cor 14:1-25. It is important to note that Paul, while with them for more than a year and a half: Acts 18:11, had the opportunity to demonstrate the full array of the Spirit's power and teaching, just as he did wherever he went: 1Cor 4:17, 7:17. The Apostles were multi gifted with the Spirit's power: this being essential in the early Church to give authenticity to THE WORD OF GOD being taught 2Cor 12:12; Eph 2:20; 1Cor 12:28. With the absence of love and the Holy Spirit's power, it renders our abilities inept and without effect i.e.("I am nothing": 1Cor 13:1-3.) The Corinthians were being loud gongs and clanging cymbals. Both these percussion tools in the Greek refer to instruments designed to draw attention to the one using it. These tools were used to make people aware that something was for sale, or to bring the people's attention to someone who was being introduced i.e. an important person, and also as musical instruments: Nevertheless, Paul was saying this to the Corinthians to bring to their awareness that the sounds they were making were not from the Holy Spirit: 1Cor 14:6-11. If these sounds were in fact from the Holy Spirit, then Paul's statements regarding them would have in fact been blasphemy of the Holy Spirit: Mat 12:31, since the gift of tongues was designed by God to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to unbelievers.

The Purpose for Tongues

On the day of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-4 some of the domestic Jews (i.e. those Jews that lived locally and understood only the native language of Israel) were accusing the Galilean Apostles of being drunk with sweet wine: Acts 2:13. When these negative things were said the Apostle Peter residing as the interpreter on that day, and speaking in the domestic tongue of the Israelites, indicated that what they were hearing was of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:14:17: these languages constituted the various Gentile dialects spoken by Jews, and also those of the Gentile proselytes to Judaism that lived abroad: Act 2:5-11. These non-domestic Jews were visiting Jerusalem for the various festivities i.e. (holy days) and observances leading up to Pentecost. These were the Gentile languages in various regions of the surrounding nations: Acts 2:36-41. At the end of the day there were those that sought the love of the truth: thus believing and were being saved by God: Lk 7:50, 18:42. The Gift of tongues was no more deniable than any other Spiritual Gift demonstrating the power of God. God's power is limitless and never falls short of His expectations: Isa 55:11; Mat 19:25-26; Lk 1:37. The gift of tongues is no less verifiable than Jesus raising Lazarus from

the dead: Jn 11; even the unbelieving leaders of Israel were not able to deny the powers of God: Jn 11:47-48; Acts 4:16. God the Holy Spirit intended for the Gift of tongues to be undeniable in respect to the unbeliever. The Apostles, probably at the most were bilingual, speaking Aramaic and possibly Greek because of the Roman occupation of Jerusalem and the surrounding regions during that time in history. These devout Jews were reminded that Galileans were able to speak all these languages: Act 2:7-8. They probably concluded they were Galileans because of the modest type of clothing the Apostles were wearing. God's specific intention for the Gift of tongues was to evangelize (unbelievers: 1Cor 14:22) and to verify to those who were doing the evangelizing that the persons being evangelized had received the Holy Spirit through only their Faith. In these cases the Apostles and others would hear the converts speaking their language: the new converts would speak languages they neither learned nor understood but were understood by the ones by whom they received the gospel. Here are a few verses that illustrate these facts: Acts 10:46, 19:6.

With tongues, there is always a THREE or FOUR part-Confirmation made by the Holy Spirit:

(Witness 1): One person speaking the Gospel in a Gentile language they had no previous ability to speak.

(Witness 2): Another person or persons in their presence hearing the Gospel in their own language.

(Witness 3): A third person interpreting to those that did not know the tongues/languages being spoken i.e. [in the cases that there was a mixed ethnic/ i.e. linguistic group.]

(Witness 4) The persons who just received the Gospel and the resultant Spirit's power were also given the ability (by the Spirit) to speak in the language of those who, (in tongues), gave them the Gospel!!

This produced an immediate confirmation that the persons involved had received the Spirit: these persons also being able to give utterances in languages and things regarding God's word of which they had no previous knowledge. The point is that all examples that the bible displays in reference to tongues (without exception) displays persons speaking in languages understood as in fact one of the many languages common to men: 1Cor 14:9-10. When tongues were spoken, there was never any misunderstanding regarding the fact that an all-out miracle had occurred once the process was finished... This gift was for the benefit of unbelievers: these unbelievers always heard the Gospel in their own language by a person who never learned that language.

Isaiah 28:11

Finally, in 1 Corinthians 14:20-21 Paul after saying a few words reflecting their behavior takes them to the central and pertinent information: that being a passage found in Isaiah 28:11. In this passage we find a unique Hebrew Construction ("THIS PEOPLE".) This phrase is found about 109 other places in the Bible, and with only one exception it always refers to Jews. The gift of tongues provided Gospel information to the Jews in Gentile languages. This passage starting at the beginning of the chapter describes two different prophetic judgments that God intended first to the northern kingdom and then to Jerusalem in the future: see verses 14-16. Reading verses 9 we see a supposition reflecting

the inept condition that Israel was in, not able to act as an adult regarding their Godly responsibilities; so as with a Child, the instructions were rudimentary and rapacious i.e. milk i.e. the Gospel enabling the people of Israel to seize the opportunity to receive their savior and King in good condition. In verses 11 and 12 we see despite these undeniable miracles (signs) the leaders of Israel were insolent to change and would bear the inevitable destruction of Jerusalem in August of 70 A.D. We see as a result of these judgments -verse 17- that forgiveness comes with disciplinary action following -vss. 18-19. Despite any miracle, there will be those that will reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ: 2 Thes 2:10; just as there are those people who are not aware they've ever seen a miracle Jn 20:29, and yet believe simply by the Spirit's invisible power that enlightens those that desire the gift of Salvation: Prov 29:13; Jn 1:9.

The Holy Spirit, Cause and Effect of Our Spiritual gifts

The Corinthians were not able to convince anyone in (truth) i.e. (no edification of the Church); including Paul not being convinced along with those that had informed him of their behaviors and actions. Paul made it very clear that all utterances, prophecies, miracles, and every other Spiritual Gift were exclusively through the will and power of the Holy Spirit, not through men or angels: Zech 4:6; 1Cor 13:1; 1Cor 12:12. Eph 3:16. There are no intermediaries involved with our Spiritual Gifts other than the Holy Spirit i.e. God: 1Cor 12:4. This fact is what sets the Church apart from any previous age or administration of God Jhn 4:23-24. It is impossible for truth to arise out of our carnality, only deception and confusion 1Cr 14:6-11, 14:20-22, 33. There is no other epistle in the Bible that exceeds 1Corinthians in regards to information about the Spirit being the exclusive cause and effect of our Spiritual Gifts'. Paul in Spirit intentionally repeated this theme throughout all of his letters. Here are Just a few of the verses (starting in the book of Acts, that make this clear Acts 2:4, 18:25, 21:4); Rom 1:4, 8:5; 1Cr 2:4, 2:10-12, all of chapter 12, 14:5, 14:18-19; 2Cr 5:5, 11:4; Gal 3:5; Eph 3:5, 5:9, 6:18); Phil 1:19; 1Tim 4:1; Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 22:17. Not included in the above references is Romans 15:19, and as you can see in this verse, wherever Paul went in his travels the only powers that were involved were those of the Holy Spirit. Going to 1Corinthians 14:18-19 we see that Paul single-handedly spoke in tongues more than all the Corinthians, and indicates that he would rather speak five words with his mind than ten thousand words in a tongue. This is a very disproportionate number that Paul is saying in the power of the Holy Spirit; Paul also indicating the purpose of this statement is so others can be instructed i.e. edified.

Anyone of Us Can be Deceived

We see also in 2Corinthians 11:3-4 that Paul once again indicates they were willing to entertaining the teachings and thoughts of others that were not Apostles, and other spirits that are impossible to receive/accept in truth; but only lead to deception; Paul indicates they had done that beautifully, just in the same way they were willing to give concession to gross immoralities that were amongst them: 1 Corinthians Chapter 5. Yet despite all these things, Paul once again affirms to them their salvation in Christ, in verses six through eight of chapter five this can be discovered: compare these three verses with first Corinthians

fifteen one and two, and Galatians 5:7-10; look also at Gal 3:16-18 and 29, here we see the same idea; though the Galatians had been deceived, verse 3:1, they had still received the promise of the Spirit: take special note of verse 16: in this verse, after all the extra words are removed that are not in the original Greek manuscripts, the verse reads like this: “Now to Abraham and His seed were promises. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as in many, but as in One, “And to your seed which is Christ”. This clearly indicates that Paul had no doubts about the Galatians being saved, along with many other verses indicating the same throughout this letter. To say that, “I, we, or they will not be deceived” is the very essence of the LIE 1Jhn 1:8: notice in this verse that John the Apostle says “WE” in the present tense. The point is every time we sin knowingly or unknowing we have succumbed to deception. But on the other hand, by the time the Lord takes us home, any deception or misunderstanding that may remain in us is left behind. We have been removed from our body of corruption which results in our complete sanctification: Rom 7:24; 1Cor 5:5, 15:50-58; Gal 5:17.

The Parable of the Soils

There are those who will see clearly, and love the indescribable gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, and yet because of environmental handicaps, will not produce fruit, and yet will still be saved. One of our Lord’s most striking parables is about the various soil conditions that occur in nature: Lk 8:4-15. In this parable Jesus displays through metaphor the various handicaps that humans will inevitably have in their lives at the time information about God is made available to them. First of all, seed is never wasted intentionally, especially the seed of God which is His Word. God put the Seed/ The Word of God i.e. the Gospel that fell beside the road there for a reason. God is never without aim when He distributes the message of Salvation throughout the earth: Isa 55:6-11. The seed that fell beside the road was put there for people in the world who have been victimized by the greed and deception of people and the Devil. The people trampling the soil and the seed that was sown next to the road are trespassing on God’s soil i.e. God’s elect. These trespassing have no regard for God’s elect or the Word of God. Then we also see the injustice of Satan plucking out what was sown by God in the heart of these persons. Satan does this because he knows these persons will be saved if he were not to take these actions. Despite this fact God will always continue to throw His seed beside the road because every portion of that roadside/field belongs to Him: 1Cor 3:9. In this Corinthians passage the correct translation is “you are God’s field or cultivation, God’s building”; most newer translations make this change based on the older manuscripts that have more recently been discovered. Eventually i.e. every year, some of those seeds beside the road will sprout. The sprouting occurs when the soil is watered from heaven; the dirt i.e. [the person] expresses faith in the Seed and germination takes place i.e. eternal life: Rom 8:29, 11:5; 1Cor 2:7; Eph 1:4-11; 2Tim 1:9-10; Tts 1:2.

Some people and of course Satan will never respect God’s field/vineyard: Mat 21:33-46. God respects His fields and will always put His seed to the edges of the road. The point being is that God will produce His desired result with His Soil/field/vineyard regardless of the opposition: Isa 55:6-11. Because of the injustices of the Devil and his people God is obligated to throw the seed to the edges of the road. Every portion of God’s field will produce His desired results in due time. Those people beside the road in the

following seasons will eventually learn that they have been victimized and will take hold of that seed and conceal it in their hearts/the soil, and wait for God's deliverance: this is saying that the soil will take hold of the Seed and not let go of it until the proper conditions exist for it to sprout; with many this is often right before they die. These victims of environment are not ever excluded from the Promises of God: 2Pet 1:4; Jam 2:12-13; Jude 1:22-23; Lk 10:16, 6:35-38; Jhn 13:19-20, Mat 10:40-44, 18: 1-14; Mk 9:36-37; Gal 4:14... In James 2:12-13 and Jude 1:22-23 we see that Mercy is the most central element of God's plan for the human race.

Moving on to Luke 8:6 and 13; we see the Gospel/seed that fell among the rocks. This once again represents God's faithfulness to those who will believe and yet because of a preexisting handicap are not able to fully capitalize on opportunities beyond their initial faith in the Gospel. These people are characterized as being joyful about their newfound gift of salvation but lack adequate resources of water/the Word of God to maintain any further advance beyond their salvation. In times of temptation these people will inevitably fail. I have personally met many of these types of people and none of them are willing to deny Christ; they know they are saved but also know they are not able to bear fruit because of their predisposition prior to faith in Christ. These same people have known and seen my faith and are always willing to support and encourage my advance. You might say they are quick to give me some food or a glass of water: Mat 10:40, 25:31-46; Lk 9:46-50, 10:16; Jn 5:24; 1Tim 1:15.

A passage in Second Timothy 2:11-13 contains four very important suppositions; the first reflecting that "IF WE' die with Him we shall also live with Him": Rom 6:1-14, 8:2. These are promises reflecting that those who believe in Christ are joint beneficiaries with Christ in the resurrection of the dead. Christ being sinless died to sin (our sins): Rom 6:10-11; 1Pet 4:1-2; Col 2:20-23. We, before salvation, are dead in Adam: Rom 5:18-21; 1Cor 15:22; this alone is enough for us to be hopelessly separated from God: Psa 53:2-3; Isa 48:8-11; Rom 3:9; Eph 2:12. Up and beyond this we will all sin at some point beyond our physical birth into this world: Rom 3:23, 5:12; we are born with the sin nature of Adam and are excluded from salvation even (before) committing our first sins: Please read all of Romans Chapter Five. With most children their first sin will come shortly after they think the word NO!! Prov 13:24, 22:15, 23:12-16. This attitude in the child represents rejection of divinely established authority Eph 6:1-3; honor thy Dad and Mom: Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16; Mat 19:19; Mk 10:19. The point is that those who put their trust in Christ are identified with Christ and His death: we were dead in sin: Christ died to sin: Rom 5:6-11. Through our Faith Christ has redeemed us; God looks upon us as being Righteous i.e. having the very attribute of righteousness that has always existed in God; this righteous being given to us by God at the moment of faith in Jesus: Rom 4:5-8.

When we sin [after salvation], the issue is no longer sin, the issue is: Are we going to walk in the flesh or in the Spirit of God: Rom 6:13, 7:14-25? Yes, our sins get us out of fellowship with God; but, Are we going to confess and forsake those sins and continue our Spiritual advance: 1Jhn 1:9? or are we going to continue to walk in the flesh: Gal 5:16? The answer to this question is random. Some born-again Christians will be in environments/predispositions that will make the possibility of Spiritual Growth inevitable: Lk 8:8, 15; other Christians will not have these advantages and will suffer, but they will not suffer the loss of their salvation: Rom 8:31-39. Those people characterized as being good soil will also suffer as the result of their faith because of the additional responsibilities that

go along with their advantages of being born in good soil; these persons are called to endure the fates of persecutions that are associated with the advantages they have: Mat 5:10; Jn 15:20; 1Cor 4:12; 2Tim 3:12. Those born-again in the thorn bushes will also suffer in Christ; Christ dying for their sins also. One again, those on the roadside are eventually able to say YES to the seed: [usually on their death bed or wherever they find themselves clinging to their last moments of consciousness], for these people the seed brings forth its strength (i.e. the strength of God to save.) Those among the rocks also say YES to the seed along with those among the thorns. It's absurd to think that God only saves good and honest people: Mat 8:15; in fact this very thinking contradicts all of the Word of God because all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God: Rom 3:23.

All of these conditions related to cultivation characterize different types of people that all want, (through simply faith), the gift of salvation. All these people, eventually, before they die, will know that they were saved by (faith in Christ), and nothing more: Eph 2:8-9; 1Jn 1:1-4, 2:22-24. Faith in Christ is the only supposition as to whether people will have relationship with the Father or not Jn 14:6. Those people, at the time of their death, who still refuse the idea of (faith alone in CHRIST for salvation) will be saying "Lord, Lord, I was with you and did this that and the other thing in your name", and the Lord will say to them: "I never knew you" Mat 7:15-23, 25:1-13; Lk 13:22-27. These people never did truly care about Christ's PRICELESS GIFT. There is no supposition to FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE.

Some Advantages and Sufferings of Being Good Soil

Second Timothy Two Twelve hits a different cord in our relationship with God. Endurance here is representative of those believers who will always and inevitably be persuaded by God and His discipline to move forward because they have the advantages related to better soil conditions: Heb 12:4-17. This discipline from the Lord is for every Son He receives, even those of the good Soil: Heb 12:6. There are many decisions these believers will face in their lives: those able to move ahead are always faced with rejections, and the associated difficulties related to their responsibilities: Heb 10:32. Those born in good soil are only bound to failure by their own decisions and resistances to change: Mk 10:21.

Following Jesus

Mk 10:21... These instructions given by our Lord to this rich man represented the next step of faith this man needed to take for him to fulfill God's desires for his life on earth despite him being entangled in the thorn bushes: Mk 4:18-19. Although this man was not aware that he was looking at God in the flesh, nevertheless he believed in God from the Law (i.e. Jehovah: Mk 10:17-20.) Because we know from all the rest of Scripture that no person can be saved by none other than faith in the Lord; and also Jesus saying to this rich man: "you only lack one thing", it is safe to say this man was already saved by faith, but if later this man did not change his mind regarding Jesus' request; he will suffer losses of the treasures in heaven: Mk 10:22. This man kept the commandments of God from his youth,

and Jesus felt a love for him. The following comments of our Lord regarding this encounter were perplexing to the disciples and provoked in them the very question Jesus wanted them to ask: Mk 10:23-27. It was easy for the disciples to see because of what was said, that heaven, and a life with God, was out of reach for all men Rom 10:6-10. The key to all of this is: with people salvation is impossible, but with God all things are possible. If this rich man did not later change his mind, he will have added suffering because of his wealth on earth, and will forfeit the wealth God had planned for him in heaven, but will still arrive in heaven just as any other sinner that has believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the following verses: Mk 10:28-31 Jesus indicates that anyone that has sacrificed for the sake of the Gospel will receive a hundred times back for what they have done to progress God's plan; also receiving persecutions; [*and in the age to come, eternal life.*"] At this point in this passage is where misinterpretation often occurs. At the time Jesus said these last remarks the issues regarding our salvation were still pending because a death had not yet occurred: Heb 9:11-17; and the price for sin was not yet paid: Psa 31:5, 130:8; Isa 53:10; Mat 1:21; 20:28; Heb 10:4-10. The following scriptures references are indicative of the Cross (after it occurred) and illustrate the associated results: 1Cor 6:20, 7:23; 1Tim 1:15, 2:6; Tts 2:4; Heb 1:3. Before the cross Jesus Christ who was to pay the price had not yet been glorified: Jn 7:39; there were no first fruits of the Spirit; there need to be the resurrection of Christ and those who had fallen asleep i.e. those who died prior to the Cross. The resurrection of the Old Testament Saints was pending until the promises of the new covenant were fulfilled; there needed to be the death of the one who made the covenant/promise before the new covenant and the resultant promise of eternal life could be enacted: Heb 10:9-10. All Israel was under the impression that this would come with the restoration of their earthly kingdom but instead the resurrection occurred bringing in a completely different age i.e. the Church: Acts 1:6-8.

Now at the moment of Faith in Christ every believer breaks immediately into eternal relationship with God while still in his earthly body: Jn 5:24-29, whereas prior to the Cross the door to heaven was closed, the redemptive power of the Spirit was not given, and no man before the cross that died was immediately placed in heaven in the presence of God: Jn 1:18. The point is that Christ reaped the first results of the Old Covenant PROMISE and the newly displayed power of the Holy Spirit that caused the three-part division of Jesus' body, Soul, and Human Spirit: Eph 4:7-10.

Just before the Soul and Human Spirit of Jesus were reunited with His body in the grave, His soul being in the heart of the earth for three days among the O.T. saints, accompanied these to heaven that had died prior to the cross (i.e. the promise to them was fulfilled.) The soul of Jesus was being transported by the Holy Spirit Him being in the front of all His companions of the old Covenant who were kept in this place of comfort pending the promises of the Cross. Jesus was there with them for three days and also made known to those in the interim place of suffering that His mission to atone for sin was successful. Many of the references regarding these things have been previously noted, but here are a few of them again: Mat 12:40; [Lk 16:19-31]; 1Cor 15:20; Eph 4:7-10; 1Pet 3:18-20; 2Pet 2:4-5; Jude 1:6. Some believers will loose everything God had in store for them in heaven because of their own unwillingness to change, but nevertheless will still be saved, and will be happy to be with the Lord: 1Cor 3:14; Rev 21:4.

There was another person who desired to follow Jesus, and Jesus discouraged this man's desires because He knew this person was not in a condition to endure the fates of that destiny: Mat 8:19-20; God had different plans for this particular person, but yet the next person being one of Jesus' disciples requested to go with Him, but was instructed not to take part in his father's funeral but to get in the boat that was ready to go: Mat 8:18-22. The context indicates that His disciples followed; which includes this unnamed disciple. After they had crossed over the sea Jesus and His disciples encountered a demon possessed man that after being cleansed earnestly desired to be with the Lord, but yet Jesus had a greater plan for this person instructing him to go to his hometown and spread the good news regarding the great things the Lord had done for him. The man did as he was instructed and went and proclaimed the name of Jesus throughout his town and all the people were amazed: Mk 5:18-20. There are many people who are following the Lord although it may not appear to us as they are, just in the same way we can be following Jesus and it may not appear to others that we are doing so. The changes God can make in our lives can all be characterized by one supposition: will we maintain a love for the world? or will we move forward in faith, hope, love, and endure the sufferings of Jesus Rom 8:17-18; Heb 10:35-39; Phil 1:29; 1Pet 2:21-23, 4:16? God has a plan for our lives that is beyond anything we could do or think up ourselves: Isa 55:6-11; Jn 3:8. Throughout the time the Apostles were with our Lord and walking with Him daily we see in the Gospels the many challenges the Apostles faced regarding their thoughts and actions. Jesus often corrected them: all of us are prone to erroneous thinking that can take control of our thoughts and actions: Mat 16:21-23, 17:4-5, 19:13-15; Lk 9:51-55. It is important to note that in the older manuscripts Luke 9:55 reads like this: "*But He turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village*". Nothing more than this is written in the earlier manuscripts until verse fifty-seven. The idea is: we need to think what God wants us to think; with the Word of God in our hearts and activated by the power of the Holy Spirit we can think and do God's will: Rom 12:1-13; 1Tim 4:14; Heb 4:12. The only way this happens is to be among other believers on a regular basis: Heb 10:25. God has greater blessings for His children based on this supposition. If we think we can do without the other members of the body of Christ we are only deceiving ourselves.

Only God can cause Us to Grow

Good soil needs much work in order for the normal growth process to occur: Jer 4:3; Hsa 10:12. Soil is an inert material until God plants His Seed and waters it. Water is the Word of God; when believers are gathered together, they are gathered to the Lord. The soil in itself has nothing that can bring forth life. Only God can cause us to grow through His Spirit: 1Cor 3:6, and without Him we're just dust with a corrupted soul that would be destined for Hell, without His mercy and forgiveness that comes to us through the Lord Jesus Christ: Gen 2:7; Psa 136. We were bought with a price and God now demands more of us than our human nature will permit: 1Cor 1:26-31. We need to take our eyes off the world and its seduction and train our eyes on Jesus who is the author and perfecter of the same Spiritual Life we are to imitate: Heb 12:1-3. This cannot be done in the flesh, only in the filling of the Spirit: Rom 8:5. Walking in the Spirit means that we have no unconfessed sin active in our lives. When we confess our sins God cleans us from all wrongdoing and subsequently restores us into His Communion: 1Jn 1:9. Any discipline or fallout that may remain because of our actions is now suffering for blessing. This suffering that remains is

there to give us a memorial enabling us to move on in God's plan. Sometimes we need to reap what we have sown; this is incentive so we never do it again. This is why good parents give their children discipline when they need it: Prov 13:24, 22:15, 23:12-14, 29:15. In this same way God Faithfully spans us; otherwise we would become conceited brats, knowing no authority but our own. It is because of God's discipline that we can and do endure; moving on in our lives with Him: Heb 12:7. If we concede to this discipline then we will reap additional benefits that are in store for us now, and in heaven: Gen 49:25-26; Deu 28:2; Pro 28:20; 1Cor 3:14; Eph 1:3, Heb 12:11.

Walking Before Running

In God's plan we need ability to walk before we can run, and we need to have good aim as the Apostle Paul describes in the following verses 1Cr 9:24-27. All Spiritual Agility comes only through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and not from ourselves Zech 4:6; 1Cor 2:4; Eph 2:8-9. Some Spiritual gifts will immediately function at the point of faith in Christ; other Spiritual gifts require preparation and or development. Whether a Spiritual gift functions immediately or not, we need continual watering from God. This process takes place while among other believers for the common benefit of various Church groups. Without this regular watering we will suffer various forms of Spiritual anorexia: Psa 119:81-82. We all start out on milk from God's Word: 2P 2:2 and need to progress to the meat of God's Word that He has prepared for us; subsequently enabling our Spiritual life with Him to take on its fuller function; a function that pleases and Glorifies Him, and brings us to the point where we can have a fuller and more complete appreciation for God. This is the point in our lives where despite any sufferings or affliction, we develop a keen awareness that we have a small part to play in God's plan 1Cor 12:20-22. If we are willing to go the distance with God then He has greater roles in store for us in heaven; these rulership positions are for those who endure. In the second half of 2Tim 2:12 we see the alternative to faithfulness in God's plan for our lives; this being the loss of the greater blessings He has for us. Verse thirteen demonstrates that despite the inevitable failures and lacking of faithfulness of some believers, God can't deny who He is, i.e. the Savior: Jn 12:47.

Some teachers want to imply that the second half of 2Tim 2:12 is implying that one is to lose their salvation if failure is present on their part. Those who take this stand must consider the fact that the Apostle Peter denied our Lord in His greatest hour and was not to suffer the loss of salvation: Mat 26:33-35, 69-75; Jn 21:15-19. Also the denial regarding Peter is denial that he knew the Lord at all, which was a lie; whereas the denial in Second Timothy is General in nature, reflecting any type of sin: the idea is that any time we sin we have denied the Lord and His plan for our lives; and until we confess these sins we will remain outside the sphere of blessing and faith that God requires from those who have believed in His Son. The Apostle John makes it very clear in 1John 1:8, saying: "*If WE say that WE have no sin, WE are deceiving OURSELVES and the truth is not in US.*" True faith and worship require that we confess our sins in order to be restored to fellowship and true faith in God: 1Jn 1:9. Prolonged carnality will ensure discipline to the extent that we will be denied on earth and in heaven the full measure of blessings that God has intended for us: 1Cor 3:14-15. The Apostle Paul also in the present tense made it clear that while we remain in the flesh we will be in a struggle with sin: Rom 7:22-23. He also makes it clear that we

are only obligated to serve one master i.e. God and not sin: Rom 6:12-13. If we remain in prolonged carnality we will be subjected to a premature death and the loss of some rewards in Heaven: 1Cor 11:30-32; 3:15. The principle at hand is that we can only move forward in God's plan in the filling of the Holy Spirit. God graciously provides the provision of 1John 1:9 so that when we sin we can confess it and continue our advance in His plan. While on earth we remain in a body of corruption; until we are taken home to be with the Lord we are required to confess our sins and forsake them or suffer the parental discipline that the Scripture states we will all receive: Psa 32:1-5; Prov 3:7-13; and if we were not receiving this discipline it would be indicative that there is in fact no relationship with God: Heb 12:8. The idea is that God wants us to spend a maximum amount of time in fellowship with His Spirit and a minimum amount of time in carnality. Because of the flesh, the world, and the Devil, it is inevitable that even the most mature believer will succumb to sin from time to time. James also admits that WE all fail in many ways: Jam 3:2; therefore indicating that even maturity has an ongoing process of sanctification until the point of evaluation of all Christians before the Lord where any and all of the unacceptable works that we did after salvation will be burned up making us completely acceptable to His nature. The greatest challenge for those who are mature will be maintaining an attitude free from self-righteous arrogance i.e. not regarding with contempt those who are involved in more obvious sinning: Rom 14:4; 10-13; 1Cor 4:6-7; not forgetting that God is still in the process of cleansing the sins of the mature also: Gal 5:26-6:3; Rev 2:1-5.

Wrestling With God And Man

Much of the struggle we face as believers in Jesus Christ can be characterized into two categories: one comprising of our struggles with man and the others will be with God: Gen 32:28; 2Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-12. We are powerless in the flesh to stand before the onslaught of God's Enemies: 2Chro 20:12-25. As believers our provisions for coping with the world the flesh and the Devil are power systems from God that supersedes Human imagination: Eph 3:19-20. This power was established within us by the Holy Spirit and is tapped into more and more as we grow Spiritually: Rom 1:16, 15:13; Eph 3:20. As Christians the most important things we will ever learn is; we will never win a battle for God utilizing human dynamics: Zech 4:6-7; these two verses demonstrate the need for God's power if we are to undertake a project for Him. The power of the spiritual life maintaining a walk in fellowship with the Spirit is the only defense we will have against the enemies of God: 1Jn 4:4. Only through God's power system can we advance in His plan for our life: Rom 15:13. As believers we are under obligation to satisfy the righteousness of God: Rom 6:13. Human logic, Human talent, Human ingenuity, Human wisdom are no match for Satan and the systems he deploys to delay our advance: 1Cor 1:19-31.

Being in the world we are in enemy territory and should be completely reliant on God for support/power: 2Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-17. At a certain point in our relationship with God He will demand that we no longer be friends with the world: Jam 4:1-12. Satan system attempts to distract us from using God's system of power: 2Cor 4:1-18. God is aware that we enter into His family with some handicaps/fleshly behavior that we've acquired from the world: 1Cor 5:7-8. It is inevitable God will start pruning off the unfruitful branches in our person; certainly there will be some pain that goes along with this process: Jn15:1-11; 1Thes 3:1-5.

The Lord Jesus needs to be set first in our life in order to live an effective life for Him: Rev 2:3-5. As baby believers in enemy territory our support system is as such that no harm can come to us apart from God's permissive will: Rom 8:31. The enemy cannot make a move towards us without authorization from our sovereign God. If we are under testing and attack we are to maintain an attitude of grace and thankfulness: Col 3:13-14; 1Thes 5:18; 1Pet 4:7-11. Whether we capitalize on opportunity to prepare for the battle or not there will be suffering inflicted by Satan's system which is entrenched in the world around us: Acts 14:22; Eph 6:11. Emotionalism and shame will be the result of having our eyes on the world: Phil 3:19. One of the easiest things we can develop as Christians is resentments towards this apparent opposition; scoffing at these agents of suffering will only bring the discipline on ourselves: Prov 9:12. We have to humble ourselves and God will lift us out of our weakness into his strength: Lk 18:14. As long as we are tuned into God's plan the enemy's strategies will not prosper against us, just as was the case with Jesus' sufferings Isa: 54:17. If we are willing to cooperate with God then He will turn these sufferings into an astounding victory: 2Tim 3:10-13. If we are feeling a sense of restraint, and it is not appearing as though our aspirations are taking the shape the way we envisioned, frustration can set in distorting our view of everything: Lk 6:39-42. Just because we envision something doesn't mean we are seeing the will of God for our life. On the road taking us from being Spiritual infants to Spiritual adults we will be faced with the test of being under another person's authority: Rom 13:1. Regardless of what things we think are wrong with this person God is never going to justify our animosity towards them; which is simply hypocrisy in us: Jam 3:13-18. Having a critical unforgiving attitude towards any person in the human race is never going to gain an approval with God: Mat 18:33-35. For many of us there will be much suffering before we learn to let go of these resentments: Ecc1 2:14; Isa 28:18-19. When God's discipline comes to release us from the bond of resentment the only way we will fail is if we are resentful with God also. If we get resentful towards Him he is going to tighten the fetters even tighter: Isa 28:22.

We may well have our eyes set on something that God intends for us to have, but are we going to break the rules trying to get what we want? If we get it by breaking the rules then there will be a price to pay before God is willing to put his blessing on it. The satisfaction we thought we were going to receive out of it will only be turned to sorrow and bitterness because we received only the desires of our lust and not God's perfect gift: Prov 10:22. Once again it may be what God had intended for us; but acquiring it through anger, resentment, speaking subtle suggestions/gossip to other people regarding this person's inadequacies, or lusting to overthrow another person's authority is never God's Way. Developing a critical attitude towards what appears to be injustice or incompetence is defiantly Satan's most formidable trap. God in 1Corinthians 1:26-31 makes it clear that very few of us are great yet He is still going to use us if He can persuade us to be humble: 1Pet 5:6. Many other challenging situations are in the path of those interested in serving God: 1Cor 4:11-13; 2 Cor 11:23-29.

It is going to be very important to know that we can not challenge Satan and be successful. We can do God's will and experience success but it is only because of His power working on our behalf: Eph 1:19, 3:7; Col 2:12. Jealousy, anger, resentment, selfishness, or lust for advancement is hostile to the plan of God: Jam 3:13-18: this is the spirit of Satan's pride. If we allow God to humble us we will become acquainted with a system of love that surpasses anything we had imagined: 1Cor 13:4-7; 2Pet 1:1-11. If we

are operating in systems of human emotion, being controlled by them, we have not yet advanced to a place where we know God's person. If we humble ourselves He will exalt us, but if we exalt ourselves, then we're to be humbled. So we might ask ourselves: "What does it mean to be humble."

If we are living by faith and not by sight then we are in the system that God has endorsed: 2Cor 5:7. At times things are going to appear very dark; it can and will appear as though we are trapped in a dead end situation, or at least not appearing to go the direction we envisioned. Not even our mistakes or the mistakes of others represent a challenge to God's plan. Satan wants to make it look like we are going to loose out if we do things God's way. Faith allows us to rise above feelings of hopelessness. Satan's objective is to short circuit our faith; when our adversary has been successful we are the most miserable people in the world haven been taken captive in doubts and uncertainties; we will be under the Lord's discipline until we take back the confidence that is ours in Christ: Heb 11:6, 12:11. Once having acquired the level of faith God intends we begin to have the keen awareness that nothing will stand in the way of our success; we've finally learned that it depends on God's will, and not our own: Eph 5:10. God's Word is the only system, enabling us to rise above our limited perspective: Eph 3:8-12.

The most classical example of waiting on God for advancement is seen in the life of King David: 1Sam 16-31. He had a date with destiny being anointed by Samuel; yet before long David was considered an enemy by a king that should have loved him. Now David was on the run, and it appeared as though King Saul was deserving of death for his injustice. Despite the differing opinions of David's colleagues David was willing to make the right decisions though being pressured to kill Saul. David left the issues of disciplining Saul in the Lords hands. It's important to realize that David was chased around by Saul for more than ten years!! David needed to learn he was not going to win Saul's affection no matter what he did. This can be a hard lesson for us to learn also. We can spend a lot of time trying to win the affection of some people yet this will only distract us from further developing our relationship with God. When we set our face towards Jesus there are going to be some divisions: Mat 10:34-39. This of course does not excuse us of our responsibilities to maintain respectable behavior towards others regardless of how they treat us: Rom 13:7-10. God demands that we respect the unrespectable just as we're to respect Him. Once we're willing to do this it's amazing who God can use to bless us; it can be the most unlikely people. Christ disarmed the rulers and authorities; as long as we are willing to play by the Lord's rules we will triumph just as He did: Col 2:15. Our confidence needs to be completely with God. Our lack of confidence in other people can even be a distraction; it takes energy to distrust people, [trust God].

We know we have truly made some progress when we regard others as being more important than we are: Phil 2:3; having a fantastic love for them; despite (our) faults. Thinking about a leader's inadequacy does not lead us to the keys of understanding, but is in affect being in a position where we're judging God: Jam 4:5-12. God instructs us to pray for our leaders and authorities: 1Tim 2:1-4. Scoffing or judging people is a trap and puts us in a position where we cycle garbage in our hearts: Prov 9:12; Mat 15:19. Once again: systems of resentment towards another person or group are not going to be justified by God. King Saul's sin complex was set ablaze by his insatiable lust to be appreciated by others. When David took some of the spot light from Saul that was it; David would be viewed as an enemy rather than a friend. Taking the attitude that other persons are undeserving of Glory is to condemn ourselves of having that very Glory: Rom 14:22. God

wants to share His glory with us [even though we're less than perfect.] If the plan depended on us being perfect then none of us would make it. God's plan functions on Grace!! If we embrace an attitude that others need Godly discipline this can bring the very discipline we envisioned on ourselves: Gal 6:1-5.

If we are not willing to face our own sins in truth, then we are in no position to help others with theirs. More often than not, once we take care of our own sin we will realize the other person's sins by comparison were minor. Once we start realizing these things it is a major step in the right direction. Saul repented of his evil towards David more than once but within a short time was repeating the same offence. Saul forgot what kind of person he was. When we walk away from the Mirror of the Word and soon forget what kind of persons we are, we too will find ourselves committing the same sins over and over again: Jam 1:19-27. By the time a believer is caught in systems of resentment and [self justification] i.e. [perverting the word of God to suit our own lusts: 2Cor 4:2; Job 38:1-2.] When we get caught in the trap of resentment the only recourse is to go and confess our sin to the one we are being judgmental of. This is only the beginning; we have had our eyes on man and not on God; we have developed a [sin complex] that only over time will be washed away if we continue to maintain the correct focus. Remaining focused on the word of God as it applies to [self,] and not others, is the key. Especially not judging the authorities God has [over us:] this ranging from the preschool teacher all the way to the federal government. If there is a problem with those above us only God is in a position to make the necessary corrections; and in His timing. Our complaining only complicates matters because we're implying that we're right when in fact all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God: Rom 3:23; 1Pet 4:7-11. If God has not put us into a position where we can affect change in a person then we should keep our mouths shut so we are not scoffers. If we fail to watch our own steps we will surly fall into the hole we suppose others are in; and we will realize that we are the biggest hypocrite of all. If we do have some people under our own authority, chances are they will be affected by our sin Mat 15:14. The most common tactic of Satan is to set brother against brother: Gal 5:13-26. Persons that God is preparing to be in a greater position authority will have to pass this testing with flying colors. If we are put in a position of authority without passing this testing we will never be happy nor feel secure no matter what we are able to attain through the energy of the flesh.

There is a calm/peace that needs to develop in our soul, and it is this calm that God uses as the base of every blessing we're to receive in this life and also our life to come in heaven: Phil 4:7-9. Maintaining the correct attitude towards God goes hand and hand with the proper attitude towards people; within this principle we will either stand or fall. Since we will be caught in what seems like darkness the only recourse to this is to finally start living by faith and avoid trusting what our eyes are telling us; therefore not leaning on our own understanding: Prov 3:5-8. The greatest thing we will learn to have as Christians is the wisdom of God's patience: Eccl 7:8b; 2Tim 2:24, 3:10. Once again things may not look good; they don't need to look good for God to pull the blessing out of His Hat: Jam 5:11. We see this in the life of Abraham: despite impotence and the deadness of Sarah's womb God was able to deliver: Rom 4:18-20. So we see in the Bible God pulling the victory out of what seemed like a hopeless situation.

Trusting God is the greatest thing we can do, and is in fact the most rational system of thinking we can have because God is faithful. The first and most important things we

need to learn in God's system is not what we should do but what we shouldn't be doing. Satan wants to put our focus on things that we have no business focusing on: Prov 4:25-27. Satan wants us to focus on the real or imagined sins of others. He wants us to focus with a critical attitude; this is a destructive attitude not the constructive up lifting heart that we need to have in order to heal the sick and the blind. Once we have the right heart it will not be long before God puts it to use. The only influence we will have on people is God's Influence. Without God going ahead of us our human power will only be misunderstood. We can only hit the mark with God's power; until He gives us His power we are not in a position to give it: 2Cor 10:4-5. Only with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of [Peace] can we cut through the hardness and darkness of the heart: Heb 4:12. It is only through this power we will be heard; leaving us and others edified and not feeling a sense of reproach: Jam 1:5.

If a brother is limping we are not going to heal it by giving it a kick: Heb 12:13. In the same way we are not going to be able to persuade a brother to get up who has fallen down by reproaching the person. Knowing a person is caught in a sin is not enough. If the person is caught in a net and we go to pull them out without doing it carefully and/or in God's timing, we can do more harm than good. If the believer is still enjoying their sins then it's not a good time to address the issues. There is a time when (we) can be in denial about our sins. Not everybody wants to be rescued; Christians need to hate their old life before their willing to bear the reproaches of Christ: Lk 14:25-35; 1Pet 4:14-16. When it's time for us to be tested it will appear as though we are in a desert all alone: Lk 22:31-34; this is a position in our lives where we're not able to connect with anybody; not in the way God wants; God has it this way so we will connect with Him in the way He wants us to. You see we can be very conceited and not know it. There's a lot to be learned alone in the desert with the Holy Spirit. In the desert Satan wants to see how he can work on our mind. Satan has forbidden food he wants us to swallow. When we are under this pressure it forces us to reach out to the Word of God for the answers. This is why God kept Israel in the desert. The surrounding nation thought of this desert as being forbidden and not able to support life. It would be this environment that would be conducive to the Spiritual life enabling us to know God: Deut 29:5-6. Being in the desert takes away the distractions that would prevent us from knowing Him. The only way Israel could fail in the desert is by impugning God and lusting for more than God was wanting to providing: Num 11:31-35. God wants us to have the good land but first He wants us to get to know Him and His ways, learning to imitate Him.

Part of the process is learning not to take Satan's bait. After we learn what not to do, then we learn what to do. A difficult test to pass is being right about something; something we think is important; yet we come to the realization that other people don't share our passions about the situation. We have a limited perspective and God always has a better plan than we do Isa 55:8-9. This is why waiting on the Lord is the greatest thing we can do. As with Jacob sooner or later we need to learn that God is in charge and that He and only He is able to effect the changes that we would like to see in our life. The name Jacob means Chiseler. God had no intention of stealing Esau's birth right; in order for Jacob to be the man God would have him be Jacob would be sent away and learn about what it means to be subjected to a charlatan. Jacob was God's project and He would teach Jacob the importance of the square deal by having him endure the pains of injustice. God teaches us to behave properly, so when the steaks are higher we will do the right things, according to His specifications. This is the principle of doing a right thing in the right way. Rarely does our good behavior come naturally; pleasing God is a learning process.

Jacob in the morning before his reunion with His brother is in a wrestling match with God: Gen 32:24-32. Jacob was under the impression he could prevail; God, knowing this, had to show Jacob who was really the boss, and with just a touch the match was over; Jacob realizing there never was anyone who could have got in the way of his success except God Himself. After we finally realize this we settle down and start enjoying life; also having the proper apprehension for God and His people. It's after what can be sometimes a long expanse of sufferings that God is ready to give these greater blessings that were prepared for the believer prepared to give the glory to God. These blessing are for the obedient child who has his face set towards Jesus: Col 3:1-3. If you have never read the story about Jacob and Esau it would be well worth while: Gen 27-33, also the story regarding David and King Saul: 1Sam 8-31. There is also a favorite of mine that is a short reading that covers the full cross section of troubles that Christians are likely to encounter; this being the 3rd Chapter of Lamentations. When God sets our face to the dust then there is Hope: (Lam 3:22-29).

Only One Factor in Salvation and Eternal Life

From this point until the end of this study we will be covering subjects in the Bible that are often misrepresented. First of all to entertain the idea that there is anyone other than Jesus Christ that can provide salvation and intercession for God's elect is to be in accord with a spirit of deception: Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; 10:43; 1Tim 2:5. These are only four of the well over 150 verses in the Bible that indicate that Jesus Christ is the only factor regarding salvation and eternal life with Him and the Father. To put our trust in any other person living or dead, other than Jesus Christ, puts us under a curse: Psa 2:11-12; Jer 17:5-8; Mat 4:10; Rev 15:4. Once again these are just a few verses of the many more expressing these things... There has not been in the past nor will there be in the future anything that can save us other than faith in Christ and the subsequent baptism of the Holy Spirit: 1Pet 1:3, 3:21. Jesus Christ was the first beneficiary of this power from God along with the Old Testament Saints and the criminal that was crucified alongside Jesus Lk 23:39-43; Eph 4:7-10; Col 1:18; a key verse regarding this is Hbr 9:15, but to gain further insight regarding this verse it is essential to read all of chapter nine and review this entire study if necessary. The most important principle to remember is that nothing related to this present creation has the power to save us, but only that which is of the new creation created by the results of the Cross of Christ and the resurrection of the dead: 2Cor 5:16-19; Gal 6:15-16; Eph 2:10, 4:24; Heb 9:11-12, 12:25-29.

The point is that no person has ever been made righteous, sanctified, and made acceptable to God by water or any other human action or ability: Rom 9:16. The Apostle Paul indicates this in Ephesians 4:5 and also the Apostle Peter in 1Pet 3:18-21. Paul also indicates that he was not called by God to water baptize but to preach the Gospel/The Word of God which is the only power that saves those who believe the message preached 1Cor 1:21... God never saved anyone because they cried tears, walked on their knees or any other thing related to self-abasement Col 2:16-23; Heb 12:17. The principle that needs to be understood is that God saves people completely apart from any deeds or works we do 1Cor 1:29-31. Those people who hold to the idea that by what they do they will be saved is an

attitude that is in complete accord with Satan's thinking and teaching: Mat 7:22; Rom 9:11; Tts 3:5; Eph 2:8-9; 1Tim 4:1-3.

Scriptures that Seem Contradictory

The last part of this study will be devoted to two passages of scripture that seem to contradict one another. Before doing this you should know that all of the research work done on this study was done by using the King James, New American Standard NASB, and the New International Version NIV Bibles, because these translations have proved to be the most reliable and accurate in presenting God's Word to us from the ancient Hebrew and Greek texts. This passage of scripture has stirred much debate over the last 2000 years. Turn to and read in your bible in James 2:14-26. This passage will force true believers to move ahead in their lives with God such to the extent they are willing to do the most basic elements of love towards other people whom we find in need of essential things related to life on earth. To this day more than two thousand years after James wrote these words they continue to ring in the ears of believers throughout the earth. Is this then the greatest truth regarding our relationship with God? I think this is a great truth but let us turn to some words of our Lord Jesus Christ that are also great. Turn to Mat 25: 31-46 and please read this passage. The ability to see the people who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison is from the power of God: His power enables us to do these things; whereas the unbeliever has been blinded of these things because of their rejection of the Lord 2Cor 4:4. In order to do any of these things to God's satisfaction one must first believe in Jesus Christ who also says we are to love and do good for our enemy's also: Lk 6:35.

The other truths from the Bible that set in balance what we have seen in the James passage is found in reading all of Romans chapter four. To provide even more balance to this subject turn to 1Corinthians and read all of chapter three giving special attention to verses 10-15. Here we see that there are those saved by God and were not able to do any acceptable works when weighed by the standard of God. These people will have losses but not the loss of their salvation that was given to them because of their faith in Jesus Christ. God gives us a choice after salvation to either serve, or not serve Him. The greatest work that any human will do in his or her life is to believe in Jesus Christ and bear the inevitable sufferings that will come to us on earth as a result of that relationship. Yes believers should do good works, but none of the works we could do for God can add up to the righteousness that God gave us at the moment of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Mosaic Law was a very extensive system of works that was designed to govern Israel. A major portion of the Law could be called the good deeds section; these being the type of things we consider good deeds; yet we find in Romans four thirteen thru sixteen that if we hold to the idea of works for salvation our faith is made void. There will be more abundant honors in heaven for those who do good deeds according to God's will; but for those of us who take God lightly after salvation their will be the certainty of God's indignation and the moment of shame as we watch all of our dead works burn up just prior to our eternal communion with Him. The best thing to do is gather with the group of believers that God has for us; among other believers we will be able to learn and do God's will which in turn minimizes our sufferings in this life... HE SAVED US, NOT ON THE BASIS OF DEEDS WHICH WE HAVE DONE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT

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ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND
RENEWING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Titus 3:5