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**Warning!**

**The Book of Revelation is a Blessing and a Warning!**

Chapter 1

*“Blessed are the readers and hearers of the words of this prophecy,* ***provided*** *they* ***OBEY*** *the things written in it! For the time is* ***NEAR!”***

(Revelation 1:3 CJB)

*“The Accomplishing of the goal of all things is close at hand. Therefore, keep alert and self-controlled, so that you can pray.”*

(I Peter 4:7 CJB)

***“****You too, be patient; keep up your courage; for the Lord’s return is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers, so that you won’t come under condemnation — look! The Judge is standing at the door!”*

(James 5:8-9) CJB)

*“The one who is testifying to these things says, YES! I am coming soon,”*

(Revelation 22:20 CJB)

**A Warning from Yeshua (Jesus)!**

**“Yeshua replied:** **“Watch out! Don’t let anyone fool you!** For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. You will hear the noise of wars nearby and the news of wars far off; see to it that you don’t become frightened. Such things must happen, but the end is yet to come. For people will fight each other, nations will fight each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various parts of the world; all this is but the beginning of the ‘birth-pains.’ At that time, you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and put to death, and all peoples will hate you because of me. At that time many will be trapped into betraying and hating each other,many false prophets will appear and fool many people; and many people’s loves will grow cold because of increased distance from Torah. But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered. **And this Good News about the Kingdom will be announced throughout the whole world as a witness to all the Goyim. It is THEN** **that - the end will come!”** (Matthew 24:4-14)

**IT IS MORE THAN JUST BELIVING!**

Simply believing there is a God and confessing you believe in His Son Jesus and the precious Holy Spirit does not make us any different than Satan and his demons! When this fact is taught, people do not want to hear it! Why? Because, they are going to HAVE to do something! And they are comfortable right where they are! The following scripture must be discussed! ***“You believe that God is one?”. Good for you! The demons believe it too! The thought makes them shudder with fear!”*** (James 2:19 CJB)

I honestly believe that Satan and his demons, fear God much more than most people on earth. I will tell you why. The demons and Satan were once angels in Heaven before they chose to rebel against God! Therefore, they are very knowledgeable and very aware of who God is and they **“believe”** **TOTALLY** that He is the **Most High God**! Why? Because they have **LIVED** in Heaven with God! Therefore, they know more about God than we do! God created the world and the Heavens and everything in it! And Everything within God’s creation belongs to GOD! Everything! He created Satan, He created the angels, and He created us! God is the Creator of everything and everything within His creation – belongs to Him!

NOW! Lucifer was the most beautiful of all the Angels! In fact, he was the number one angel! Evidently that was NOT ENOUGH for him! So, what was Satan’s problem? THIS! He wanted to sit on the throne of God! He wanted to be the GOD. **Satan wants to call the shots in his life! He wants to make his own choices and do everything his way all the while controlling US!** Why all of this! Because he wants to rule and control the world and all that is in it! Satan did not like God’s way of doing things and he still doesn’t! He wants his own way! He flat out did **not** TRUST God with his own life! **He did** **not want God to tell him what to do!** **Sound familiar?** Is that the way WE want things in our lives?

**So, what is my point?**

**This!** The saying of a sinner’s prayer, the making of a profession of Faith, saying you are a Christian, confessing you “believe in Jesus” is not enough! It is so much more than that. It is all about trusting God and wanting Him to rule your life! It is all about **TRUSTING AND** **OBEYING.**

It is FAR more than just believing! And you cannot obey unless you can hear God’s voice. You see God is the Boss! And if you cannot hear what the Boss is saying - you **CANNOT OBEY**. However, most people don’t want to hear God’s voice because if they **do – *they will have to –******CHANGE!***

**Keep this in mind – there is NOT ONE place in the Bible that says when you have a problem –** *figure it out on your own!* ***WE MUST go to God and ask Him for HIS direction! “God, I need YOUR direction, what do you want me to do in this situation? I need your direction!”***

Here is the bottom line on this – WE MUST ***WORK*** OUT OUR SALVATION!We must allow God **DAILY** to tell us what to do! We are God’s Servants! He is **NOT** our servant! We **MUST** do something! The working out of our Salvation requires this: ***WE MUST TRUST AND OBEY*** **– FOR THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!** “*But the Counselor, the Ruach Hakodesh* ***(the Holy Spirit),*** *whom the Father will send in My name, will* ***teach*** *you everything; that is, He will remind you of everything I have said to you.”* (John 14:26 (CJB)

**Today is NOT a Dress Rehearsal!**

**Chapter 2**

*“Be diligent about this work, throw yourself into it, so that your progress may be clear to everyone. Pay attention to yourself and to the teaching, continue in it, for by so doing you will deliver both yourself and those who hear you.”* 1 Timothy 4:15-16 (JNT)

**Life is not a dress rehearsal!**

**You only go around once!**

**There are No repeat performances!**

The issues we are going to get into can and have caused hurt in many people. If we do not understand God’s perspective on issues that can come up in our lives, how can Satan be defeated in our lives? Plus, how can we help teach anyone else? Ungodly counsel, ungodly advice, ungodly listening, or the usurping of authority, is detrimental to the cornerstone that God is trying to raise up in the body of Christ today.

**Righteous - Self Righteous!**

What is the heart motive of one who would call someone else self-righteousness? Heart motives must be looked at. We are not supposed to criticize anyone. If everybody is getting with God, spending time with God, and referring to God’s Word, and the examples which have been set for us; then there is **no** reason for anybody to point out anybody’s sins!

“Y*ou, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So, when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?* (NIV) Romans 2:1-4

Self-righteousness has nothing to do with one thinking themselves to be right. It has nothing to do with that at all. Look at Jesus for example, did He not walk around on this earth thinking Himself to be right? Of course, He did, He **was** right! **He was right all the time!** So, was He self-righteous? No! He was righteous! The people who accused Him of being self-righteous were the self-righteous ones.

As far as self-righteousness goes, the one who is having the nerve to point out someone else’s sin is the one who is being self-righteous!

God’s own word sets the standard for holiness, and we should be trying to push toward the level of holiness, that has been exemplified in the written Word (Bible) through the life of Jesus! That should be our focus! Anything less than that would be double-minded. The Jewish New Testament Commentary states the following: “Believers commit sins. They are not to be confronted by self-righteous fellow sinners passing judgement (Mt. 7:1-5, Ro. 2:1-4) but by God’s own Word, which sets the standard for holiness. Then they will not make the mistake of the rich young ruler who asserted that he had kept the Ten Commandments from his youth (Mt. 19:20). Instead of deceiving ourselves with excuses we should be walking in the light trying to do what pleases God. And we should acknowledge our sins as we commit them, even though we do not intend to commit them.”

*"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way, you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, `Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye*.” (NIV) Matthew 7:1-5

There is nothing wrong with thinking you are right. If God tells you, you are, are you going to doubt God and say, “Oh God, I know you are telling me I’m right, but it can’t be I’m right.” Of course, you are not going to be right all the time, only Jesus was right all the time. But! You better be on course, and you better know it, and the following is why: How can you walk around doubting whether you are right or not, and walk in the power and authority of Jesus? How can you walk around doubting whether you are on course with God and whether you are generally correct about what God has told you to be living in your life, and at the same time living out your salvation? If you don’t believe you are on the right course, how can you walk around in power and authority? You can’t! There is no way!

We are not talking about walking around in pride that is NOT at all what we are talking about. We are not talking about self-promotion, or self-power, or thinking we have all the answers. This is what we are talking about. We must walk listening to God and believing and knowing we are on course, and this will be the way we walk in the authority and power we have been given. We must walk in the confidence God gives us, or we will not be able to stand! This is the only way to live our lives, and then we will be right.

**Where Is That Opinion Coming From?**

Has anyone ever said anything to **you** about something you were doing that they felt was wrong? How did it make you feel? The following are examples:

**Our thoughts and opinions are formulated from something we have been taught!**

Where do we get these wrong teachings? Our parents, schoolteachers, friends, siblings, and pastors, to name a few. We even learn and formulate opinions from what we read and what we see on TV, and from the movies we watch.

How many times have you looked at someone and formed an opinion of whether they were walking a godly walk or not? How many times have you looked at someone and passed judgment on what they were doing or wearing as being ungodly? How often have you felt led to say something about it to them? Did you?

As far as our opinions and thoughts go, we may not even realize who taught us. However, anytime we make a judgment about how God, would do something, or how God wouldn’t do something; or how God would have someone do something, or not do something.

If we don’t go to God and get His perspective about the individual person or about the individual area, we are **automatically participating in the opinion of man!**  Without God’s perspective, we automatically apply a worldly opinion, or an opinion of man to a concept only God can understand.

Ask yourself this question. Would you want to know, you had overridden God’s perspective in someone’s life with your “own” wisdom?

Christians say, God gives us wisdom, and He does, ***WHEN*** we are listening to Him and when we are letting Him teach us.

**“A *wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.”***

Proverbs 16:23

 **“*He who answers before listening -- that is his folly and his shame*.”**

Proverbs 18:13

(sw-h)

**Is God in Control?**

Chapter 3

How many times have you heard people say, “God is in control”?

God **IS** in control of the ***final*** situation in this world. However, the Bible clearly states that *Satan has control of this world – in fact he is declared as the prince of this world****!* As far as everything in your life God has as much control of your life according to how much you allow Him too!** Our choices can take God out of control of our lives!

We need to fully understand this. God is not in control of every situation in our life, ***unless*** we spend time with Him and seek His direction and then follow through on everything, He instructs us to do. Therefore, it is so very important we learn to hear God’s voice! **Hearing God’s voice is our Divine right and all we must do is learn to be still and listen.** We must learn to be still no matter how much time it takes. There is no instant breakfast in this.

“*Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the* ***prince of this world*** *will be driven out”.* (NIV) John 12:31

“*And in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”* (NIV) John 16:11

***“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one*.”** (NIV) 1 John 5:19

Let’s say you have a problem area in your life. Have you ever heard someone say, “Just give it to God, and He will take care of all of it?”

I’m going to get really blunt here! Most Christians honestly think that God is sitting in Heaven on His throne feeling sorry for them, and He is going to jump on His white horse and deliver them out of whatever the situation is!

**God knows our needs, but *He is not moved by need*!** **He is moved by faith/trust and our obedience to Him!** If you think that God, is going to feel sorry for you and suddenly everything is going to get better in your life. This is “magical” thinking. To sit around and think and say, “God is in control” and He will take care of it - is to **‘expect’ God to work and operate on a moment-to-moment divine intervention basis!**  **God doesn’t work like that!**

I Corinthians 3:9a states **we are co-workers with God!** Ephesians 6 says, ***“Having done all stand.”***

When a faithful follower has done everything, God has asked them to do in a situation according to God’s perspective, and then and only then **may** it be possible at that time for divine intervention. But God must make that decision – **it is God’s call**!

God is **NOT** our servant; **we are His servant!** So, when a situation or circumstance occurs, we need to get with God and asked Him for His perspective and what if anything He would like us to do regarding the situation. And after we have done everything, He wants us to do, whether it takes one day or one year or even more – and even after that we may still have to wait for a very long time for divine intervention – because **people** have choices!

Think about this for a minute, when someone was healed by Jesus, was anything required of them? **Yes!** Faith and work (effort). I urge you to go to God and to the Bible and see what was required of each person. Scriptures like Luke 18:42, Mark 10:52 and Mark 6:56, Luke 8:48, all show a measure of effort and faith. Every scripture that I can look at on healing, shows an individual “going after” Jesus and that took work and effort on their part. All the time, exercising their faith/trust. Jesus even asked someone to, “Stretch out your hand”. To someone else who had not ever

walked He said, “Take up your bed and walk!” We just can’t sit still, and expect to do nothing, that is not faith/trust. **Faith and trust = acts**! To think any differently is to **not** know God at all! Likewise, if we have money problems for instance, we just can’t sit around. Some people whine and take money from others! There are those who think they are entitled to do this because they are in the ministry! They feel that the parishioners should take care of their needs. Others think because their life has been tough or something to that effect, they have been entitled for people to bail them out! If that is the case they are thinking stupidly, if people choose this route! Nothing is going to change in your life, unless you go to God, get direction, follow it, and allow God to maneuver you into a position that He can work in! Faith and trust make effort, and that is - work!

By our choice of whether to go to God for His perspective and for His instruction regarding each and everything in our life, puts God in control of our lives. Then we can get to a point in a situation where God can say as He did in the written Word, “having done all, stand!” This statement alone indicates you must do something, and it takes effort (work), faith and TRUST.

We just can’t sit around and expect God to deliver us! It doesn’t work like that. **That kind of Christianity is off!** I’m not saying that God can’t do it, I’m saying **He doesn’t work like that!** When have you ever seen Him do that? If God works on need, why are all the people in different areas of the world homeless and starving? It doesn’t work like that. **God works through people!**

**Do You *REALLY* know GOD?**

Chapter 4

Do YOU really **know** Him? I’m talking about God. Do YOU want to know Him? Can YOU **hear** God’s voice? Do YOU want to hear God’s voice? So many people continually tell me we can’t do that. So, I continually tell them of course we can!

I have repeated the following example many, many times when I have been teaching groups of people: I say the following. I have seen Billy Graham on TV many, many times! I have been to one of his crusades! I have seen him on TV in a very in-depth interview answering questions posed to him by Larry King. I have read books written by Dr. Graham. I have even read books that I would categorize as biographies regarding Dr. Graham! However, I never had the opportunity to sit down and talk to Dr. Graham one on one. I never had the opportunity to sit and talk with him and become his friend! So, if I were to tell you I **knew** Dr. Graham I would be lying! I only know **ABOUT** HIM! Why? Because I have only seen him on TV and read his books. If Dr. Graham was still with us here on earth and I was to walk up to him – I would have to introduce myself! Why? Because, he would have no idea who I was!

We don’t know someone because we read about them! The only **way to know someone is to spend time with them through conversations.** As far as hearing God’s voice – that’s up to you! It’s your choice! However, God wants to talk to you!

**Question**: Do you think you could be insulting God by **NOT** listening for His voice? He has feelings you know! Jesus talked to His Father every day in fact Jesus said in the book of John – “. . . ***I do nothing on my own”.*** We are supposed to obey LIKE Jesus did! That’s why we should **LISTEN**!

**Do you want a relationship with the Almighty God? Then you will need to get to know HIM!**

The late David Wilkerson (author of the Cross and the Switchblade) said, “For some believers the initial measure is all they ever desire. They want enough of Jesus to escape judgment, to feel forgiven, to keep a good reputation, and to endure an hour of church each Sunday. **Such people are in *maintenance mode.* And they give Jesus only the bare requirements!**

 *“The way we can be sure* ***we know Him*** *is* ***if*** *we are obeying His commands.**Anyone who says****, “****I know Him,” but isn’t obeying His commands is a liar — the truth is not in him. But if someone keeps doing what He says, then truly love for God has been brought to its goal in him. This is how we are sure that we are united with Him. A person who claims to be continuing in union with Him ought to conduct his life the way He did.” (*I John 2:3-6)

(sw-h)

**The Rapture is the - Final Event!**

**Chapter 5**

*“Here I AM standing at the door, knocking.* ***If*** *someone hears my* ***voice*** *and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me. I will let him who wins the victory sit with Me on my throne, just as I Myself also won the victory and sat down with my father on His throne. Those who have ears let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities.”*Revelation 3:20-22 CJB

The word *Rapture* does NOT appear in the Bible. The actual word *Rapture* comes from a Latin word meaning “a carrying off”, a transport”, “a snatching away, **“caught up.”**  The last book in the Bible is called: Revelation, which means: an act of revealing or communicating divine truth. Or something that is revealed by God to humans.

The Rapture will be an *out-of-the-world* event, and it will have a great and total effect on the entire earth and the individuals living there! In the very last chapter of the Bible the book of Revelation gives us quite a bit of insight. However, there is not one word that tells us when this will happen! God has chosen NOT to share even the smallest bits of information. And He wants us to understand that the timing of this event is His choice. Also, there needs to be an understanding that when the actual Rapture happens – that will be the end of this world as we know it. . . this will be a supernatural event like nothing that has ever been seen by mankind. There are individuals who constantly continue to search for what is called signs and wonders across the world hoping to match up information they have found with the Bible. Individuals try very hard to figure it all out believing that this is the way to be ready for this supernatural event. Hower, that is **NOT** how we get ready for The Rapture.

Being ready for the Rapture requires a great deal of time and concentration on one’s relationship with God! *We must be found blameless, by reason of our, holiness when we stand before God our Father at the coming* event!

However, that is **NOT** how you get ready for The Rapture.

*Being ready for the Rapture requires blameless, by reason of our, holiness when we stand before God our Father at the coming of our Lord Yeshua with all His Angels.* (I Thessalonians 3:13 CJB)

We are to simply be aware that the Rapture will be coming and that we need to carry on accomplishing what God gave us to do on this earth **and** all the while walking in **obedience and keeping yourself *Rapture* ready. *Jesus will come in the Twinkling of an eye!***

***“The Twinkling of an Eye!****”*

*Look, I will tell you a secret - not all of us will die! But we will all change! It will take but a “moment”, the “twinkling” of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we will be changed.”*

I Corinthians 15:51-52 (CJB)

In the above scripture God is talking about the Rapture of the church and He is referring to a moment in time! Some translators and some teachers refer to this moment in time in the blink of an eye. However, it is a “twinkling of an eye”! This moment will come and go as quickly as placing a period at end of a sentence!

Recently, I heard a pastor say he had researched information regarding the time frame of a twinkling of an eye. He said, to the best he could understand it was 1/6 of a Nanosecond! A Nanosecond is one billionth of a second. Therefore, the twinkling of an eye is 1/6 of a billionth of a second!

Dr. Henry Morris, (Institute for Creation Research) puts it this way: “He (Jesus) will return to reclaim the world from Satan. On that great day, *we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye’.*  In the above passage the word atom is (atomos) meaning an indivisible particle. That is, in an “atom of time*”,* ***to instantaneous to measure*** . . ., we shall be changed to be like Him in His glorious body” Philippians 3:21)”

Perhaps you are thinking, “So, what is your point?” Here it is! “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God’s *shofar*; those who died **united** with the Messiah will be the first to rise; then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.”

(I Thessalonians 4:16-17 CJB)

Have you been in a time of preparation allowing God to purify your mind for the moment of the rapture? Do you know God? Or do you just know *about* Him? Are you working through the transformation process spoken of in Romans 12?

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.****Then*** *you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”*  (Romans 12:1-2 NIV)

Do you agree that Jesus is our example in how we should walk on this earth? Were you taught in church that Jesus had to experience everything we come up against to show us how to walk out our salvation?

*“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save Him from death, and he was heard because of His* ***reverent submission****. Son, though He was,* ***He learned obedience from what He suffered and once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him . . .”*** (Hebrews 5:7-9 NIV)

**WHAT AN EXAMPLE!** If Jesus had to learn to obey God than why shouldn’t we? If Jesus “**grew in wisdom and in favor with God and man**” why shouldn’t we? Shouldn’t we be doing the same thing? Had you ever thought that Jesus the man worked out His salvation just like we are supposed to do? How did Jesus learn obedience and grow in wisdom and in favor with God and man? Here is how: He was *totally* committed and *focused* on GOD the Father in reverent submission! **JESUS LEARNED OBEDIENCE IN REVERENT SUBMISSION TO GOD THE FATHER!!**

Most people don’t want to be in submission to anyone – they want to do what they want to do! They don’t want to work out their salvation – they want instant breakfast! They want to say a sinner’s prayer and then go about doing their “thing”!

*“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to* **work out your salvation with fear and trembling,*****13****for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.”* (Philippians 2:12 NIV)

You see when the trumpet sounds the bodies (of those who are ready) will be changed, not their minds and hearts! The hearts of the many will already have been read by God. Therefore, our hearts must be prepared or be in the process of being prepared and ready to GO! Our heart intentions must be pure in the eyes of God. When the trumpet sounds there will be “no more chances!”

The intentions of our hearts and minds will be searched by God! According to the following scripture - so much depends on our heart intentions!

***“. . . Then all the churches will know I AM He who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.”*** (Revelation 2:23b NIV)

*“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law,* ***you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven****.*”

(Matthew 5:20 NIV)

***“****Finally,* ***grow*** *powerful in union with the Lord, in union with his mighty strength!****11****Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary. For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. So* ***take up every piece of war******equipment God provides;*** *so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to* ***resist;*** *and when the battle is won, you will still be standing.****Therefore, stand!*** *Have the belt of****truth buckled around*** *your****waist****,****put on righteousness for a breastplate****,and wear on your****feet the readiness that comes from the Good News of****shalom.[ Always* ***carry*** *the shield of trust, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. And take****the helmet of deliverance****; along with the sword given by the Spirit, that is, the Word of God;**as you* ***pray at all times,*** *with all kinds of prayers and requests, in the Spirit, vigilantly and persistently, for all God’s people.” (*Ephesians 6:10-18 CJB)

**A Life Tool: IF** the individuals who have confessed that they accept Jesus as their Savior, have **NOT begun** a true transformation process on earth and **IF** they have **not** continued a true transformation process - there is no way it can be completed in the *“twinkling of an eye”*! Being ready for the Rapture requires a great deal of time and concentration on one’s relationship with God. “*And as for you, may the Lord make you increase and overflow in love toward each other, indeed, toward everyone, just as we do toward you; so that He may give you the inner strength to be blameless, by reason of your holiness, when you stand before God our Father at the coming of our Lord Yeshua with all His Angels.”* *1* Thessalonians 3:12-13 CJB

**Keep the following in Mind!**

If you were to die today –

you would just have been **“caught up**”!

Your life would have ended on this earth!

There are now no more chances to what I call “getting things right”!

**PLUS,** within ***ten*** seconds after you die you will know where you will be

Spending - eternity!

**Think about it!**

(sw-h)

**Are you Really Ready?**

**Chapter 6**

More people than we realize who have prayed what is referred to as sinner’s prayer are not willing to make sacrifices to walk before God the way God wants them too.

Here are some of the remarks I have heard in my office:

“That’s too hard! I really don’t think God would want me to give that up.”

“Jesus paid the price and that means I don’t have to do anything, because I am going to Heaven now”

“I have said the sinner’s prayer and ask Jesus into my heart; therefore, it’s all taken care of.”

The individuals who made these statements were quite content with their way of thinking and they were all quite content staying right where they were. Why? Because that is the easy way to live life – **so** they think. If they are asked to give something up or spend more time with God in the mornings, they don’t want to. And all the while they keep repeating the same thing, “The price has been paid! Oh, the price has been paid and all I have to do is just believe.” **THAT IS SO NOT TRUE!**

All that many, many people want to know is that the price has been paid so that they don’t have to change in any way! If something is going to take discipline on their part or any type of sacrifice regarding their way of life, they don’t want to have any part of it! Because that is the hard stuff.

They believe that Jesus came and died for their sins and made the last sacrifice. They believe that He “paid it all” on the cross! They are right about that. Jesus did pay the price! However, most individuals proceed living their life the way they want! All the while continuing to say, “I’m home free. I am saved. I’m going to walk on the streets of gold. My sins are forgiven past, present, and future.”

**The above is easy believe-ism! And it is - NOT TRUTH!**

**The price was paid!** Yeshua/Jesus paid the highest price possible, to come to this earth to show us how it can be done. **We must do the work!** Jesus/Yeshua can’t and will not walk it out for us! Always remember God is **NOT** our servant - **we are His!**

**First off** - we must be **willing to walk as Jesus did!** We must come to God **willing to be transformed**. We must be willing to empty ourselves just as Jesus did when

He chose to leave eternity to become a man and carry out His calling! We must be **willing** to come to God and **follow Jesus’ example.**

**We must take up our cross daily!** (Luke 9:23) Because God said: *“And anyone who does* ***not*** *carry his cross and follow me* ***cannot*** *be my disciple.”* (Luke 14:27).

Each morning right off the bat we need to stop and give God some of our time! It’s His time anyway! Our day should begin by asking God to cleanse our hearts, minds, and attitudes! We must give God back the day that He has given us and each morning ask Him for direction! If we forget to do this – ***we have already begun to backslide!***  Why? Because we are starting out on the day doing what we want and what we think we should. Never mind doing what God wants. Remember, when you said a sinner’s prayer **– you gave your LIFE to God.** Therefore, when we venture out doing our own thing – it is at that moment - we take our - **LIFE BACK!**

We **MUST** give God the freedom to correct us anytime He wants to. Why? He **must** change us. We **must** learn to be obedient. Keep in mind Jesus learned to be obedient in the same manner we have too, (Hebrews 5:8).

We must be worked like clay and be transformed into the person we were created to be we must empty ourselves just like Jesus did. Out with the old in with the new! We must change. We MUST!

Our minds must be renewed! (Romans 12:1-2)! The Bible talks about the potter and the clay (Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6, Romans 9:21)!

If we are immediately transformed when we say a sinner’s prayer, why do they talk about the potter and the clay? There is no such thing as instant breakfast when working out your salvation!

Yes, the price has been paid! So many churches teach things this way: All you must do is say a sinner’s prayer and believe. Yes, the price was paid by Yeshua/Jesus when He left Heaven and chose to come down here as a man. **He paid for it all, and in so doing it was NOT so we would be able to do anything but just - believe!**

Jesus came down here to walk as a human being! He experienced every conceivable type of physical, emotional, and mental pain possible. He paid the price to set an example for us to follow! He was tempted with every possible type of sin and temptation there is and was! Satan made sure of it and the Bible tells us that!

The price was paid by Him. However, **the price has not been paid by us!** He gave up His glory (Philippians 2:5-11, John 17:1-5; Hebrews 5:7-10), and He gave up everything knowing full well He was going to suffer! He was spat on and ridiculed (John 15:20), plotted against, and even His family thought He was a *nut case* (Mark 3:21).

Because man didn’t get it right when God gave the Ten Commandments, and the entire book of the law! Man had the rules laid down for him in detail . . . on Mount Sinai. It is all recorded in the Old Testament. Yes, there were many do and don’ts! We had the rules. And we still have the rules!

There are those in the churches that have said and still say, “Well it was too hard, and man couldn’t do it, so God sent Jesus to conqueror it for us! He paid the price so all we must do is just believe!”

**Seriously?** That is what people think! Yes! Jesus came and conquered and in so doing obeyed His Father thus giving us the perfect example of how to obey God and walk before Him while being - **changed!** YES! He gave us the perfect example, **showing us that we can do it!** **Not as *perfect* as He did, but we can do our best!**

Why in the world would people accuse God and pass judgement on Him in saying that He gave us a set of rules (dos and don’ts) that we couldn’t keep! What kind of God would that be? Satan would do that but not the Almighty God! When someone says these types of things, they are passing judgment on God and His Word! It is the same thing as calling God a liar, and it is saying that He made a mistake, and He didn’t know what He was doing!

Man couldn’t keep the rules because – **he didn’t want too!** Let me clear something up here: **God doesn’t set people up to - FAIL…!**

**Wanting God to make things easy**, having a poor attitude, not spending time with God, not seeking His perspectives, feeling sorry for yourself, looking at other people envying what they have, thinking God should bless you for working so hard for Him and wanting God to move people out to make your pathway smooth is - *arrogance*! This type of thinking - causes turmoil and anguish in one’s mind.

When these types of thoughts are going on in one’s mind it shows their perspectives, and the intentions of their heart are off!

*For any one of us to think any given day in our life should be better than any given day Jesus had while walking on this Earth is to place ourselves - above Jesus!*

Mankind wants something easy! If it was about work, they would rather play! Man wants to be stroked and told that they are okay! “**They want to be coddled instead of crucified!”** (A.W. Tozer)

Jesus came down to earth and gave up everything that was in Heaven, and He did this **willingly** **because God asked Him too!** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son. . .”* (John 3:16) Jesus laid down His life in Heaven and came to earth to suffer and die for you and I - **and reader Jesus/Yeshua should not have had to do that!** Make sense? He should not have had to pay the price He did for sinners such as us! He should not have had to pay - it at all! He just should not have had to!

**The price was paid, so Jesus/Yeshua could show us how to - LIVE OUR LIFE!** Now we have the example: Just before Jesus died, He said, *“It is finished*!” Jesus had finished the task He was sent to earth for! The path for us to work out our salvation was given to us. The example was set.

Yeshua is the Son of God - and His Holiness was God in the form of a man! He was the only one who ever walked the earth without making a mistake! He was sin free!  **He did everything - perfect!**

The example Jesus set giving up everything He had and paying the price and setting the example of being obedient to God and doing nothing on His own and not doing anything without instructions from His Father. That was the example He set! **He gave it all up!** And He gave up far more than we can ever imagine on this earth!

Now, **WE** must give up things in our lives and walk as He walked and **then** our Salvation is secure. Then what He did on the cross counts in our life. If **we don’t follow His example, we are negating what He did for us.**  I don’t want to stand before God and have the question posed to me, “Why did you negate what my Son did for you?”

***“****We know that we have come to know him****if*** *we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys* *his word, love for God is truly made complete in* *them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live (walk) as Jesus did.*” I John 2:3-6 (NIV)

If we don’t lay down our life and give up everything in our lives to God - then we are not following Christ’s example and we are not following Him in the manner He asked us to when He said, *“Come follow me.”*

Trying to apply the cross without the rest of what Jesus taught and accomplished for us is to negate what Jesus showed us by example! We do not negate it all together, but we negate the working of the cross in our individual lives, and that is a dangerous place to be.

You can’t have the work of the cross in your life by the shedding of the blood and the washing away of sins unless - **the other part is in place too! One doesn’t work without the other!**

Jesus gave us His best, His life, His blood! Our Lord’s example is not worth anything unless the individual grabs holds of it. At this point in time there are very few people that are grabbing hold. They are assuming that because they have said a sinner’s prayer, that they are grabbing a hold of everything else that goes with it and that is - **NOT true!** The blood that Jesus shed becomes priceless, becomes valuable, becomes worth what it is, when it is transformed into an everyday application in someone’s life! **If** it goes unapplied it has no - ***meaning*.** **If** it is quoted and claimed without action it

has no - **value!** **If** it is accepted but not allowed to cleanse, erase, and prepare and put forth its purpose it is – **ignored!**

The answer to how to do all those things lies within Jesus’ example. For His death on the cross and the blood that was shed to be worth what He went through we **MUST** walk like Him, and we **must** follow in His footsteps, and we **MUST** become like Him! For our salvation to become secure, we **must** *be transformed*, we **must** allow ourselves to ***change*** into a usable person. We **must** do this for the promise of God to be fulfilled into our lives!

**Satan was there** when Jesus died, and he was there when he rose again, and he knows that Jesus’ blood was shed for the cleansing of sin! He knows all that and he ***believes*** it probably more than you and I do because he was there and saw it all! And so, did every demonic spirit in the heavens and on earth! Think about it! But they did not lay down their lives for God! Satan and his demons continue to do what they want to do! Out of his selfishness Satan wanted to run his own life and do with it what he wanted. Satan still, **believes in Jesus**! **Satan believes in God!** So do his demons! Satan has access to God’s throne room, and he goes there to visit and talk with God! He **believes!** So, why isn’t Satan going to Heaven? Once again, I say to you. If all it takes is to believe, then why is Satan going to burn in Hell for eternity?

*“But someone will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions! You believe that “God is One”? Good for you! The demons believe it too – the thought makes then shudder with fear!”* James 2:18 (CJB)

Satan is going to Hell because **he never has – TRUSTED and obeyed God!** Satan’s philosophy was and still is: - **“You can’t tell me what to do!”**

So, what is the difference between Satan and someone who is truly saved? ***Trust Grounded Obedience!*** **Trusting faithfulness to God through His Son Yeshua – THE WORD!**

**It is about trust from beginning to end! We must be *“obedient trusters”,* NOT just believers! We have the example . . . NOW, LET’S WALK IT OUT!**

***“When someone truly accepts Jesus into their life, the predominate nature and character of Satan MUST begin to leave their life!”***

(sw-h)

**The Truth about - SIN!**

**Chapter 7**

The church of my youth taught the following: God has a **“permissive will”.** From my youth until now hearing that statement causes me to cringe! For many years I did not understand why – I do now. This statement implies God is double-minded. God abhors sin and He cannot even look at it! I cannot find anywhere in the Bible that implies or condones what is taught that God has a permissive will!

According to the dictionary the word permissive means: granting or tending to grant permission – it is the same thing as the giving of a permit or license! God does not grant permits for individuals to sin, nor does God give out licenses to sin.

Many self-help books teach gray areas. No such thing! Teaching there is a grey area is another way to: **justify our sin so we can live it out!**

If you try to justify anything that you have done wrong or anything that you are doing that is not pleasing to God than you **- are holding on to your own self-righteous filthy rags.**

God does not have a permissive will – nor does He permit sin in any way. God does not give us a permission slip to commit sin! If God in anyway permitted sin it would be totally against His character and nature! Plus, it would go totally against His written Word! So, what is the answer? God ***tolerates*** sin for a season - out of love and hopefully for a greater purpose *not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

*“Moreover, dear friends, do NOT ignore this; with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is* ***not*** *slow in keeping His promise, as some people think slowness; on the contrary, He is patient with you; for it is not His purpose that anyone should be destroyed, but that everyone should turn from his sins. However, the Day of the Lord will come “like a thief”.” On that Day the heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will melt and disintegrate, and the earth and everything in it will be burned up.”* (2 Peter 3:8-11 (CJB)

**In most cases in Christendom the word SIN has been replaced by the word MISTAKE! A mistake is a wrong answer on a math test!**

A.W. Tozer wrote: “Sin is a disease! It is lawless! It is rebellion! It is transgression! But it is also a waste of the most precious of all treasures on earth.

Sin is very subtle. Sin creeps into our lives when we least expect it. It packages itself so attractively that we are lulled into thinking that it cannot really harm us (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Sin stealthily and relentlessly entangles our lives. We will never be able to run the race marked out for us as long as we are entrapped in sin. We free ourselves from sin’s bondage only if we recognize it for what it is. If we call sin a “mistake”, a bad habit.” or a “weakness,” we will never escape its grasp. We must not blame our sins on others.”

*“Adonai’s arm is not too short to save, nor is his ear too dull to hear. Rather, it is your own crimes that separate you from your God;* ***your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He doesn’t hear.”*** *Isaiah 59:1-2 (CJB)* **“Someone with right heart intentions towards God can’t stand the thought of sinning!”**

**Sinning with a High Hand!**

When we as Christians decide to make a choice in any given situation and we know it is a wrong choice and it is not what God wants us to do – if we proceed to do what we desire to do all the while saying to ourselves, “Oh, I live under grace and I know God will forgive me.!” When that happens, we have just blown it in the eyes of God! Why?

Here is the reasoning: When we go ahead and choose to deliberately go forward and do what you **WE WANT** that is - **REBELLION**! When that happens here is what God sees us doing: God sees us taking **our fist and raising our hand toward Heaven** **and shaking our fist in His face!** This is a **SERIOUS** place to be!

“Those who deliberately continue to sin are doing what the Torah (Bible) calls *“sinning with a high hand”* and for such sins the Levitical System of sacrifices prescribed in the Torah (Bible) does not atone – this is the point of this passage.”

 *“And let us do this all the more as you see The Day approaching. For* ***IF*** *we deliberately continue to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but only the terrifying prospect of judgment; of raging fire that will consume the enemies”.* (Hebrews 10:26-31)

**An accomplice to Sin!**

When we have done something wrong, and we recognize that we have done wrong and very possibly this is not the first time we have carried out this wrong – and seeing as how we know that going to God for forgiveness is the next step – we proceed to do just that!

NOW! I want to share something that is not often thought of: Whether, we have gone to God once or many times for the same issue let’s stop and look at this from a fresh new perspective:

To expect God to forgive you when you have done something wrong (sin) without ever considering that’s He is wanting change in your conduct - is an issue! When correcting your children do you expect them to change when they make a mistake? Of course, you do! However, because we love them, we forgive them.

**BUT!** Do you expect them to not do it again? Do you expect a change in the situation? Of course, you do. Well, ask God if that is what He wants from us?

Yes, we have our own free will – that is a fact. So, God is not going to MAKE you stop whatever it is you are doing. However, I believe that His heart aches every time we continue sinning without change. Here is why:

**“To expect God to forgive you when you have done wrong *without* even considering that He is deeply wanting change in your conduct - is to make God’s Grace an accomplice to sin!”**

(sw-h)

**Satan is NOT an Atheist – He is a Believer!**

**Chapter 8**

A great deal of mankind has become fascinated with the supernatural, and they deny the Supernatural God – The God of goodness and love! The world is perishing and so are those in the body of Christ who make the choice to ignore the fact that Satan exists.

There is nowhere in the Bible that shows Jesus ignoring Satan! In fact, Jesus spoke about Satan twenty-five times in the New Testament! **Satan** **does exist and so do his demons!**

Upon going about your day and you have things to be accomplished and cannot get things done? Guess who is behind that? Yes, he can do things like this! How about this: Have you ever stated out loud, “I feel as if I’m struggling to get things done”? Or have you said, “Life is such a struggle!” The Apostle Paul wrote this for us: *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* (NIV) Ephesians 6:12

The topic of Satan and how he works to mess up our lives and destroy our lives is still pretty much *swept under the rug* in most churches. People are afraid to address and to teach information regarding Satan! Why? Perhaps, some level of fear comes over them. Or if they pay attention to the facts in regarding Satan – then they will recognize they will have to do something!! They would prefer that God coddle them and do the work for them. He will help us by giving us instructions in what we need to do. But! We are declared as Co-workers with God! (2 Corinthians 6:1) We are the servant, and He is the Master, and we need to know how God wants things done! We need to be taking the time to get quiet with God and listen to His instruction. That is the example Jesus set for us! God is **not** our Sugar Daddy!

Knowledge of Satan begins in the third chapter of Genesis and ends in the book of Revelation! From the beginning of time, Satan has roamed the planet Earth, destroying, and ravaging everything including the lives of individuals! Satan is even ravaging churches! Did you know that 5,000 churches close a year? A recent study here in the US shows the numbers of those who claim to be Christians has dropped from 78% to 65%! In just a matter of a few years. This is - **truth!**

The book of Job tells us this. “*The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it*." (NIV) Job 1:7 Satan is still roaming until this day, and he has trillions of days of pent-up anger within him!

There is something I want to emphasize - Satan, Lucifer, the devil, the evil one, or whatever you choose to call him is not just sitting around watching what is happening in this world. I want to let you know he is stirring up serious, serious trouble everywhere he goes! Just listen to the news! He is currently very busy in the United States government splitting America in two! Think about it!

Individuals continue to pass over James 2:19 regarding Satan and his demons being believers by saying things like, “Oh I’m sure Satan does believe – okay next!”

***“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”*** James 2:19 (NIV)

 *“Are there still some among you who hold that “only believing” is enough? Believing in one God? Well, remember that the demons believe this too—so* strongly that they tremble in terror!” James 2:19 (TLB)

*“Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That’s just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?”* James 2:19 (MSG)

*“You can believe all you want that there is one true God, that’s wonderful! But even the demons know this and tremble with fear before him, yet they’re unchanged—they remain demons.”* (TPT)

“*Do you think that just believing there’s one God is going to get you anywhere? The demons believe that, too, and it terrifies them!”* James 2:19 (Voice)”

Are you getting it? Just believing isn’t enough! There has to be more! Saying you believe that God is God is not enough! That is only step ONE to a relationship with God! Look at the following similarities’ -

Satan was created by the hand of God. So, were we!

Satan was created for a specific purpose! So, were we!

Satan was loved deeply by God! So, are we!

Satan had a calling on this life! So, do we!

Satan has access to the Throne Room! So, do we!

So, what is my point? This! God had plans for Satan’s existence just as He had and still has for our lives! However, Satan wanted something different – he wants what he wants – when he wants it! Most individuals today are that way. Satan didn’t and does not want to live and carry out God’s plan for his life in accordance with God’s will! Many Christians genuinely want to do things their way? And think that God understands, because we live under Grace! In fact, allow me to show you something God said to Satan and God shared it with us in the Bible for us to understand the true intent of Satan’s heart:

*“You said in your heart,
 “I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
    above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
    on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;****I will make myself like the Most-High!”***

Isaiah 14:13-15

That portion of this Scripture sums up Satan’s *intentions!* We need to go before God and ask Him, “What is the intent of my heart regarding this issue or issues I’m dealing with Lord! I want to handle things in my life the way you want me to!” Then STOP and listen to what God is trying to tell you!

People have said to me many times: “God gave me a brain in order for me to make my own decisions in my life!” **WRONG!**

God gave us a brain for us to know the difference between our elbow and our foot when He tells us to do something!

God did **NOT** tell us to make our own decisions on - **anything! That is nowhere in the Bible!**

In the above Scripture what was Satan’s intent? Exactly what most everyone feels inside themselves at one time or another. You are **not** boss of me – you cannot tell me what to do! Honestly, this statement is the basis for every single feeling/action regarding doing what we want - when we want, and how we want!

Satan was not in any way willing to be obedient to God’s will for his life! He wanted to be in control of his own life and take over the whole world! He wanted to be the boss of everything!

**So, what did Satan do? HE TOOK HIS LIFE BACK AND STEPPED INTO DISOBEDIENCE! HE TOOK HIS LIFE RIGHT OUT OF GOD’S HANDS SO THAT HE COULD DO WHAT HE WANTED TO DO WHEN HE WANTED TO DO IT AND AT THE SAME TIME BE THE KING OF THE WORLD!**

When we make our own choices without consulting God here is what can happen: You give Satan open doors to come at you because you have stepped out of God’s protection over you! When we are walking in obedience to God – we have protection – when you do things and make decisions on your own – you have taken your life back and you are walking in disobedience. Even if you are in obedience in other ways in your life – **that is partial obedience and** **partial obedience is - disobedience!Be Alert!** *“Be self-controlled and* ***ALERT!***  *Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

We must always be ALERT! Why? Because Satan **IS OUR ONLY ENEMY**! Let me show you an example of what I am going to be sharing with you.

*“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

***Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”*** *Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God****, but merely human concerns.”*** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “****Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”*** Matthew 16:21-24 (NIV)

We can be affected by Satan! This excerpt from the Bible is a perfect example of what I just said. When Peter heard what Jesus said he instantaneously allowed his emotions to get out of hand! The Scripture reveals that Peter immediately took Jesus aside and rebuked Him. At this point Jesus did not explode at him, nor did he begin to rebuke Peter like Peter had rebuked him! There was none of this “in your face” as we call it. Jesus simply pulled back **emotionally**, recognized where the attack was coming from and said to Satan not Peter, *“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”* Matthew 16:23 (NIV)

Jesus looked at where the attack was coming from – He knew Peter had let down his guard and given Satan room to use him. Our emotions can become an open door in our lives daily - if we aren’t careful. When someone snaps at you, or yells at you, or cuts in front of you while you are driving etc. Whatever happens be slow to react. Always look behind what has been done or said.

After recognizing who was behind the attack Jesus said: “*Get thee behind me Satan!”* When He spoke, He was not speaking to Peter, He was dealing with the actual attacker! He was speaking to the one who was behind the whole situation up to that point! In speaking directly to Satan, Jesus took control of the situation for God! Jesus did not explode and start arguing with Peter! If Jesus had handled this situation any differently – what could have happened to his growing friendship with Peter? Plus, would Peter have become so upset and hurt it would have affected his growth with God! **Be on the alert! Watch your reaction time in tense situations!** **You do not have to answer anyone immediately!** You do not want to give Satan more room to make things worse through you – Satan **can** use our thoughts, our moods, and our emotions against us – ***be ALERT!***

**NOW!** We are certainly not going to go around and say to just anyone who says something we do not like, get behind me Satan! How stupid would that be? What we need to do is simply recognize who is behind the situation and control ourselves! Do not react! That can cause the whole situation to explode! I really think that is what Satan wanted Jesus to do! I can think of many ways God would want us to handle this type of situation. However, that is for another teaching at another time.

Keep in mind, what Jesus did in the temple. He saw what He saw and heard what He heard and did nothing at that moment. In other words, He took time to recognize who was behind the disgrace that was going on in His Father’s House! Jesus wanted to handle this situation perfectly! Therefore, He began by timing himself out and He simply backed away. John tells us in the written Word Jesus went outside the Temple grounds and made a whip out of cords. This took quite a bit of time because He could not go to Ace Hardware and buy a whip! He not only had to make the whip – He had to find the material to do so! Jesus sat down first and took His time to talk with God about the situation He was in – and ask for direction. We know this because Jesus would have not made a whip on his own! The Apostle John wrote for us in the written Word what Jesus had told the disciples: ***I do nothing on my own except what my Father tells me to. . .”***(John 8:28)

While outside Jesus prayed and listened for God’s direction in this matter and then went back inside and handled the situation to a tee!

Jesus did not use the whip on one person! Nor did He strike anyone! He simply carried out God’s instruction by overturning tables and speaking what God told Him to say in the manner God wanted! Basically, what did Jesus do? **He bullied the one who was bullying the one who was bullying Him!**

**FINALLY! *“Finally, grow powerful in union with the Lord, in union with***

***his mighty strength! Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary***.” Ephesians 6:10-11 (JNT)

Satan is working with more freedom than he ever has. Crime is rampant and on the increase! Murders are on the increase! People are murdered in the streets, in their homes and in schools, and while sitting in a movie theatre! Marriages and all types of relationships are in shambles. Many children hate their parents and each other! People of all ages are bullies, and many individuals are bullying people to the point they commit suicide! There is a spirit of fear everywhere and that is not from God! Satan’s underlying motive goes far beyond an issue in society. His goal is for the nations to erupt in rage against God. Satan very much wants a militant, unified, passionate revolt against God and His laws and Jesus’ right to reign over the planet. If you keep an eye on the spiritual temperature of national and international events, you will see the thermometer climbing higher and higher! Satan and his cohorts are fanning and feeding the flames to explode in rage and bring a reckless revolt against God’s ways.

**Did you ever?** Were you confirmed? Did you ever walk down the aisle of a church and accept Christ as your Savior? Have you ever gone through a Bar Mitzvah? Have you ever made a profession of faith in an evangelistic meeting? Have you ever sat alone and told God you wanted Him to take control of your life? Has anyone ever led you in the sinner’s prayer? Let’s put it is this way, if you have done any of these things, and if you have done them willingly than you have made a verbal commitment to God regarding the giving up of your life to Him. God takes this very seriously! Why? Because He takes every word we say seriously, especially our idle words. We are accountable for what we say. (Matthew 12:36-37)

When you verbally give your life to God and when you verbally accept Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, what you are saying is that you are going to allow God to become **the boss of your whole life from that point on.** Therefore, your old habits, obligations, standards, boundaries, reactions, fears, intentions, goals, commitments, relationships, emotions, weaknesses, motivators, and inhibitors. All these areas of your life must slowly be conformed to God’s creative perfection in you, by the power of the Holy Spirit’s personal daily teaching and instruction from Jesus Christ, and obedience to God the Father’s daily direction in and through your life.

**There is no instant breakfast in our growth with God! When you give your life to God, you have just committed yourself to God and you are at the beginning to be Born Again process - this is where it starts! And this is one of the biggest and most important choices you will ever make! Now, if you do not want to commit to allowing God to change you – and if you do not want that – the only alternative is to – TAKE BACK YOUR LIFE! Here is why. God has told us very clearly what He wants from us and that is – CHANGE!**

***“****I exhort you, therefore, brothers, in view of God’s mercies, to offer yourselves as a sacrifice, living and* ***set apart for God****. This will please him; it is the logical “Temple worship” for you. In other words, do not let yourselves be conformed to the standards of the world. Instead,* ***keep letting yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds;*** *so that you will know what God wants and will agree that what he wants is good, satisfying and able to succeed.”* Romans 12:1-2 (CJB)

If anyone were to think that they could continue in their old habit patterns after asking God to come into their life, that thinking is way off! At that point they are being deceived by Satan himself. Let me explain: Let us use lying for example. If we lie, we are manifesting the character and nature of Satan himself in our lives. Why? Because Satan is the father of all lies! *You belong to your****father****, the devil, and you want to carry out your****father****’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he****lies****, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the****father******of******lies”****.* John 8:44 (NIV)

**God loves you just the way you are. However,** **He has no plans to leave you that way! He does however, have plans to change you!**

You know what? The Ultimate plan God has for you is and I repeat: “Do *not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but* ***be transformed by the renewing of your mind****. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will.* Romans 12:2 (NIV)

To please God, we must change! Why? **Because when someone TRULY ACCEPTS Christ “into” their life, the predominate nature and character of Satan must begin to leave their life. It must...!**

**“Belief in God alone does not save.**  **Even the devil believes in God and his demons tremble with fear!** (James 2:19) **Satan and his demons are not atheist**! R.T. Kendall said, “Being a church member does not save you. Good works – the best of them – will not save you! Even if you have some success in controlling your tongue this will not save you! **The faith that saves is when you put “all your eggs into one basket” – namely, the blood of Jesus.” (**R.T. Kendall)

More **people than you know about claim to know God,** ***but with their actions* they deny Him!** “They are detestable and disobedient; they have proved themselves unfit to do anything good.” Titus 1:6 (CJB)

“Three out of four people who call themselves a Christian believe in God but don’t **know Him**! Seven out of ten people who call themselves a Christian believe Jesus is the son of God and live as if God does not exist! Most individuals who call themselves a Christian claim to **know** God. However, by their actions they deny Him and live as if He doesn’t exist – **this is a Christian Atheist!”** (Titus 1:16) Craig Groeschel, Life Church, Oklahoma

God is looking for more than just a believer! He is looking for individuals who totally **TRUST HIM**! There is a big difference! If you totally trust IN God, you will be seeking out His will in every single area of your life! PLUS, you will KNOW God and be walking with God like Jesus did! The following scripture tells us what is so especially important:

**“We know that we have come to know him IF we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys His word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him - MUST LIVE AS JESUS DID!”** 1 John 2:3-6 (NIV)  (sw-h)

**Our TWO Divine Rights!**

**Chapter 9**

Hearing God talk to us is a more than important part of God’s will for our lives! In fact, **hearing God speak to us** is a *Divine right* given to us by God!

* This divine right was instituted in the Garden of Eden. The other divine right I would like to mention is the **right to make our own choices.** After the fall many abilities and many privileges were no longer available to us. However, these two privileges remain the same and they are truly *Divine!* Hearing God’s voice is “The Priority” in our lives! Without the ability to hear God speak to us and tell us which way to go in all areas of our life – we are in a danger zone! Why? Because every step we take each day is a choice!
* EVERYTHING IS A CHOICE and if we are not taking the time to ask God what He wants us to do and how He wants us to handle our day – we are off in left field as some people say!

Let’s look at our freedom to make choices: When Adam and Eve were in the Garden, they had the right to make their own choices. By the way - God did **not** create us to be puppets.

God gave us our own free will – we have the right to choose. Adam and Eve made a choice that not only affected them, but it affected us and the rest of mankind.

*“So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate;* ***and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate****.”* Genesis 3:6 - NRSV

**Food for thought**: There is no need to try to blame Adam and Eve because if they had not made the wrong choice one of us would have. It would be arrogant and haughty to think of this any other way.

There are a couple of things which need to be looked at here. God was watching this situation as it was happening. Adam was standing there too! According to the information we have here Adam did not make a move to stop Eve! He simply joined in and ate. This is an important fact! However, the fact I will address is this: God *also* made *no* move to stop them! If He had He would have gone against the divine right of - freedom of choice! God doesn’t go back on his Word! Understand, God doesn’t stop us from making the wrong choice! The choice we make is ours alone – and keep in mind there are choices which cannot be fixed! God may attempt to “prompt” you or He could try to get your attention in some way but – **God will not force you!** There was more riding on the choices of Adam and Eve then could ever be imagined. However, God did not stop them.

There were two choices involved here. Adam’s choice and Eve’s! Eve allowed herself to be manipulated by Satan and Adam (as overseer of the Garden) stood there knowing what God had said, and he disobeyed anyway. When the last bite was taken - Satan moved in and became the Prince of this World (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)! It was a hostile takeover of the world! Satan had taken control!

*“We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is* ***under the control of the evil one****.”* I John 5:19 (TLT)

What happened in the Garden leads us to our most important divine right. God wants to talk to us! **If we are willing to take the time to hear God speak to us our lives would be dramatically changed!**

*“When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man﻿ and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So, they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you? He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked. Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat? The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it. Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done? The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”* Genesis 3:8-13 (TLT)

When you have presented your issues, concerns, and problems to God – He wants to answer! Therefore, be still, be quiet and listen! Give him time to answer! Don’t rush God – no matter what make ample time for Him to speak to you! None of us can afford to not learn to hear God voice! Here are examples of possible questions for God: How should I handle the person at work who is discrediting me behind my back? My son or daughter is up to something I feel is a danger to them – what is your direction for this situation God? My husband or wife seems to be pulling away from me God – what do I do? What car would you like me to buy? What is the best doctor you want me to go to? What is the church would you like me to go too? What kind of diet would you like me to feed my family?

People have told me these types of questions aren’t necessary to go to God about – He simply wants us to use our wisdom. Let me say this. God wants to be involved in each detail of my life – He knows how my body works. He knows what is going on inside my body. He knows what is going on in the mind of someone who is trying to destroy my reputation. He knows the safest and most economical car for me to buy. My money is his money anyhow. Therefore, shouldn’t He tell me how to spend His money? He knows every detail of everything about me and my life. The wisdom gained over someone’s lifetime is filled with worldly wisdom! Therefore, worldly wisdom and the opinions of man more times than not are not God’s thoughts and perspectives for my life!

Satan can fake any one of us out with nudges and promptings. I am no longer willing to take the chance of going by nudges, promptings, and dreams. Why? Because, Satan can give me a dream, a nudge and attempt to prompt me. If Satan can masquerade as and “angel of light”. (2 Corinthians 11:14 NIV), then he can take me out! Matthew 24:24 tells us Satan can even deceive the followers of Jesus if we are not careful!

Dr. James Dobson said, “You can’t obey God if you are hazy about what He (God) wants you to do. But most people lack a clear idea of how to discern His Voice. They depend on feelings and impressions to interpret His will, which is unreliable and dangerous. What they feel is highly subjective. It is influenced by what they want, what is going on in their lives and even how much sleep they got last night. Some terrible mistakes have been made by believers who thought they had heard the voice of the Lord.”

We are in some perilous times right now and I need specific details in and for every area of my life. How about you?

The type of conversation we see in Genesis 3:8-13 is the type of conversation God wants with us today! You can count on it. Jesus said the following: *“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, H****e will guide you*** *into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future”.* John 16:12-13 (TLT)

*“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will* ***guide you*** *into all the truth; for He will not speak on his own, but will* ***speak*** *whatever He hears, and He will* ***declare to you*** *the things that are to come.”* John 16:12-13 (NRSV)

Jesus specifically said the Holy Spirit was going to talk with us! He did not say He was going to nudge us and give us impressions. He said he was going to **talk to us!** If we are **not** listening to God. He can attempt to nudge us if He wants – We can even feel the cringing of the Holy Spirit within us! When that happens, we need to be very careful because something is not right! At that moment God is trying to get through to us to tell us something. Because we are about to do something we shouldn’t, or we are not where we are supposed to be - because we weren’t listening! Jesus declared the following: *“But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone,* *but* ***by every******word*** *that comes from the mouth of God.’* Matthew 4:4 (NRSV)

***Whoever is* from *God hears the words of God*.**” John 8:47 (NRSV)

The Strong’s Concordance tells us the use of “word” and “words” in the scriptures above is reference #4487 - Rehma meaning: spoken, discourse, words spoken by a living voice! (Does not refer to written words)

*“My sheep hear my* ***voice.*** *I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand*.” John 10:27 (NRSV)

The Strong’s Concordance tells us the word “voice” in the above scripture is reference #5456 - **“phone”** pronounced in the Greek (fo-nay) meaning: sound, noise, uttered words.

**It couldn’t be any clearer!**

(sw-h)

**Hearing God’s Voice is SUPERNATURAL!**

**Chapter 10**

When Adam and Eve left Paradise, they left with a marvelous Supernatural Gift! **That is all they left with!** However, it was the most marvelous action God could give under the circumstances. God was most generous in allowing them to leave with a DIVINE RIGHT! Even after their acts of disobedience – God did not cut off communication with Adam and Eve – **IF -** THEY WANTED TO SPEAK WITH HIM!

Hearing God talk to us is a most important part of God’s will for our lives! In fact, **hearing God speak to us** is a divine right given to us by God Himself! This divine right was instituted in the Garden of Eden. The other divine right I would like to mention is the **right to make our own choices.** After the fall of man, many abilities and many privileges were no longer available to us. However, these two privileges remain the same - and they are truly divine! Hearing God’s voice is “The Priority” in our lives! Without the ability to hear God speak to us and tell us which way to go in all areas of our life – we are in a danger zone!

Why? Because every step we take each day is a choice! EVERYTHING IS A CHOICE and if we are not taking the time to ask God what He wants us to do and how He wants us to handle our day – we are in disobedience!

Let’s look at our freedom to make choices: When Adam and Eve were in the Garden, they had the right to make their own choices – God did not create us to be puppets. God gave us our own free will. Therefore, we have the right to choose. Adam and Eve made a choice that not only affected them, but it affected us and the rest of mankind.

“*So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate;* ***and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate****.”* Genesis 3:6 - NRSV

**Food for thought**: As I have mentioned before there is no need to try to blame Adam and Eve because if they had not made the wrong choice one of us would have! It would be arrogant and haughty to think of this in any other way.

There are a couple of things which need to be looked at here. God was watching this situation as it was happening. Adam was standing there too! According to the information we have Adam did not make a move to stop Eve! He simply joined in and ate. This is an important fact. However, the fact I will address is this: God also made no move to stop them! If He had He would have gone against the divine right of their freedom to choose! God does not go back on His Word! Understand, God does not stop us from making the wrong choice! The choices we make are ours alone – and keep in mind **there are choices which cannot be fixed!** If you are in the process of making a wrong choice God may attempt to “prompt” you or He could try to get your attention in some way - but **He will not stop, you**!

There was more riding on the choices of Adam and Eve then could ever be imagined. However, God did not stop them. There were two choices involved here. Adam’s choice and Eve’s! Eve allowed herself to be manipulated by Satan and Adam (as overseer of the Garden) stood there knowing what God had said, and he disobeyed anyway. When the last bite was taken Satan moved in and became the Prince of this World! (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11**) In the blink of an eye everything changed!**

It was a hostile takeover of this world! Satan had taken control! “*We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is* ***under the control of the evil one****.”* I John 5:19 (TLT)

All that leads us to our most important divine right: **God wants to talk to us:**

When you have presented your issues, concerns, and problems to God – He wants to answer! Therefore, be still, be quiet and listen! Give Him time to answer! Do not rush God – no matter what - make ample time for Him to speak to you! None of us can afford to **not learn** to hear God voice!

Here are examples of possible questions for God: How should I handle the person at work who is discrediting me behind my back? My son or daughter is up to something I feel is a danger to them – what is your direction for this situation God? My husband or wife seems to be pulling away from me God – what do I do? What car would you like me to buy? What is the best doctor you want me to go to too? What church would you like me to attend? What type of diet would you choose for my family?

People have told me these types of questions are not necessary to go to God about – He simply wants us to use our wisdom. Let me say this. God wants to be involved in each detail of our life! He knows how our body works. He knows what is going on inside our body. He knows what is going on in the mind of someone who is trying to destroy someone’s reputation. He knows the safest and most economical car for you to buy. My money is God’s money! Therefore, should God not tell me how to spend His money? He knows every detail of everything about me and my life. **The wisdom gained over someone’s lifetime is filled with worldly wisdom!** Therefore, worldly wisdom and the opinions of man more times than not are **not** God’s thoughts and perspectives for my life!

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We are in some perilous times right now and I need specific details regarding every PART of my life. How about you?

The type of conversation we see in Genesis 3:8-13 is the type of conversation God wants with us today! You can count on it. Jesus said the following: “*There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth* *comes,* (John 16:12-13 – TLT) ***He will guide you*** *into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

*“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will* ***guide you*** *into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will* ***speak*** *whatever he hears, and he will* ***declare to you*** *the things that are to come.[[2]](#footnote-2)* (John 16:12-13 – NRSV)

Jesus specifically said the Holy Spirit was going to talk with us! He did not say He was going to nudge us and give us impressions. He said He was going to **talk to us!** If we are **not** listening to God. Satan can attempt to nudge us if he wants! When we do feel the cringing of the Holy Spirit within us – **we better listen up**! When that happens, we need to be incredibly careful because something is not right! At that moment God is trying to get through to us to tell us something. Because we are about to do something we should not, or we are not where we are supposed to be - because we were not listening! Jesus declared the following:

*But he answered, “It is written,* *‘One does not live by bread alone,* **but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’** (Matthew 4:4 – NRSV)

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*“My sheep* ***hear*** *my* ***voice.*** *I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.” (*John 10:27 – NRSV) The Strong’s Concordance tells us the word “voice” in the above scripture is reference #5456 - **“phone”** pronounced in the Greek (fo-nay) meaning: sound, noise, uttered words. **It could not be plainer!**

**Hearing God’s Voice is SUPERNATURAL!**There is a need to understand a truth regarding hearing God speak to us. Even if someone does not know God and even if they do not love God and even if they do not believe there is a God - they still have THE RIGHT to hear His voice.

**Hearing God’s voice is a Divine Right!**  Every person born has the right to hear God speak to them! This gift is open to everyone; it is not just for those who call themselves Christians!

“Scripture makes it clear that the Lord wants to talk to every one of us: *‘And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.’”* Isaiah 30:21

Pastor David Wilkerson

**A Question for YOU. . . “Why do you think it strange that the one who created you would want to speak with you and have fellowship with the one He created?** **If** you think what God had to say two thousand years ago to another person is more important than what He personally has to say to you each day – than there is no point in your asking God for help in your life – because He can’t do it!”

There is a need to understand a truth regarding hearing God speak to us. Even if someone does not know God and even if they do not love God and even if they do not believe there is a God - they still have a right to hear His voice**. *Hearing God’s voice is a Divine Right!*  Every person born has the right to hear God speak to them! This gift is open to everyone; it is not just for those who call themselves Christians!**

**THE Purpose for Hearing God:** What is the purpose for hearing God? The purpose for hearing God is to give God the victory in our day. To put it another way, the purpose for hearing God is to enable Him to guide you into a victorious position! When you are in a victorious position - **God gets the victory!**

When you evaluate a situation/circumstance by speaking to God, by listening to His voice, by knowing God’s Word and by following the guidance of the Holy Spirit – this brings you Godly wisdom! You will get **smarter**!

When you evaluate a situation/circumstance by relying on your own opinions or experience, or someone else’s opinions or experiences other than God’s – this brings up worldly wisdom. You will get **stupid**!

God’s wisdom is the most important way we can know how to go about living our lives for God. God’s wisdom is the only type of wisdom that can truly benefit our lives on this earth! **God’s wisdom is perfect wisdom. It is truth and it is eternal!**

When God tells you something, it is **important**! If He tells you something He wants done, **it is important**. **Everything God tells you is important**! So, when God tells you something, He is **commanding you** with instructions. **Take it seriously**! When we go to God for instruction about anything, and **when God gives us direction, it is a command to TAKE ACTION – anything less than that is disobedience!**

(sw-h)

**The Holy Spirit! Our Counselor!**

Chapter 11

The most important thing that can be said about the Holy Spirit is that HE is GOD! The Holy Spirit is fully God as the Father is God and as Jesus is the Son of God!

**The Dove of the Holy Spirit!**

***“****The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel. Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and* ***remain******on him.****And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’**I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.’”* John 1:29-34 (NIV)

When I was a young child, my parents would take my younger sister and I to feed the pigeons at Bayfront Park in Miami. Upon arrival my father would purchase a small bag of peanuts, and we were ready to feed the pigeons! I can recall the pigeons approaching us rapidly and sometimes I felt afraid. As a child I found the birds to be aggressive in the sense that they wanted peanuts, and they wanted them now! They would walk up to you as fast as they could, sometimes 4 or 5 at a time while one or more would be attempting to land on your head! As I think back, they were extremely nervous and fidgety, and they never really seemed to calm down! When they landed on you, they dug in hard attempting to hold on tight! That hurt! I did not like that part of it! However, I loved the green grass in the park, and I loved to see the boats on the water at the edge of the park. It is a sweet memory. So, here is my point: Pigeons are often mistaken for Doves!

Doves are quite different from pigeons, they are **not** fidgety, and I would find it hard to believe they would fly and rest on anyone much less stay there. Did you know that a Dove, especially a turtledove, is hypersensitive and very shy? Pigeons are loud and boisterous – they are not shy as I learned as a child. Turtledoves never fight; pigeons fight all the time! Turtledoves cannot stand noise, and they are afraid of humans!

They cannot be trained, nor can they be domesticated. Once let out of a gage they will not return unless there is no other source of food. Doves mate for life! ***As with the Holy Spirit - Doves do not adjust to humans we have to adjust to them!*** That is if we want them/Him to stay! It is extremely easy for a Dove to be upset and fly away. Just as it is when the Spirit is quenched or grieved! I find it amazing that God used a Dove to represent the Holy Spirit! We have much to learn here!

**LIFE TOOL**: Are you adjusting to the Holy Spirit or are you expecting Him to adjust to you? Keep in mind that we must adjust to the Holy Spirit – He is not going to adjust to us! Think about it!

(sw-h)

**The Purpose for Hearing God!**

Chapter 12

What is the purpose for hearing God? The **purpose for hearing God is to give God the victory in your day**. To put it another way, **the purpose for hearing God is to enable Him to guide you into a victorious position!** **When you are in a victorious position, God gets the victory**!

When you evaluate a situation or circumstance by speaking to God, by listening to His voice, by knowing God’s Word and by following the guidance of the Holy Spirit – this brings you Godly wisdom! You will get **smarter**!

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When God tells you something, it is **important**! If He tells you something He wants done, **it is important**. **Everything God tells you is important**! So, when He tells you something, He is **commanding you** with an instruction. **Take it seriously**! When we go to God for instruction about anything, and **when God gives us direction, it is a command** to ACT. If we don’t follow through, that is **disobedience**!

(sw-h)

**God Abuse!**

Chapter 13

*“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption*.” Ephesians 4:30 (NIV)

“*Quench not the Spirit.”* I Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV)

God has feelings! He has deep feelings! Man doesn’t think too much about God having feelings and emotions. I’m here to tell you God **does** have emotions! The Bible speaks a great deal about grieving God. The best part is that the Bible speaks a great deal about God loving us! However, the Bible speaks about our selfish nature also and this teaching is about a very selfish part of our nature. Here we go:

We are very aware of our feelings and emotions! In fact, we could tell anyone exactly to a tee what others have done to cause us pain and grief! If you have significant others in your life (those who mean a great deal to you) I bet, you have been hurt at some point by them! Most likely more than once. When they hurt you, I bet you shared that information with someone else in detail declaring how badly they hurt you! How do I know that? I know because I have shared my hurts also!

There is nothing wrong with sharing or venting our hurts with a trustworthy person. But! The test is how you go about it – what is your heart’s attitude in doing so? Is your heart motive to vent it out and then forgive them? Or is your heart motive an ulterior motive wanting to expose them? If you are telling the details of your hurts hoping that the person or persons will be outed and exposed – be very careful because that is God’s job to expose! Caution! There is a yellow flag flying on this one! Everyone would have to make sure with God what their heart motive is in a situation like this – so take care in sharing with another person.

When I get hurt so does the Holy Spirit within me! When I hurt someone else the Holy Spirit in me gets hurt too because I’m inflicting hurt on another person!

The Holy Spirit not only gets hurt because He loves me, and He feels my hurt – He is hurt because the other person is acting against His will and inflicting hurt on someone else! It is a double whammy for God! It can get very complicated – because the consequences from hurting others can cause a chain reaction! It can cause splits in relationships, and splits in families! More often than you think it can cause mistakes - **that can’t be fixed**!

The precious Holy Spirit which is **GOD** always gets hurt the most because He sees deep into people’s heart and heart attitudes! He sees the motives and the ulterior motives!

How often do we even consider that what we do or say hurts God? We hurt God when we do things against His will in fact the definition of grieve is make sorrowful; affect with sadness; cause grief, offend; make uneasy!

Have you ever heard of emotional abuse? Of course! We have all heard of emotional abuse! I believe it is more than likely your emotions have been abused many times. When we love someone, and they hurt us by actions or words – it is very painful for us! Emotional abuse as well as physical abuse can cause emotional scars!

However, think about this: God loves us more than we know! He loves us with perfect love! He loves us with unconditional love! **Therefore, grieving the Holy Spirit of God - is God abuse!**  Do we really want to hurt God? In church we sing praises to Him – we tell others we love God. Do we really love God and care how He feels? Think about it?

**Not only do we individually grieve (abuse) the Holy Spirit of God – so do millions of others daily! If we truly love God, we need to allow this information to settle deep in our heart! If we truly love someone, should we not care if we hurt them in some way? If we hurt God, should we not repent and make sure there is nothing wrong between us and God?**

(sw-h)

**Think about these Truths!**

Chapter 14

There is no need to try to blame Adam and Eve because, if they had not made the wrong choice **one of us would have**! It would be arrogant and haughty for us to think of this any other way!

There are a couple of things which need to be looked at here. God was watching this situation as it was happening. Adam was standing there too! According to the information we have Adam did not make a move to stop Eve! He simply joined in and ate. This is an important fact. However, the fact I will address is this: God also made no move to stop them! If He had He would have gone against the divine right of their freedom to choose! **God doesn’t go back on His Word!** **God doesn’t stop us from making the wrong choice! The choices we make are ours alone –** and **keep in mind there are choices which cannot be fixed!** If you are in the process of making a wrong choice God may attempt to “prompt” you or He could try to get your attention in some way but – He will not force you! There was more riding on the choices of Adam and Eve then could ever be imagined. However, God did not stop them. There were two choices involved here. Adam’s choice and Eve’s! Eve allowed herself to be manipulated by Satan and Adam (as overseer of the Garden) stood there knowing what God had said, and he disobeyed anyway. The moment the last bite was taken Satan moved in and became the Prince of this World! (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) **In the blink of an eye everything changed!** It was a hostile takeover of this world! Satan had taken control!

“*We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is* ***under the control of the evil one****.” (*I John 5:19 – TLT)

**All of that leads us to our most important divine right. God wants to talk to us!**

 “W*hen the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man﻿[[3]](#footnote-3)\*﻿ and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So, they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked. “Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat? The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it. Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done? The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.” (*Genesis 3:8-13 – TLT)

When you have presented your issues, concerns, and problems to God – He wants to answer! Therefore, be still, be quiet and listen! Give God time to answer! Don’t rush God – no matter what make ample time for Him to speak to you! None of us can afford to not learn to hear God voice! Here are examples of possible questions for God: How should I handle the person at work who is discrediting me behind my back? My son or daughter is up to something I feel is a danger to them – what is your direction for this situation God? My husband or wife seems to be pulling away from me God – what do I do? What car would you like me to buy? What is the best doctor you want me to go too? What church would you like for me to go to? What kind of diet would you like my family to eat?

People have told me these types of questions aren’t necessary to go to God about – He simply wants us to use our wisdom. Let me say this. God wants to be involved in each detail of my life! He knows how my body works. He knows what is going on inside my body. He knows what is going on in the mind of someone who is trying to destroy my reputation. He knows the safest and most economical car for me to buy. My money is His money anyhow! Therefore, shouldn’t He tell me how to spend His money? He knows every detail of everything about me and my life. The wisdom gained over someone’s lifetime is filled with worldly wisdom! Therefore, worldly wisdom and the opinions of man more times than not are **not** God’s thoughts and perspectives for my life!

Satan can fake any one of us out with nudges and promptings. I am no longer willing to take the chance of going by nudges, promptings, and dreams. Why? Because, Satan can give me a dream, a nudge and attempt to prompt me. If Satan can masquerade as and “angel of light”! (2 Corinthians 11:14 (NIV), then he has the capability to fake me out! Matthew 24:24 tells us Satan can even deceive the followers of Jesus if we are not careful!

Dr. James Dobson said, “You can’t obey God if you are hazy about what He (God) wants you to do. But most people lack a clear idea of how to discern His Voice. They depend on feelings and impressions to interpret His will, which is unreliable and dangerous. What they feel is highly subjective. It is influenced by what they want, what is going on in their lives and even how much sleep they got last night. Some terrible mistakes have been made by believers who thought they had heard the voice of the Lord.”

We are in some perilous times right now and I need specific details regarding every area of my life. How about you?

The type of conversation we see in Genesis 3:8-13 is the type of conversation God wants with us today! You can count on it. Jesus said the following:

“*There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth* *comes,* (John 16:12-13 – TLT) ***He will guide you*** *into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.”*

*“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will* ***guide you*** *into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but*

*will* ***speak*** *whatever He hears, and He will* ***declare to you*** *the things that are to come.”* (John 16:12-13 – NRSV)

Jesus specifically said the Holy Spirit was going to talk with us! He did not say He was going to nudge us and give us impressions. He said He was going to **talk to us!** **If** we are **not** listening to God. He can attempt to nudge us if He wants! We can even feel the cringing of the Holy Spirit within us! When that happens, we need to be very careful because something is not right! At that moment God is trying to get through to us to tell us something. Because we are about to do something we shouldn’t, or we are not where we are supposed to be - because we weren’t listening! Jesus declared the following:

*But He answered, “It is written,* ***‘One does not live by bread alone,* but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”** (Matthew 4:4 – NRSV)

***“Whoever is from God hears the words of God.”***(John 8:47)

The Strong’s Concordance tells us the use of “word” and “words” in the scriptures above is reference #4487 - **Rehma** meaning: spoken, discourse, words spoken by a living voice! (Does not refer to written words)

*“My sheep hear my* ***voice.*** *I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.”* John 10:27 – NRSV) The Strong’s Concordance tells us the word “voice” in the above scripture is reference #5456 - **“phone”** **pronounced in the Greek (fo-nay)** meaning: sound, noise, uttered words. **It couldn’t be plainer!**

**A question for you:** Why do you think it strange that the one who created you would want to speak with you and have fellowship with you? If you think what God had to say two thousand years ago to another person is more important than what He personally has to say to you each day – than there is not any point in your asking God for help in your life – because He can’t do it!

There is a need to understand a truth regarding hearing God speak to us. Even if someone doesn’t know God and even if they don’t love God and even if they don’t believe there is a God - they still have a right to hear His voice. **Hearing God’s voice is a Divine Right!** Every person born has the right to hear God speak to them! This gift is open to everyone; it is not just for those who call themselves Christians!

“Scripture makes it clear that the Lord wants to talk to every one of us: *‘And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.’”* (Isaiah 30:21)

Pastor David Wilkerson

(sw-h)

**Regarding the Last Days!**

Chapter 15

**“**God’s people have been living in the***“last days”*** since the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!” (Joel 2:28-32 CJB)

“First, understand this; during the Last Days, scoffers will come, following their own desires, and asking, “Where is this promised coming of his? For our fathers have died and everything goes on just as it has since the beginning of creation.” But, wanting so much to be right about this, they overlook the fact that it was by God’s Word that long ago there were heavens, and there was land which arose out of water and existed between the waters, and that by means of these things the world of that time was flooded with water and destroyed. It is by that same Word that the present heavens and earth, having been preserved, are being kept for fire until the **Day of Judgement**, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

Moreover, dear friends, do not ignore this: with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some people think of slowness, on the contrary, He is patient with you; for it is NOT His purpose that anyone should be destroyed, but that everyone should turn from his sins. However, The Day of the Lord is **“Like a thief,”** On that day the heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will melt and disintegrate, and the earth and everything in it will be burned up.

Since everything is going to be destroyed like this, what kind of people should we be? You should lead Holy and godly lives, as you wait for the Day of God and work to hasten its coming. That Day will bring on the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt from the heat; but we, following along with His promise, wait for **new heavens and a new earth**, in which righteousness will be at home! Therefore, dear friends, as you look for these things, **do everything you can to be found by Him without spot or defect and at peace.** And think of our Lord’s patience as deliverance, just as our dear brother Sha’ul (Paul) also wrote you, following the wisdom God gave him. Indeed, he speaks about these things in all his letters. They contain some things that are hard to understand, things which the uninstructed and unstable distort, to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

But you, dear friends, since you know this in advance, guard yourselves; so that you will not be led away by the errors of the wicked and fall from your own secure position. And keep growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Deliverer, Yeshua the Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and forever!” Amen. (2 Peter 3:3-12 CJB)

Fresh Life Tools, Inc., USA

**YOU ARE HERE!**

When you have gone into a mall, you often find a locator map with a dot symbolizing “you are here.” The attached is a locator map for your life.

**“YOU ARE WHERE?”**

This is God’s umbrella of protection for you. And these are Satan’s rains, downpours, and hailstones.

There are eight (8) numbered dots.

Dot #1 – Completely unprotected and NOT interested in God’s will.

Dot #2 – Completely unprotected and heading in the wrong direction.

Dot #3 – Unprotected and has no idea where to go next.

Dot #4 – Sometimes protected, sometimes not. Sometimes headed in the right direction and sometimes not.

Dot #5 – Unprotected has a desire to start heading in the right direction.

Dot #6 – Somewhat unprotected still but heading in the right direction.

Dot #7 – Protected and has been heading in the right direction for some time, and almost in God’s Will.

Dot #8 – Completely protected and right in the middle of God’s will.

Satan’s rains, downpours and hailstones are all attacks. An attack is something that Satan does to prevent you from accomplishing something that God wants done. Satan’s attacks have no way of affecting your ability to accomplish God’s purpose **if** you are standing in the middle of God’s will! **YOU ARE COMPLETELY PROTECTED!**

*“We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps is safe and the evil one cannot harm him.”* I John 5:18

How do you get under the umbrella of protection and stay there? There are eight steps to bring you into the middle of God’s will and help you stay there.

**Step 1** – **Obedience** – Ask God to continually direct you. Then do what He tells you to do.

*“But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.”* James 1:25 (NIV)

(AC)

**Step 2** – **Deliverance** – Ask God to reveal to you the things in your life that draw you away from His will. Then allow Him the freedom to move you away from those things in whatever way He tells you.

*“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.”*  Colossians 1:13 (NIV)

**Step 3** – **Perseverance** – Ask God to give you a purpose every day. Seek His guidance on how to accomplish it. Then, make His priority, your priority.

*“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that for outweighs them all.”* II Corinthians 4:16-17 (NIV)

**Step 4** – **Righteousness** - Ask God to search your heart attitudes and motives. Then give Him room to correct you and change your viewpoints to His viewpoints in every area of your life.

“To be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:23-24 (NIV)

**Step 5** – **Steadfastness** – Ask God to strengthen your trust in Him. Then, be faithful to do what He tells you to do, no matter how difficult it is and what you many feel emotionally.

*“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*  I Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

Step 6 – **Humility –** Ask God to help you keep your focus on Him. Then, let God show you where you stand in His purpose for you and how you can improve.

*“If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, be deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then, he can take pride in himself without comparing himself to someone else.* Galatians 6:3-4 (NIV)

**Step 7** – Diligence – Ask God to give you a strong desire to fulfill the calling He has given you. Then, strive to achieve His best for you in everything you do – big and little.

“Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you do these things, you will never fall.” II Peter 1:10 (NIV)

**Step 8** – Ask God to consistently remind you of the power and authority that you have over Satan. Then, actively apply it in your life.

*“Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 (NIV)*

Out of every possible place you could be in this entire world, being in the center of God’s personal will for you is the ultimate place to be!

But. There are no short cuts to getting there. There are NO substitutes for spending time with God, listening to His voice, and obeying Him. ONLY then can He keep you safe and ONLY then can you remain safe.

(AC)

***Stop!***

***Orange Juice, are you getting Enough?***

*“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation*” (NIV) 1 Peter 2:1-2

You cannot squeeze orange juice from a lemon. If you are sour, you can’t naturally put forth sweetness. God’s love is a 100% pure, it is like 100% pure orange juice. If you are not receiving perfect love from *The Father* daily, you will not have love to give.

**A Real Orange!**

A person that receives God’s love daily is full of God’s love, they are like a real orange, and they always have enough of God’s love as He needs them to be able to give out!

**A Lemon!**

A person who hardly ever or never receives God’s love is like a lemon. They are sour, bitter, and unhappy.

**A Sugar-Coated Lemon!**

A person that hardly ever receives God’s love, but appears sweet, kind, etc., is like a sugar-coated lemon. You find a lot of sugar-coated lemons in ministry; they want you to think they have God’s love in their life to portray a good Christian image!

**A Bottle of Orange Flavored Drink!**

A person who receives lots of love from sources other than God, is like a bottle of orange flavored drink. They seem happy but are very unstable and moody. They have sweetness when everything is going exactly right, or in other words when everything is going their way.

**Orange Flavored Drink With 10% Real Orange Juice!**

A person that receives most of their love from sources other than God but spends a little time with God is like a bottle of orange flavored drink with 10% real orange juice. Wow! A whole 10%! They are very dependent on other people’s approval, and they fall apart in times of crisis.

**So, When Someone Asks...**

So, when someone asks for a glass of orange juice from you, what do you give them? If someone who respects you comes to you needing God’s love, do you have enough of God’s love in you to give them? If you don’t just yet, it is okay. Receiving as much of

God’s love as you need to be useful to God daily takes “walking with God” on a daily basis.

**(AC)**

**Stop Here!!!!!**

**Handout Explanation**

**Narrow Road** - A solid walk of obedience, with God being “right” there. This is walking with God! This is the *ultimate goal*, to get on this portion of the track, which ultimately leads to Heaven. This is a very, very narrow road, it is not for the wimp. **This is a road of solid obedience! This is where you don’t have to think what God wants you to do, you just know! Now, don’t misunderstand here, this doesn’t mean you aren’t going to ask! This doesn’t mean you aren’t going to get a schedule; it just means being at this point you are so right on with God you could actually live by His nudging through His Holy Spirit. Why? Because you “know” God! Although you don’t do that, you could because you are walking “with” God! It is at this point, the Holy Spirit is very full in you, and you just know what God wants!**

**Narrow Gate** – *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”* (NIV) Matthew 7:13-14

**On Track** - Before you get to the narrow road, there is a road that is double its size. This is the road on which you are committing yourself daily to walk with God. Being on track means coming off an inroad onto the “on track”. When you step onto this road, you are trying very hard to listen consistently. You are consistently making a solid effort towards a total commitment in allowing God to make every decision in your life. It is at this point you aren’t faking in the church or with the people around you. You are not trying to hide things from God, and you are more than willing to do whatever He says no matter what the cost! Your mistakes are getting fewer now, and they won’t be so critical that God can’t fix them, this all happens once you are on track. This road is a consistent, daily dedication to live your life with God, and although you may trip, you will hop right back on track. You will probably be on this part of the road for about two years; however, it could be from one to three years.

**Inroads** - Before you are “On Track” you are on what God calls and inroad. According to God, there are about ten (10) of these inroads. Whichever one you are on depends on the number of problems, decisions, issues, habits, etc. you have in your life. Plus, it depends on your heart attitude toward God. It is at this point you may be doing a cleansing; you may be trying to commit your life to God daily, but you find yourself really struggling. Why? Simply put, there could be a lot of “stuff” in the way. This is the part of your growth where there is a great deal of variables. But! It is on these inroads where a great deal of growth can take place. This is where you can become friends with God. This is where you begin to enter into various degrees of protection from God. I will be explaining more of how God’s protection becomes a part of our life in the next couple of months.

**Before the inroads** - Before you hear God’s voice, you may not be on any of these inroads. You see, until you start talking to God, and spending time with Him, how will you know which path to take because, the path you choose might be an inroad, or it might not. This is where you really start to pray and talk to God and start to hear His voice enough to make educated decisions about what God wants in your life.

**This Is How It Goes...**

This is how it goes. You take a step here, and take a step there, and begin to walk on an inroad. Whether you step off it or not is up to you. Let’s say, you step on that inroad, let’s say you go to God in prayer regarding a decision and God says, “Step here!” So, you step there. Then, you go to God with another decision, He says, “Step here!”, and once again you step there, and you are still on that inroad. Next, you start going to Him for more and more decisions in your life, and you do what He says, and you stay on that inroad. Finally, you are to the point that on a daily basis you are committing everything to God. If and when you come to the point of committing every single thing you are doing to God’s direction, and to His okay; you would then step onto the “on track” which leads to the narrow path.

**Now...**

You see it is not just saying each morning, “Lord, I want you to have my life today. I want you to bless my life, and I want you to give me direction.” It is more than that! It is a matter of listening to God the whole day! If you aren’t doing that, you are not on the main track, and you can’t get on the narrow road until you make it through the main track.

So, if you aren’t spending anytime talking, and listening to God on a daily basis, start to! If you are, and you aren’t on track yet, keep going you will get there.

**God Wants Me to Share**

God wants me to share something with you. He wants you all to know, at this point in your growth, none of you in the class are on the main track that leads to the narrow road. God does not want you to be discouraged, He wants you to keep going, because you can do this. Remember: He never asks us to do something we can’t do.

God also said, He wants each person to get with Him, and allow Him to explain everything you need to know about where you are, and how you can proceed from here. When you have done this He doesn’t want you to discuss this with anyone in the class, or test where you are with anyone in the class.

**Meanwhile...**

What should you do? **First**, remember that you can’t actually make real orange juice, only God can. So, the one and only way for you to become an orange is to spend enough time with God every day, which means, as much as He tells you, you need. **Second**, while God is in the process of making you into an orange always treat others the way you want to be treated. Doing this will actually help you to become an orange. How?

1) You will realize your own problem areas lacking God’s love and be able to ask God to help you in those areas (one area at a time). Let God change you according to His will.

2) You will recognize other people’s needs for God’s love and become more compassionate, more caring, and much more helpful to others for God.

**Soooo...**

So, rather than trying to treat others like Jesus, and unsuccessfully try to force it out of yourself; be real and allow God to use you for the person you are now. Rather than trying to portray a good Christian image, be honest with yourself and don’t try to fake God’s love. Let God tell you how to give whatever amount you actually do have within you. Don’t feel pressured or obligated to change into an orange for anyone else, do it for God, and do it for you. God does not want you to feel you have to prove anything to anyone. It is Him and you together that matters most. So, focus your energy, goals, and priorities on God, and His advice, opinions, desires for your life. Let the advice, opinions, and desires contrary to God and His will fade away and be forgotten. Let God allow you to become the person you are created to be. A 100% real, a 100% pure, a 100% full of the love you need to fulfill His work on this earth. A real genuine orange full of 100% real orange juice.

**Orange juice = God’s Love**

**Are you getting enough?**

**Book of Revelation – Scriptures**

Chapter One

**Verses 1-3** ***“This is the revelation which God gave to Yeshua the Messiah,*** so that He could show His servants what **must happen** *very soon*. He communicated it by sending his Angel to His servant Yochanan (John) who bore witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah, as much as he saw. ***Blessed are the readers and hearers of the words of this prophecy, provided they obey the things written in it! For the time is near!***

**Insight:** To what degree the New Testament writers regarded the End as imminent is debatable. However, they did urge believers to stay alert for the Messiah to return without warning, like a thief in the night (Matthew 24:32-25:30, Mark 13:32-37, I Thessalonians 5:2-3, 2 Peter 3:10)

**Verses 4-6** “From: Yochanan:

To: The ***seven*** Messianic communities in the province of Asia:

“Grace and *shalom* to you from the One who is, who was and who is coming; from the sevenfold Spirit before His throne; and from Yeshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the earth’s kings.

To Him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of His blood, who has caused us to be a kingdom, that is, *cohanim* for God, His Father — to Him be the glory and the rulership forever and ever. *Amen*.”

**Insight:** The number seven frequently represents completion and perfection in the Tanakh (Bible). God ended His work of creation on the seventh day. (Genesis 2:1-3) There are many other uses of the word seven appearing in the Bible. Likewise, seven or seventh appears nearly sixty times in the book of Revelation, hinting at “completion” in its words. Noah took seven of each clean animal on board the Ark. (Genesis 7:2) Joseph predicted seven years of plenty and seven of famine. (Genesis 41) The number appears over and over in connection with sacrifices and temple rituals. (Leviticus 4:3-4, 13:5-6)

**Insight:** Cohanim, are members of the Priesthood. This group of ancient priestly class can claim descent from a single male ancestor. According to biblical accounts, the Jewish priesthood began about 3, 000 years ago when Moses anointed his older brother Aaron the first high priest.

**Verse 7-8**  “Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see Him,
including those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn Him.” Yes! Amen!”

**Insight**: The Tanakh speaks of the day when the entire Jewish people will recognize Yeshua, who was pierced at His execution, as Messiah and fully identified with God; “me whom they pierced” (Zechariah 12:10; see “The Return of the Messiah, Zechariah 12-14. As a midrash, the phrase “those who pierced Him” is not limited to Jews, nor does it make only the Jews and the Gentiles historically responsible for Yeshua’s physical death. Rather, it includes all who have not acknowledged His atoning sacrificial death, as well as all for whom He died.

***“I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’” says Adonai,*
God of heaven’s armies,
the One who is, who was and who is coming.”**

*“I Am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending saith the Lord.”*

Revelation 1:8

**God is always first and will surely be last!**

**Verse 9** “I, Yochanan, am a brother of yours and a fellow-sharer in the suffering, kingship and perseverance that comes from being united with Yeshua. I had been exiled to the island called Patmos for having proclaimed the message of God and borne witness to Yeshua.”

**Insight:** Patmos is a small barren rocky island in the Aegean Sea off the southwest coast of modern Turkey. It more or less faces the city of Ephesus where John had been serving as pastor of the church until cruel Emperor Domitian, had him banished because of his testimony.

**Verses 10-11** “I came to be, in the Spirit, on the Day of the Lord; and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet saying, “Write down what you see on a scroll, and send it to the seven Messianic communities — Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea!”

**Insight:** Alternative understandings: (1)John’s body remained where it was, but in his spirit he saw visions; (2) The Holy Spirit came over him, with the result that he saw visions; or (3) the Holy Spirit caused him to be physically present. (This possibility compares, Ezkiel 11:1, Acts 8:39-40, 2 Corinthians 12:2). (JNTC)

**Verses 12-16** “I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold *menorah*s; and among the *menorah*s was someone **like a Son of Man**, **wearing a robe down to his feet** and **a gold band around** His chest.His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, **His eyes like a fiery flame, His feet like burnished brass** refined in a furnace, and **His voice like the sound of** **rushing waters** in His right hand He held seven stars, **out of His mouth went a sharp double-edged sword**, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.”

*“And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man.”* (Revelation 1:12-13 CJB)

**Insight:** Exodus 25: 31-40 speaks of the seven-branched menorah which stood outside the second curtain in the tabernacle. According to verse 20, the seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities of verse 11. With Yesha’s ***warning*** to the community in Ephesus, *“I will remove your menorah from its place – unless you turn from your sin!”* (2-5) Compare His remark in the Sermon on the Mount that believers are light for the world (Matthew 5:15-16).

**Insight:** **Son of Man** is Yeshua’s preferred title for Himself as the Messiah. (Matthew 8:20) Yeshua fulfills three main offices set forth in the Tanakh – Prophet, Priest and King. Yeshua served as a Prophet during His life on earth (Mathew 21:11). At present He serves as High Priest in Heaven (Hebrews 2:17-3:6, 4:14-5-10, 6:20-10:21); this is signified by His wearing a long robe and a gold band around His chest, the clothing of the *cohen hagadol* (Exdous 28). The rest of the description in versus 14-15 suggests Hisuturee role as Judge and Messianic King. In Daniel 7:9-10, it described in similar language God the Father as an Ancient of Days with eyes like a fiery flame against unholiness; with a voice like the sound of rushing waters (literally, “…of many waters”), loud and Majestic! A sharp double-edged sword came from His mouth. This imagery is found in Isaiah 49:1-3. Where Yeshua the Messiah and the people are identified with each other (see Mathew 2:15). The **Sword is the Word of God!**

The Word of God is well suited for judging, since it can discern the truth in people’s hearts. “*See the Word of God is* ***ALIVE****! It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged Sword - it cuts right through to were soul meets spirit and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitude of the Heart. Before God, nothing created is hidden, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we* ***MUST*** *render an account.”* (Hebrews 4:12-13)

**Insight: The Word of God –** **is the Gospel!** **It does *not* come back void!** (Isaiah 55:11) **It is the “sword” which comes from the Messiah’s mouth, by which He conquers and rules!**

**Verses 17-18** “When I saw Him, I fell down at His feet like a dead man. He placed His right hand upon me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I AM the First and the Last, the Living One. I was dead but look! — I AM alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh’ol.”

**Verses 19-20** “So write down what you see, both what is now, and what will happen afterwards. Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold *menorah*s: *the seven stars are the angels of the seven Messianic communities, and the seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities.”*

**Insight:** Angels play a significant role in the Book of Revelation! The word angel occurs 67 other times in Revelation always with the necessary meaning of heavenly angels. The idea that angels are assigned to guide individual churches should not be surprising considering such Scriptures as Acts 12:15; I Corinthians 11:10; Ephesians 3:10; Hebrews 1:14; I Peter 1:12; and others. Pastors and elders come and go, but the angel of the church can **continue if the church lasts**. Just how they manage to convey Christ’s messages to His church may not be understood now though **“some have entertained angels unawares”** (Hebrews 13:2), but we can be confident that they have ways and means.” (Henry M. Morris, Ph.D., LL. D, Litt. D.)

**A Fresh Life Tool - Obedience to God is - Focusing on God!**

God wants our total obedience! What does that mean? It means that we have been ***“…bought with a price and we are not our own. Therefore, glorify God in our bodies…”*** We are His servants which means that before we do anything at all we need to ask God, “What would you have me do? How do you want me to handle this?” Too many times and too much of our lives are spend doing what **we feel** that we are supposed to do and then we ask God to bless it! **That is not God’s way of doing things!** He wants us to ask Him everything – when we eat, what we should wear, how we should plan our day, who we should talk to and speak with and where we should go etc.!

The only way to do this is to keep focused on God! How do we do that? We keep our minds focused on Him rather than circumstances! We trust Him to work His perfect will. We do all the warfare He directs us to do. We ask Him how we should pray in every situation. We pray for protection around our words and be careful about the words we speak - every word is a prayer – whether a blessing or a curse!

Being focused on God means total attention to Him! Asking Him every move we should take – without interference!

*“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”* (Revelation 1:3 CJB)

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**Chapter Two**

**Versus 1-7**“To the angel of the Messianic Community in ***Ephesus*,** write: ‘Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven gold *menorah*s: “***I know what you have been doing,*** how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can’t stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren’t — and you found them to be liars. You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary. ***But I have this against you:******you have lost the love you had at first.* *Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place — if you don’t turn from your sin!*** But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do — I hate it too! Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God’s Gan-‘Eden.”

**Insight:** Ephesus had the most important Messianic community in the province of Asia. It was already a religious center, home of the pagan goddess Artemis (Acts 19:35), and a focus for magic (Acts 19:19). The congregation had been founded by Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 19:18), and with Sha’ul’s guidance it quickly became an evangelistic center (Acts 19:10). Timothy later took Sha’ul’s place (I Timothy 1:3), and tradition has it that Yochanan the emissary lived here.

**Insight:** The Nicolaitans were only mentioned here and in Revelation 2:15. There was no known sect or movement with this name during the apostolic period, so this is probably a descriptive term rather than a proper noun. These messages are meant for all churches, and it is certain that the term has meaning for all churches, then and today! It is referring to the false apostles in Revelation 2:2.

**Insight:** *“I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life.”* To eat from the Tree of Life means to have eternal life. Genesis 2:9, 3:22, 24 reveal that this was true in the original Gan-Eden (Garden of Eden or “Paradise”; cf. Luke 23;43). This is also true in God’s Gan-Eden, or the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2, 22:2, 14, 19). In the Tanakh, the term “tree of life” is used in Proverbs 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4 to describe wisdom, the fruit of the righteous, desire fulfilled and a wholesome tongue – all of which many be seen as aspects of eternal life.

**Verses 8-11** “To the angel of the Messianic Community in ***Smyrna,*** write: ‘Here is the message from the First and the Last, who died and came alive again: **9**“I know how you are suffering and how poor you are (though in fact you are rich!), and I know the insults of those who call themselves Jews but aren’t — on the contrary, they are a synagogue of the Adversary. **10Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the Adversary is going to have some of you thrown in prison, in order to put you to the test; and you will face an ordeal for ten days. Remain faithful, even to the point of death; and I will give you life as your crown.** **11**Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. He who wins the victory will not be hurt at all by the second death.”

**Insight:** Smyrna was a wealthy seaport, a competitor of Ephesus, and a center of emperor worship.

**Verses 12-17** “To the angel of the Messianic Community in ***Pergamum*,** write: ‘Here is the message from the one who has the sharp double-edged sword: **13**“I know where you are living, there where the Adversary’s throne is. Yet you are holding onto my name. You did not deny trusting me even at the time when my faithful witness Antipas was put to death in your town, there where the Adversary lives. **14**Nevertheless**, I have a few things against you: you have some people who hold to the teaching of Bil‘am, who taught Balak to set a trap for the people of Isra’el, so that they would eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and commit sexual sin. 15Likewise, you too have people who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16Therefore, turn from these sins. Otherwise, I will come to you very soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. 17**Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give some of the hidden *man*. I will also give him a **white stone**, on which is written a new name that nobody knows except the one receiving it.”

**Insight:** Like Abraham and Israel, the Lord Jesus will give each overcomer a new name appropriate to his own character and service. Like the names in the precious white stone, In the ancient world a **WHITE STONE** was used as an admission ticket to public festivals; believers will be admitted to the Messianic feast. On it is written either their own **new name or that of the Messiah** (19-12); this reflects the quantum jump in purity and identification with Yeshua attained by those winning the victory.

**Insight:** Pergamum was a center for pagan worship of many deities, hence it is called the site of the adversary Satan’s throne!

**Verses 18-20**“To the angel of the Messianic Community in ***Thyatira*,** write: ‘Here is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like burnished brass: **19**I know what you are doing, your love, trust, service and perseverance. And I know that you are doing more now than before. **20But I have this against you:** **you continue to tolerate that Izevel (Jez’-ebel) woman, the one who claims to be a prophet, but is teaching and deceiving my servants to commit sexual sin and eat food that has been sacrificed to idols.**

**Insight:** Jezebel had been the pagan queen of Israel in the day of Elijah (2 Kings 9:22) she introduced Baal worship into Israel (1Kings 16:30-33). A similar seductress in the Thyatiran church had somehow obtained a position of leadership in the church, despite Paul’s warning against women prophesying or teaching in the church (I Corinthians 14:34) I Timothy 2:11-12). Her “antinomian” teachings (that is “teachings against law,” purportedly giving license to sin as one pleased), given with the claim that she had the gift of prophecy that led the church into gross immorality while simultaneously manifesting love, faith and good works. (2:19) This church is typical of many churches since then that profess spirituality and “love” while downgrading doctrine and separation.

**Verses 21-23** **“I gave her time to turn from her sin, but she doesn’t want to repent of her immorality. 22So I am throwing her into a sickbed; and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great trouble, unless they turn from the sins connected with what she does; 23and I will strike her children dead! Then all the Messianic communities will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and that I will give to each of you what your deeds deserve.”**

**Insight:** Christ referred to a coming period of **“Great Tribulation,”** and so did one of the elders later speaking to John (7:13-14; Matthew 24:21). This warning that the adulterous members (spiritually adulterous, as well as physically, and thus not truly- born believers) of those churches like Thyatira at the end of the age will be left behind when Christ returns and will be cast into the period of great tribulation on earth, unlike the church at Philadelphia (see note on 3:10).

**Versus 24-29** “But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to those who do not hold this teaching, who have NOT learned what some people call the ‘deep things’ of the Adversary, I say this: I am **not** loading you up with another burden; **25**only hold fast to what you have until I come. **26To him who wins the victory and does what I want until the goal is reached, I will give him authority over the nations; 27He will rule them with a staff of iron and dash them to pieces like pottery, 28just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give Him the morning star.**

**Insight:** Christ is Himself *“the Morning Star”* (22;!6). He will give His own presence to His people (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

**29**Those who have ears, let them hear what the ***Spirit*** is saying to the Messianic communities.”’

**Insight:** “There is a question that should be answered in every Christian church: Are we ***honoring*** the Holy Spirit of God? That is, are we allowing Him to do what He wants to do in our midst today?

More than once in the Revelation John mentions the seven-fold Spirit of God and His presence before the heavenly throne. . .. Jesus did not begin His earthly ministry until at His water baptism the living Spirit of God had become all of those things to Him.

I have reason to suspect that many people are trying to give leadership in Christian churches today without ever having yielded to the wise and effective leading of the Holy Spirit. He alone can bring the gracious presence of the living God into our lives and ministries.” (A.W. Tozer)

*“To Him that over cometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in te midst of the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7*

**A Fresh Life Tool - BE YE PERFECT!**

***“Therefore, be ye perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”***

Matthew 5:48 (CJB)

People say, “I am doing my best for God!” And we should do our best! But, done right as in done perfect for God? There is NO way we can do that and here is why. We live in an imperfect world **SO** how can we do something perfect in an imperfect world? There is NO Way we can!

A great many people don’t think of it that way, because they think: God is so wonderful and so awesome and so marvelous, and He deserves perfect.However, that is not going to happen on this earth! It just isn’t possible while we are here on earth. We are not going to do everything perfectly in an imperfect world. The church teaches Jesus was perfect and we are to **strive to be perfect** in the way we serve God. We can’t! Allow me to clarify things here:

When Adam and Eve blew it so many things went wrong after that. Everything that God had created as perfect was - **gone!**

They didn’t just blow it for us in the sense that now we have sin, but now we have pain and suffering! That isn’t all that has changed! They blew it in a lot more ways than that. However, the point here is that the world the way it is now, the way we eat, the way we sleep, the way we exist, is not what it should be. It is not the way it was meant to be! Nothing is the way it was meant to be!

**Nothing!** Not even our relationship with God! In the Garden of Eden man was **free** (no interferences) to communicate with God and hear His voice! Yes, we still are free, to talk with God and hear his voice but it is **not** - the same!

We were created to live in a perfect world! That world was called Paradise! We were NOT created to get old; we were NOT created to die. Why? The Garden of Eden was Paradise – The Garden of Eden was – **ETERNITY!** Adam and Eve were not going to die! They were going to live forever!

God created a world of perfection for men and women – God did not create a world full of sin, full of anxiety, lying, brutality, and the list goes on! We were created to live in a Heaven on Earth environment! That is why the Garden is referred to as Paradise. Everything was perfect there. However, as you know that is not how it is today! There wasn’t sickness, or broken relationships, or people hating each other. There was no need for counselors or doctors. hospitals, etc. Everything was perfect! Individuals did not need to *protect* themselves - they were totally safe! However, when sin entered the world, nothing was ever the same! We would have been happy, joyful, and content 24/7!

We may have days or even a season of being happy, but I do not know anyone who is happy all the time! It is impossible for every moment of the day to be happy, happy, and perfect in this world. This world is IMPERFECT!

I hear people say the following quite frequently: “I can’t wait until things get back to normal.” Things in this world will never be normal because this world is not **OUR** normal – the Garden of Eden was – **OUR NORMAL!** We were created to live in a perfect world! I AM sorry to say, OUR NORMAL does not exist anymore!

So, what is my point? God asked us to **“*be ye perfect”.***  We can never obtain **godly perfection** in anything we do on this earth! It is not possible in this imperfect world! So, what God is looking for in us is this: Work towards ***your***perfection level. Not someone else’s. In other words, DO YOUR BEST!

Please do not use the fact that this is an imperfect world to slack off, and NOT try to do your best – that will **NOT** cut it with God! That would be dangerous territory in your relationship and walk with God!

Now as we move forward if you HEAR God say you did perfect in a situation – He means you did as perfect as you can do because you tried - **YOUR BEST -** at that moment in your walk with Him! That is all He expects! God expects the best you can do at that point in your walk and in your relationship with Him - at that moment in your life! When we are truly working hard to do the **very best, we can for God** – I mean really trying to do our best with **right heart intentions than** - **we are doing OUR PERFECT!**

When people say a sinner’s prayer, most of the time the churches and individuals expect the person from that moment on to live a perfectly clean godly Christian life! They tell them don’t do this, do this instead, change this, change that and what they are doing is setting the person up for failure! God doesn’t set people up to fail! Only Satan does!

Let me repeat: When people come to God and say the sinner’s prayer, more often than not they are expected to begin almost immediately to live this godly, squeaky-clean life in a split second! That is not going to happen! We live in an imperfect world where there is sin all around us and temptation is staring us in the face every day!

Take comfort in knowing that Jesus knows all about what we go through. Jesus dealt with temptation just like we must! Look at what the Bible tells us:

*“Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.****Because he himself was tested by what he suffered; he is able to help those who are being tested.****”* (Hebrews 2:17-18) (NRSV)

What an amazing Savior we have! What love He has for us! He did not come to this earth to condemn us. He came to show us how to - walk the walk! Jesus knows that the transformation process takes time. He knows there is no instant breakfast! Change in us takes time. Our perfect gets better as we get rid of old habits, old hurts, and hang –ups!”

“*Do not be conformed to this world,﻿ but* ***be transformed******by the renewing of your minds,*** *so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.﻿”* (Romans 12:2) (NRSV)

I have heard many times people say, “God is doing this to me; He is tempting me and causing this and that to happen to me.”

***“NO ONE****, when tempted, should say, “I am being tempted by God”; for* ***God cannot be******tempted*** *by evil and he himself tempts no one.But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin,”* (James 1:13)(NRSV)

When Jesus walked this earth, He had to make choices just like we do! When He was tempted, He had to **CHOOSE** to obey. Once again, take comfort in knowing Jesus lived what we must live on this earth.

*“Since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,* ***but we have one who in every* *respect has been tested﻿ as we are, yet without sin****. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* (Hebrews 4:14-16) (NRSV)

Jesus had to go through what we must, or He could never say, “I know exactly how you feel.” And the Bible tells us that He was tempted just like we are! Jesus lived on this earth just like you and me.

**We will never have a pure heart on this earth – but we can sure have pure heart intentions!** Your choices, the decisions you make, the way you are with others and the way you serve God reflect the **intentions of your heart!**

*Our godly perfection* comes when we are in Heaven! That will be the finish that will be the end to which all things relate! However, I will tell you this even there, we will **never** be as perfect and pure as God or Jesus! Think about that – that would be putting us on the same level with God and His Son and that – will never be!

Keep in mind: God will never say to you while you are on this earth: “That area of your life is perfect!”

He might say, “For what I am trying to do it is going perfectly.” Or He might say: “For what I am trying to do in this area, I am very happy, and I am pleased it is going perfectly.” Or “What you did was perfect. Or He could say, “The way you handled that was perfect.” But He will **not** say, “You are perfect.” He will never say anything close to that because it is not possible! In Heaven our hearts will be perfect, and we will be perfect.

For now, we can’t expect people to do everything right for God. It is wrong to expect anyone to do that! It is wrong for us to even think we can be perfect or for the church to say you can’t do this and this and this. If we do, we are expecting individuals to be perfect! We are expecting perfection on this earth and that - does not exist!

One of the most humbling truths I have learned in my lifetime is this: *If Adam and Eve had not made the choices they made – than one of us would have!*

If you try to be perfect, perfect as in godly perfection you will:

Wear yourself out!

Feel inferior!

Feel low!

Feel unable to measure up!

**You’re very best done with the right heart intentions - is your perfect!**

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**Chapter Three**

**Verse 1**“To the angel of the Messianic Community in *Sardis*, write: ‘Here is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: ***“I know what you are doing — you have a reputation for being alive, but in fact you are dead!***

**Insight:** The people of Sardis were spiritually apathetic, as a result of their luxurious, loose way of life. The Sardis congregation was severely backslidden.

**Verses 2-5 *“Wake up, and strengthen what remains, before it dies too! For I have found what you are doing incomplete in the sight of my God.*** **3**So remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and turn from your sin! **For if you don’t wake up, I will come like a thief; and you don’t know at what moment I will come upon you. 4Nevertheless, you do have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; and they will walk with me, clothed in white, because they are worthy. 5He who wins the victory will, like them, be dressed in white clothing; and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life; in fact, I will acknowledge him individually before my Father and before his angels. 6Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities.”**

**Insight: I AM coming like a thief, that is, suddenly and unexpectedly! *The way to be ready and alert always is to always be leading a godly life!***

Throughout the Bible white, clean clothes refer to the righteous deeds God gives His people to do so that they may exercise and express their faith (Isaiah 61:10, Ep 2:10). Contrast the outwardly righteous works which people with out faith organize for themselves to do; these God calls *“filthy rags”* (Isaish 61:5).

**Verses 7-13**“To the angel of the Messianic Community in ***Philadelphia,*** write: ‘Here is the message of *HaKadosh*, the Holy One, the one who has the key of David, who, if He opens something, no one else can shut it, and if He closes something, no one else can open it. **8*“I know what you are doing.*** Look, I have put in front of you an open door, and no one can shut it. I know that you have but little power, yet you have obeyed my message and have not disowned me. **9**Here, I will give you some from the synagogue of the Adversary, those who call themselves Jews but aren’t — on the contrary, they are lying — see, I will cause them to come and prostrate themselves at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you. **10Because you did obey my message about persevering, I will keep you from the time of trial coming upon the whole world to put the people living on earth to the test.**11I am coming soon; hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. 12I will **make him who wins the victory a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he will never leave it. Also, I will write on him the name of my God and the name of my God’s city, the New Yerushalayim coming down out of heaven from my God**, and my own New name. 13Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities.”’

**Verses 14-22** “To the angel of the Messianic Community in ***Laodicea*,** write: ‘Here is the message from the *Amen*, the faithful and true witness, the Ruler of God’s creation: **15“I know what you are doing: you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! 16So, because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth!** **17**For you keep saying, ‘I am rich, I have gotten richI don’t need a thing!’ You don’t know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked! **18**My advice to you is to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eye salve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see. **19**As for me, I rebuke and discipline everyone I love; so exert yourselves, and turn from your sins! **20**Here, I’m standing at the door, knocking. If someone hears my ***voice*** and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me. **21**I will let him who wins the victory sit with me on my throne, just as I myself also won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22**Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities.”’”

**A Fresh Life Tool - The Key to YOUR walk with God!**

*“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:19

**God does not work OUT OF OUR NEED!** He works out of our faith through obedience! How would you explain to someone the above scripture, which is taught repeatedly in the church? There are Christians who quote this scripture many, many times over. So how are we to explain it? What is God’s perspective on this?

What man thinks is a need is not necessarily a need in God’s eyes! This is how you know it is a need of God for your life:

If the need is *preventing* you from doing what the GOD has called you to do, and you are walking in obedience - **then it is a need!**

**Our idea or definition of a need is more often a desire or a want** - rather than a need. If the need is NOT preventing you from carrying out something regarding your calling and what the Lord has anointed you, to do on this earth - it is **NOT** a need!

Example: **IF** God has told you to go from point A to point B to speak for Him - and if your car has broken down and you do not have transportation, THAT is a need. **But!** **Transportation is the need! Not a new car!**  God can provide the transportation and the need is met.

However, there are many people who have used issues like this to buy a new car, instead of fixing the car they have. Even if the car is old, or breaks down frequently, a new vehicle is not the need unless God says so! Transportation is a need!

God does NOT work in and through our lives out of a need we think we have! HE WORKS IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES OUT OF OUR - ***OBEDIENCE*!**

**Did you know Jesus *LEARNED* obedience through His sufferings?**

***“****During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.**Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and* ***once made perfect****,****he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.”***  Hebrews 5:7-10 (NIV)

**Obedience to God is: Focusing on God!** God wants our total obedience! What does that mean? It means that we have been ***“…bought with a price and we are not our own. Therefore, glorify God in our bodies…”***

We are His servants which means that before we do anything at all we need to ask God, “What would you have me do? How do you want me to handle this?”

Too many times, and too much of our life is spent doing what ***we feel*** that we are supposed to do and - **then** we ask God to bless it! **That is NOT God’s way of doing things!** He wants us to ask Him everything! When do we eat and what should we eat today?! What should we wear today? What do you want on my schedule for today? If you have a job – what does God want, you to do before and after work? Who do I *need* to talk with today? Should I run my errands today or wait until another day?

**The only way to live an obedient life is this: we must keep FOCUSED on God!** How do we do that? We keep our minds focused on Him rather than circumstances! We trust Him to work His perfect will. We do all the warfare He directs us to do. We must ask Him how we should pray in every situation. Be careful about the words **YOU SPEAK** - **every word is a prayer**! Whether it is a blessing or a curse!

Being focused on God means TOTAL attention to Him! Asking Him every move we should take – without interference!

***“Out of the level of your obedience to God, comes the level of your blessings! You can count on it!”***

(Fresh Life Tools Inc., USA

**Chapter Four**

**Verses 1-11**After these things (the seven revealed churches), I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, ***“Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things.”***

**Insight:** “A higher state of mind and spiritual vision can only be achieved through the higher practice of personal character. If you live up to the highest and best that you know in the outer level of your life, God will continually say to you, ***“Come up even higher.”*** There is also a continuing rule in temptation which calls you to go higher; but when you do, you only encounter other temptations and character traits. Both God and Satan use the strategy of elevation, but Satan uses it in temptation, and the effect is quite different. When the devil elevates you to a certain place, he causes you to fasten your idea of what holiness is far beyond what flesh and blood could ever bear or achieve. Your life becomes a spiritual acrobatic performance high atop a steeple. You cling to it, trying to maintain your balance and daring not to move. But when God elevates you by His grace into heavenly places, you find a vast plateau where you can move about with ease.

Compare this week in your spiritual life with the same week last year to see how God has called you to a higher level. We have all been brought to see from a higher level. We have all been brought to see from a higher viewpoint. Never allow God to show you a truth which you *do not* *instantly* begin to live up to, applying it to your life. Always work through it, staying in its light.

Your growth in grace is not measured by the fact that you haven’t turned back, but that you have an insight and understanding into where you are spiritually. Have you heard God say, ***“Come up higher.”*** Not audibly on the outer level, but to the innermost part of your character?” (Oswald Chambers)

**Verse 2-5 “**Instantly I was in the Spirit, and there before me in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne Someone was sitting. **3*The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds and rubies, and a rainbow shining like emerald encircled the throne.*** **4**Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads. **5**From the throne came forth lightnings, voices and thundering’s; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.

**Insight:** The seven Spirits of God refer to the sevenfold Holy Spirit. However, it is also significant that there are seven distinct names given to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. He is called: (1) Spirit of Truth (John 16:13); (2) Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4); (3) Spirit of Faith (2 Corinthians 4:13); (4) Spirit of Wisdom (Ephesians 1:17); (5) Spirit of Power (2 Timothy 1:7), (6) Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29; and (7) Spirit of Glory (I Peter 4:14).

**Verse 6 “**In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind. **7The first** living being was like **a lion**, **the second** living being was like **an ox, the third** living being had **a face** that looked **human, and the fourth** living being was like a flying **eagle**.[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30789h)] **8Each** of the four living beings **had six wings** and was covered with eyes inside and out; and day and night they never stop saying,

**9**And whenever the living beings give glory, honor and thanks to the One sitting on the throne, to the One who lives forever and ever, **10**the twenty-four elders fall down before the One sitting on the throne, who lives forever and ever, and worship him. They throw their crowns in front of the throne and say,

**11***“You are worthy, Adonai Eloheinu,
to have glory, honor and power, because you created all things —*a glimpse of worship and rejoicing and praise because God is who He is! *yes, because of your will they were created
and came into being!”*

**A Fresh Life Tool - The Holy Spirit - The Anointing –** **THE FACTS!**

The Anointing is the ***POWER*** of the Holy Spirit!

The Anointing is the ***Holy Spirit****!*

The Anointing is un-merited favor it is sheer - **GRACE**!

*“Next to the gift of Salvation and the sure knowledge that we will go to heaven when we die, the anointing is our most - precious gift!”*  (R.T. Kendall)

What has been and is now being taught regarding the infilling of the Holy Spirit is and has been missing some important facts! If the facts had been taught correctly there would NOT have been and would **not** be more defeated Christians than - victorious ones!

Let me explain:

The misconception began many years ago and I say that because I was one of the individuals who wanted the Holy Spirit in my life, and I wanted it as soon as possible. When I discussed this issue with a friend, a deacon, a pastor, or my Sunday School teacher – I received the same answers. Here is what I was basically told: “The moment you pray and ask Jesus to come into your life everything is going to be all right! Everything is going to change! Jesus is going to hear your prayer and all the things that bother you are going to disappear!”

That is **NOT** how it works! When presented to someone in that manner it gives them the idea first that they do not have to do anything but pray and second, they can do what they want and then pray, and Jesus will fix their – MESSES!

God does **NOT** work like that! I have heard individuals say exactly what I have just said to people who are on their knees at the altar in church! Church members quite often see someone at the altar, and they go up and put an arm around the person and begin to tell them what they need to do and say and how it is all going to happen. Example: “All you must do is ask God to forgive you and ask Jesus to come into your heart! And you will be a new person. And Jesus will handle everything for you!” Now, when the individual comes up to the person on their knees – they **are interrupting what God is trying to do!** Plus, at that moment God does NOT need our assistance! He is perfectly equipped to handle that moment in someone’s life! Let the Holy Spirit handle it! Most importantly, the Holy Spirit could be speaking to the individual and you have just **interrupted** Him!

The biggest fact missing is – just saying a sinner’s prayer as someone directs you too or repeating after them what they are telling you to say or simply thinking that is all an individual must do – this thinking is totally and completely off! It is NOT truth! God wants to hear what the individual is saying to Him – NOT what someone is telling them to say!

When we ask God into our heart and life most individuals want a - **Quick Fix!** That is NOT going to happen! People are told (I know I was) that by repenting and asking Jesus into my life – I was going to be a new person FROM THAT MOMENT ON - just like that! Wrong! Those types of statements imply that it’s INSTANT BREAKFAST!

David Jeremiah puts it this way. “The morning after saying a sinner’s prayer you will not wake up a complete other person! You will NOT wake up no longer being selfish, angry, mean, etc.!”

The infilling of the Holy Spirit into our lives comes in what I call levels, as an individual is transformed into who God created them to be! It is one step at a time - as God directs!

We must change! We must understand that the person we were before saying a sinner’s prayer NOW needs to change into who the person God created you to be, and that requires – WORK and CHANGE! All the wrong choices we have made that hurt others and, all the hurt, disappointments and pain that came our way because of what others did to us. The leftovers of all the mistakes we made, must be worked out with God! We cannot hang on to the past or things in the present that keep us from becoming who God intended us to be.

Without change we are no different than the world. The Holy Spirit cannot be invited into a dirty vessel. You cannot put fresh food on a dirty plate! You can’t work out in the yard all day, come in, put on clean clothes, and go to a wedding without bathing! You can’t take an expensive bottle of perfume to a garbage dump, pour it out and expect the smell to change. There must be a moving out for the Spirit of God to come in! When you accept Christ as Savior, you must make room for Him. There’s no way that the Holy Spirit can dwell, in its fullness, without the cleaning out of our old ways! Jesus declared:

*"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."* (NIV) Matthew 9:16-17

The teaching that is in many churches tells us when we accept Christ, we receive all the Holy Spirit that we are going to get! Not true! That was not true of the disciples! They were with Jesus for *three years night and day!* They listened, learned, and were corrected by Jesus if necessary! They had the opportunity to observe how Jesus handled situations, and they were tested! There was not any Instant Breakfast for them!

Jesus made a very important distinction here: The following statement was made to the disciples by Jesus just before he ascended into Heaven*. “On one occasion, while*

*Jesus was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for* ***the gift*** *my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

*“Then they gathered around him and asked him. ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?” He said to them: It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up to the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said. “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:4-11 (NIV)*

After this the disciples returned to Jerusalem it was a days’ walk, and went to the Upper room and waited, and prayed and ask the Lord who would replace Judas.

In Acts chapter 2:1-4 the following states: *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

The baptism with water is the giving of your life to God. *"I baptize you with**water* ***FOR repentance****. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.* (NIV) Matthew 3:11

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a different level, a different experience, a different godly jolt. It is just different. If it weren’t different, Jesus would not have made that distinction. We couldn’t possibly get all the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation.

“. . .*because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them;* ***they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus****.* (NIV) Acts 8:16

The disciples themselves didn’t receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit until after Jesus returned to the Father. They were ready at that time to receive the infilling of the Spirit. God’s timing is perfect. After three years of being with Yeshua and getting cleaned up and being taught, they were ready. Here are just a few examples of how they were taught, corrected, and prepared for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

“*The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied,* ***"You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"*** *Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the waves, and it was completely calm.*

“*Jesus turned and said to Peter****, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men****."* (NIV) Matthew 16:23

*“The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."* (NIV) Luke 10:17

Jesussaid to them: “*However,* ***do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you****, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."* (NIV) Luke 10:20

Every one of the disciples had to have been called strange, weird, and crazy, because they left their wives, their children, their jobs, and the comforts of their homes to follow Jesus! They left everything. They paid the price. There is a price, and that price must be paid! We can’t stay the same. We must be willing to change. With that process of change comes correction and redirection. There must be cleansing from the inside out. Wrong teachings must go. Ungodly habits must go. We must lay down everything and allow God to say what He wants left in our lives. We must be willing to be offended. There is no other way. Then you are ready. After three years, they were ready.

“*All of them* ***were filled*** *with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.* (NIV) Acts 2:4

When you accept Christ as Savior, you are choosing to make room for God in your life and you will eventually become a new creation. At that time, you give God space. You open your heart to God, and you give God a place in your life. Then if you walk in obedience to **His plan**, you start hearing His voice, and you start walking in His perfect will. All the rest of the stuff that has been taking up room in your life **will begin** to leave.

There **must be** that moving out for God to move in. You must make room for Christ. You must make room for God – and the Holy Spirit in your life. We very freely make room for pets in our lives. We very freely make room for hobbies and for friends. We allow all sorts of things to take up space in our lives, so why shouldn’t we have to make room for Christ and for the Father and the precious Holy Spirit? He just doesn’t pop in for a visit. He just doesn’t come into our lives without us inviting Him. He doesn’t want to rent a room. He wants to – **occupy!**

To receive the empowering, you must want more of God. You must want God to do whatever it takes to get you where He wants you to be. You must be willing to do whatever it takes and give up whatever He wants you too. If you want that and you’re willing than you must ask. By just simply saying to God, “God, I’m willing if you are willing to give me a try.” It has got to be more than just a salvation prayer of giving your life to God.

Once you’ve prayed for the prayer or if you’ve been prayed for, it doesn’t stop there. You can’t go around saying I’ve received the baptism of the Holy Spirit; I’ve been saved, and I’ve got it all! **All you have at that point is the – TOOLS!**

The starting point is step #1, which is your salvation. That is where you say, “God, I’m willing to be cleaned up, take my life God, do what you want with it, get me ready, do what you need to do”. Then there is step #2. The Holy Spirit comes after being invited to give you what I call a “beginners boost the size of a mustard seed.”. Some individuals call it “a Mustard Seed of Faith.” (See: Matthew 17:20, Matthew 13:31)

Let’s stop right here and make something very clear. The individuals heart *motive* and their *heart* attitude for wanting to obtain all that God has for us, must be - **pure**! You must want this for the right reasons. You can’t fool God! You cannot even attempt to fake God out!

“*Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask – because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.”*  (NIV) I John 3:21-22

*“But seek* ***first*** *his kingdom and his righteousness, and* ***all these things will be given*** *to you as well.* (NIV) Matthew 6:33

It is a step-by-step process. With the “beginners boost the size of a mustard seed” the Holy Spirit will start to infiltrate your life. It is not a one-shot deal. You can’t just go up to the alter, get prayed for to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and think that you have it all. That is contrary to the Word of God!

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be* ***transformed by the******renewing of your mind****. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing, and perfect will.* (NIV) Romans 12:2

To be transformed by the renewing of your mind is an **ongoing** action! It is not a “one shot deal”. It takes time! You can’t do it any other way. That “beginner’s boost” allows us to be empowered with the Holy Spirit step by step by step. It doesn’t happen just because you have accepted Christ or because you have been prayed for the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

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**Chapter Five**

**Verses 1-14**“Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals; **2**and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” **3**But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. **4**I cried and cried, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it. **5**One of the elders said to me, “Don’t cry. **Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y’hudah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals.”**

**Insight:** By His incarnation, obedient life and atoning death *Yeshua has won**the victory over human sin which gives Him the right to open the scroll and its seven seals.*

**6**Then I saw standing there with the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth.

**Insight:** John saw a Lamb instead of a conquering Lion receive the scroll with the title deed. The Lamb had obviously been slain shedding His precious blood as the price of redemption, and yet it “stood” alive again after death. He was the “Lamb without blemish, and without spot….fore ordained before the foundation of the world. I Peter 1:19-20

**7**He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. **8**When He took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down in front of the Lamb. Each one held a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people; **9**and they sang a new song,

“You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals;
    because you were slaughtered;
at the cost of blood you ransomed for God
    persons from every tribe, language, people and nation.
**10**You made them into a kingdom for God to rule,
    *cohanim* to serve him;
and they will rule over the earth.”

**11**Then I looked, and I heard the sound of a vast number of angels — thousands and thousands, millions and millions! They were all around the throne, the living beings and the elders; **12**and they shouted out,

“Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb to receive
power, riches, wisdom, strength,
honor, glory and praise!”

**13**And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on the sea — yes, everything in them — saying,

“To the One sitting on the throne
and to the Lamb
belong praise, honor, glory and power
forever and ever!”

**14**The four living beings said, “*Amen*!” and the elders fell down and worshippe!”

**A Fresh Life Tool - The Book of Life and the Lamb’s Book of Life!**

*“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”* (NIV) Revelation 20:12

There is more than one book. There is the book of life and the Lambs Book of Life. When people are born, naturally their name is in the book of life. Unless they totally reject God, their name will remain there.

If they choose to believe in God and Yeshua, and if they **“trust”** in Him with the right heart motive, their name will remain there. Someone would have to totally reject God, for their name to be removed.

If someone chooses to walk in obedience. If they truly choose to follow God. It is then, upon receiving the Seal of the Holy Spirit, that their name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

If someone’s name remains in the book of life, and is not in Lamb’s Book of Life, they will stand judgement.

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**Chapter Six**

**Verses 1-17**“Next I watched as the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living beings say in a thundering voice, “Go!”I looked, and there in front of me was a white horse; its rider had a bow and was given a crown; and He rode off as a conqueror to conquer.

**Insight:** Six of the seven seals are broken in this chapter, the scroll itself is open when the seventh seal is broken, at chapter 8:1.

When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living being say, “Go!” Another horse went out, a red one; and its rider was given the power to take peace away from the earth and make people slaughter each other. He was given a great sword.

**5**When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, “Go!” I looked, and there in front of me was a black horse, and its rider held in his hand a pair of scales. **6**Then I heard what sounded like a voice from among the four living beings say, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages! Six pounds of barley for the same price! But don’t damage the oil or the wine!”

**Insight:** “Weighing the bread is a sign of a curse, according to Leviticus26:26. They shall dole out your bread by weight, you will eat, but you will not be satisfied.”

**7**When He broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living being say, “Go!” **8**I looked, and there in front of me was a pallid, sickly-looking horse. Its rider’s name was Death, and Sh’ol followed behind him. They were given authority to kill one-quarter of the world by war, by famine, by plagues and with the wild animals of the earth.

**9**When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been put to death for proclaiming the Word of God, that is, for bearing witness. **10**They cried out in a loud voice, “Sovereign Ruler, *HaKadosh*, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood?” **11**Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow-servants should be reached, of their brothers who would be killed, just as they had been.

**12**Then I watched as He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, the sun turned black as sackcloth worn in mourning, and the full moon became blood-red. **13**The stars fell from heaven to earth just as a fig tree drops its figs when shaken by a strong wind. **14**The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. **15**Then the earth’s kings, the rulers, the generals, the rich and the mighty — indeed, everyone, slave and free — hid himself in caves and among the rocks in the mountains, **16and said to the mountains and rocks,** “**Fall on us, and hide us**[[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30823k)] from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the fury of the Lamb! **17**For the Great Day of their fury has come, and who can stand?”

**Insight:** The description of the breaking of the sixth seal alludes to descriptions of the end of the world found in Isaiah 2:10-12, 2:19, 13:10,34:4, 50:3, Jeremiah 4:23-29, Joel 3:4, 4:15, Nahum 1:5-6, Haggai 2:6 (compare Matthew 24:29, Luke 23:30).

The fury of the Lamb will be fearful because the Lamb is also a Lion. According to John 5:22, Acts 17:31, Roman 2:16, 2 Corinthians 5:10 has entrusted judgment to this Lion/Lamb. It will take place on **the GREAT DAY**, also known as the **DAY of the LORD!**

On the **GREAT DAY . . . WHO CAN STAND?** Those of the world who glory in their power will realize that it was all an illusion. Even weak people who manipulate and try to gain power in small ways will be revealed for what they are. **Only those who restrict “praise. honor, glory and power” to God and the Lamb, will survive their fury!”**

**A Fresh Life Tool - Be Ye Holy!**

*“For it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.*” 1 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

Do you want intimacy with God? Then you will have to work for it! Ask yourself. Am I changing into what God wants me to be? Am I changing into what God needs me to be to walk in the calling, He created for me? Have I been found faithful? Am I manifesting God’s workmanship in my life?

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*.” Ephesians 2:10

Many have come to look upon the world and the way it is as the natural and expected thing! Men and women are not disappointed anymore in the fact that all truth is not found in their teachers, and politicians! Nor are they all upset that complete honesty in our merchants or full trustworthiness in our friends is hardly anywhere to be found! Most individuals just fluff it off as, “Oh well, that is just the way it is, and we have to live with it!” Or people say, “It is what it is! Men and women have become **desensitized** to how very sinful this world is. Over many years this has slowly been happening EVEN in the movies we watch and the books/magazines we read!

Holy is the way God is! He does not conform to a standard. **He is the standard!** He is Holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is!

Because God is Holy, whatever we think of as belonging to God MUST be as Holy!

(Unknown)

*“On the contrary, following the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in your entire way of life; since the Tanakh says, “You are to be holy because I am holy.”* 1 Peter 1:15-16 (CJB)

**Without respect for God and His Holiness there can be no relationship!** As you hunger after God and as you move forward in your relationship with Him the above statements are something that I pray you will take to heart.

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**Chapter 7**

“After this, I saw four angels at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the land, on the sea or on any tree. I saw another angel coming up from the east with a seal from the living God, and He shouted to the four angels who who had been given power to harm the land and the sea. Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.!”

**Insight:** The servants of God are sealed on their foreheads so that certain plagues, such as the one from the fifth trumpet, will not affect them. It seems that on the seal was written the name of the Lamb and of His father. See Ezekiel 9:4, where a mark is set on the foreheads of those who oppose the abominations done in Jerusalem. I heard how many were sealed – 144, 000 from every tribe of the people of Israel:

From the tribe of Y’hudah - 12, 000 were sealed

From the tribe of Re’uven - 12, 000

From the tribe of Gad - 12, 000

From the tribe of Asher - 12, 000

From the tribe of Naftali - 12,000

From the tribe of M’nasheh - 12,000

From the tribe of Shim’on - 12,000,

From the tribe of Levi - 12,000

From the tribe of Yissakhar - 12, 000

From the tribe of Z’vulun - 12,000

From the tribe of Yosef - 12,000

From the tribe of Binyamin - 12,000

“After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands; and they shouted:

***“Victory to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!”***

All the angels stood around the throne, the elders and the four living beings; they fell face down before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

***“Amen! Praise and Glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!”***

“One of the Elders asked me, “These people dressed in white robes who are they, and where are they from? “Sir, I answered, “you know.” Then He told me, “These are the people who have come out of the Great Persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. That is why they are before God’s throne.”

Day and night they serve Him in His temple; and the one who sits on the throne will put His Sh’khinah upon them. They will never be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

**A Fresh Life Tool - Actions!**

**“For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.”** Ephesians 1:5

Our actions must never be determined by someone’s manipulation! Therefore, if you allow someone to control you through manipulation, obligation, distraction, or temptation – **then you are living for their good pleasure!**

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**Chapter 8**

**Verses 1- 13** “When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for what seemed like half an hour. **2**Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven *shofar*s.

**Insight:** Shofars are “rams horns” They are not Trumpets. The ides that the Great Judgment of the Last Days is heralded by blasts on the Shofar has it roosts in the Tanakh (Bible- New Testament>

**3**Another angel came and stood at the altar with a gold incense-bowl, and he was given a large quantity of incense to add to the prayers of all God’s people **4**on the gold altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of God’s people from the hand of the angel before God. **5**Then the angel took the incense-bowl, filled it with fire from the altar and threw it down onto the earth; and there followed peals of thunder, voices, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

**Insight:** When the people of Israel pray, you do not find them all praying at the same time, but each assembly prays separately, first one and then the other. When they have all finished, the angel appointed over prayers collects all the prayers that have been offered in all the synagogues, weaves them into garlands and places them on the head of God.” (Rabbi Chiyya bar-Abba)

**6**Now the seven angels with the seven *shofar*s prepared to sound them.

**7**The first one sounded his *shofar*; and there came hail and fire mingled with blood, and it was thrown down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

**8**The second angel sounded his *shofar*, and what looked like an enormous blazing mountain was hurled into the sea. A third of the sea turned to blood, **9**a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

**10**The third angel sounded his *shofar*; and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky onto a third of the rivers and onto the springs of water. **11**The name of the star was “Bitterness,” and a third of the water became bitter, and many people died from the water that had been turned bitter.

**Insight:** Bitterness, literally, “wormwood, absinthe”, Compare Jermiah 9:15,23:15, “I will feed this people wormwood and give them water made of gall to drink.”

**12**The fourth angel sounded his *shofar*; and a third of the sun was struck, also a third of the moon and a third of the stars; so that a third of them were darkened, the day had a third less light, and the night likewise.

**13**Then I looked, and I heard a lone eagle give a loud cry, as it flew in mid-heaven, “Woe! Woe! Woe to the people living on earth, because of the remaining blasts from the three angels who have yet to sound their *shofars*!”

**A Fresh Life Tool - When People are Fighting God!**

When people are suffering because of their choices and actions.

Is the person crying because they feel sorry for what they have done to God and how they have hurt people? Are they crying about the damage they have caused to someone or EVEN to God’s will?

**OR** are they simply feeling sorry for themselves and wanting others to feel sorry for them and wanting God to show mercy to them?

**Different heart motives!** One brings repentance, healing, forgiveness, progress, and trust. The other brings selfishness, resentment, anger, lack of growth and hopelessness.

**Two different attitudes, two different results!**

When people are suffering because they are fighting God, He does NOT show sympathy or compassion to them **until** and **unless** they **repent** to His satisfaction. **That is a fact!**

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**Chapter 9**

Verses 1-21 “The fifth angel sounded his *shofar*; and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven onto the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft leading down to the Abyss.

**Insight:** **The star is NOT Satan, but an Angel, who still has the key.** The Abyss is not Sh’ol (Romans 10:7). **But a place where demonic beings are imprisoned.** In the Apocrypha, God is called, “You who close and seal the Abyss with your fearful and glorious name.” (Prayer of Manasseh)

He opened the shaft of the Abyss, and there went up smoke from the shaft like the smoke of a huge furnace; the sun was darkened, and the sky too, by the smoke from the shaft**.Then out of the smoke onto the earth came locusts, and they were given power like the power scorpions have on earth.They were instructed not to harm the grass on the earth, any green plant or any tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.The locusts were not allowed to kill them, only to inflict pain on them for five months; and the pain they caused was like the pain of a scorpion sting.In those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.**

Now these locusts looked like horses outfitted for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces.They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like those of lions.Their chests were like iron breastplates, and the sound their wings made was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails like those of scorpions, with stings; and in their tails was their power to hurt people for five months**.They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is “*Abaddon*” and in our language, “Destroyer.”**

The first woe has passed, but there are still two woes to come.

The sixth angel sounded his *shofar*, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God,saying to the sixth angel, the one with the *shofar*, **“Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates!”And they were released. These four angels had been kept ready for this moment, for this day and month and year, to kill a third of mankind; and the number of cavalry soldiers was two hundred million! — I heard the number.”**

Here is how the horses looked in the vision: the riders had breastplates that were fire-red, iris-blue and sulfur-yellow; the horses’ heads were like lions’ heads; and from their mouths issued fire, smoke and sulfur.It was these three plagues that killed a third of mankind — the fire, smoke and sulfur issuing from the horses’ mouths. For the power of the horses was in their mouths — and also in their tails, for their tails were like snakes with heads, and with them they could cause injury.

The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, even then did not turn from what they had made with their own hands — **they did not stop worshipping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk.Nor did they turn from their murdering, their involvement with the occult and with *drugs*, their sexual immorality or their stealing.”**

**Insight:** Misuse of drugs in connection with the occult. Greek **“pharmakoi”,** usually translated **“sorceries.”** **“witchcraft’ or “magic arts,”** is here rendered by this longer phrase in order to focus on the fact that using, potions and drugs is an essential part of the word’s meaning – as is from the derived English words “pharmaceuticals” and ‘pharmacy.” The usual rendering suggest to many people a setting so removed from the fabric of their lives that the text does not speak to them.

Spiritually speaking, there are four distinct categories of drugs misuse:

1. Taking drugs in order to explore spiritual realms
2. Taking drugs in order to engage in “sorcery, witchcraft and magic arts” while under their influence.
3. Giving drugs to other people in order to gain control over them.
4. Taking drugs for pleasure.

The last drug is a misuse because the drugs in question - besides whatever temporary enjoyment they provide and apart from their adverse medical and psychological effects – open a person to supernatural or spiritual experiences; almost always demonic and not from God, since the Holy one of Israel reveals Himself through His Word (Romans 1:16-17), not through drugs!

“Just as a virgin who has sexual intercourse can never again be a virgin, so a person is not the same after having taken mind-altering drugs. His range of experience has been broadened - but not every experience is edifying.”

David H. Stern

**A Fresh Life Tool - An accomplice to Sin!**

When we have done something wrong, and we recognize that we have done wrong and very possibly this is not the first time we have carried out this wrong – and seeing as how we know that going to God for forgiveness is the next step – we proceed to do just that!

NOW! I want to share something that is not often thought of: Whether, we have gone to God once or many times for the same issue let’s stop and look at this from a fresh new perspective: To expect God to forgive you when you have done something wrong (sin) without ever considering that’s He is wanting change in your conduct - is an issue!

When correcting your children do you expect them to change when they make a mistake? Of course, you do! However, because we love them, we forgive them.

**BUT!** Do you expect them to not do it again? Do you expect a change in the situation? Of course, you do. Well, ask God if that is what He wants from us?

Yes, we have our own free will – that is a fact. So, God is not going to MAKE you stop whatever it is you are doing. However, I believe that His heart aches every time we continue sinning without change. Here is why:

**“To expect God to forgive you when you have done wrong *without* even considering that He is deeply wanting change in your conduct - is to make God’s Grace - an accomplice to sin!”**

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**Chapter 10**

**Verses 1-11 “**Next I saw another mighty Angel coming down from heaven. He was dressed in a cloud, with a rainbow over His head; His face was like the sun, His legs like columns of fire; **2**and He had a little scroll lying open in his hand. He planted His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land, **3**and shouted in a voice as loud as the roar of a lion; and when He shouted, seven thunderclaps sounded with voices that spoke. **4**When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say,

**“Seal up the things the seven thunders said,
do not write them down!”**

**Insight:** The hidden plan of God will be brought to completion! It includes both judgment, as described in the book of revelation, and the overall out working of History, including the Salvation of the Jewish people and of others who come to faith (Matthew 13:1, Romans 11:25-36; Ephesians 1:9-10; 33-11. God proclaimed this to his servants, the prophets, although living centuries earlier , they did not fully understand it.

Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land **lifted His right hand toward heaven**and swore by the One who lives forever and ever **who created heaven and what is in it, earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it.**] **“There will be no more delay;**on the contrary, in the days of the sound from the seventh angel when he sounds his *shofar*, the hidden plan of God will be brought to completion, the Good News as he proclaimed it to his servants the prophets.”

**8**Next the voice which I had heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the scroll lying open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land!” So I went over to the Angel and asked Him to give me the little scroll; and He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.I took the little scroll from the Angel’s hand and ate it; and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; but after I had swallowed it, my stomach turned bitter. Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

“Now to God, who can strengthen you, according to my Good News,
in harmony with the revelation of the secret truth
which is the proclamation of Yeshua the Messiah,
kept hidden in silence for ages and ages,
**26**but manifested now through prophetic writings,
in keeping with the command of God the Eternal,
and communicated to all the Gentiles
**to promote in them trust-grounded obedience —
27**to the only wise God, through Yeshua the Messiah,
be the glory forever and ever! Amen

Romans 16:25-27 (CJB)

**A Fresh Life Tool - Jesus NEVER FORCED Himself on Anyone!**

What I’m writing about has been on my mind for a very long time. So, here goes! I have observed parents, children, friends, and coworkers being *pushed* to get saved! On many occasions I have heard people pointing out other individuals’ faults while getting specific to accomplish the saving of the individual, all the while being very confrontational! They even attempt to use scare tactics on their children, friends and spouses and co-workers. By that I mean saying things such as this: “You better accept the Lord, or you are going to Hell!” “If the rapture happens and you are out partying you will get left.” “I don’t want to think I’m going to Heaven, and you won’t be there.” The person they are talking to too may be on the road to just that! However, are they supposed to be making that judgement on that person?

I have heard so many sad and hurtful stories from people (while in my counseling office) that would tear your heart out. Wives and husbands drag their spouses into a counseling situation and Mom’s and Dad’s drag their children in and begin to tear their spouses, and children down. All the while totally embarrassing them. Is that what God would do? That is not how God works!

Many individuals have been trying for years to get another individual to say a sinner’s prayer by using these tactics. To them I truly want to say: “How is that working for you?” We need to look to our example (Jesus) and see how He did it!

**Jesus never forced himself on anyone to accept Him!** He never ever pushed anyone to accept Him! Don’t expect God to come and force anyone or push a person into coming after Him. God doesn’t force His will on anyone! Also, God will not come and plead with anyone! When Jesus called His disciples there was no pressure! He simply said, “Follow me.” (Matthew 4:19) So, who draws them?

 “Jesus answered them, ***‘Stop grumbling to each other!******No one can come to me unless the Father – the one who sent me – draws him .*** *. .”* (John 6:44) (CJB) **“*No man can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them …”*** (NIV) (John 6:44)

We are **not** here to WIN anyone! We are not here to win anyone over for God that is not our place on this earth! We are here to: **Set an example! Respect other people. Care about other people in the way God wants us to. Help them when God tells us to! And encourage people towards the life that God wants them to live!**

St. Frances of Assisi said, “In everything be a witness **and if necessary, use words**.”

Witness, witness – it should be able to be seen in your life before you can share it with anybody! Once someone observes someone else being blessed, once someone observes God’s power at work in someone’s life, once someone sees God’s authority coming through in someone’s life, once they see God’s love coming through that person, they are going to say, “I have been missing something, this works!” And that is what it’s going to take in our families, jobs, and even in the people who go to church! **It has to be seen in operation – that is the only way it can be proven!** It can’t be done any other way, if it is, it will be fakery! For us to say, “I won someone to the Lord today!” ***The moment we say something like that we have just taken the winning of a soul away from God!***

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**Chapter 11**

**Verses 1-19 “**I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, “Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! **2**But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don’t measure it; because it has been given to the *Goyim*, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.

**3**“Also I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.” **4**These are the two olive trees and the two *menorah*s standing before the Lord of the earth. **5**If anyone tries to do them harm, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies — yes, if anyone tries to harm them, that is how he must die. **6**They have the authority to shut up the sky, so that no rain falls during the period of their prophesying; also they have the authority to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

**7**When they finish their witnessing, the beast coming up out of the Abyss will fight against them, overcome them and kill them; **8**and their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city whose name, to reflect its spiritual condition, is “S’dom” and “Egypt” — the city where their Lord was executed on a stake. **9**Some from the nations, tribes, languages and peoples see their bodies for three-and-a-half days and do not permit the corpses to be placed in a tomb. **10**The people living in the Land rejoice over them, they celebrate and send each other gifts, because these two prophets tormented them so.

**11**But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. **12**Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.

**Insight:** These two witnesses spoken about in the above verses were to testify about Yeshua, and spread His Good News among the Jewish people in Jerusalem, prophesy, and perform miracles while enjoying God’s protection (vv 5-6). Then the beast from the Abyss kills them (v. 7). Their bodies lie in the main street of Jerusalem for three and a half days (vv.8-9), after which hey rise from death and go up to heaven (vv. 11-12).

**13**In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were awestruck and gave glory to the God of heaven.

**14**The second woe has passed; see, the third woe is coming quickly

**15**The seventh angel sounded his *shofar*; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“The kingdom of the world
has become the Kingdom
of our Lord and his Messiah,
and he will rule forever and ever!”

**16**The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones in God’s presence fell on their faces and worshipped God, **17**saying,

“We thank you, ***Adonai*,**
**God of heaven’s armies**,
the One who is and was,
that you have taken your power
and have begun to rule.

**Insight:** The seventh angel sounded his Shofar. When the seventh angel sounds his Shofar, then the “kingdom of the world” becomes the “Kingdom of our Lord and His Messiah,” and Adonai has begun to rule. The active reign of God on earth, the Messianic Kingdom, promised in 1:5-8 and 6:10, now begins to unfold. Between these verses and Chapter 19 are the various judgements and other events associated with the overthrow of the system of this world and the inauguration of the Messiah’s rule.

**18**“**The *Goyim* raged,**
But now your rage has come,
the time for the dead to be judged,
the time for rewarding your servants the prophets
and your holy people,
those who stand in awe of your name,
both small and great.
It is also the time for destroying
those who destroy the earth.”

**19Then the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and violent hail.**

**A Fresh Life Tool . . . Making a Whip!**

Picture Jesus the Son of God walking onto the grounds of the Temple – a house which was dedicated to the worship of His Father – God! There He finds that this place of worship has been turned into a “Flea Market”! “*In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.”* (John 2:14) *There* were people arguing with merchants and literally shouting to be heard over all the commotion! Other people were crowded around the tables of the money changers, and they were incredibly angry about the unfair rates of exchange for their money! After taking all of this in, it was at this point I believe Jesus came to a halt! Why? Because **Jesus was experiencing the depth of His emotions!**

**Jesus timed out!** He left and walked away from the situation. It was time to talk to His Father! Jesus began asking His Father what to do! How do we know this? Because Jesus has told us *The Son can do nothing on His own.”* (John 5:19; 30) The plan was to make a whip. This process takes time. Jesus needed the materials to make a whip out of cords and He certainly could not go to an Ace Hardware or Lowes and buy one. He had to find the material and make it! Therefore, He went outside the wall of the city and found the pieces to make the whip and then He would have had to sit down alone and weave the whip together. This takes time! That was the idea – He needed time to **talk** and **listen**. He needed time to **vent** to His Father! He did not want to **react to His emotions and act on them inappropriately!** He wanted God’s will to prevail**. Jesus has told us: *I seek to do not my own will but the will of Him who sent me.* (John 5:30c (NRSV) Having received His direction – the Bible tells us this:**

*“Making a whip out of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!”* (John 2:15-16) (NRSV)

A perfect Savior does a perfect job of showing us how to handle anger! It would be a good idea for us to remember the process Jesus used: Feel your emotions – Do not act on them - Time yourself out – Talk to God – Get your direction. Then carry out God’s direction thus applying His perfect will into the situation!

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**LIFE TOOL:** It **is okay to feel your emotions; it is okay to react to your emotions (cry, vent). However, it is NOT okay to ACT on your emotions!**

**Chapter 12**

**Verses 1-18 “**Now a great sign was seen in heaven — a woman clothed with the sun, under her feet the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. **2**She was pregnant and about to give birth, and she screamed in the agony of labor.

**Insight:** This women was not Yeshua’s mother Miryam (Mary). This was a figurative reference to Israel as seen in Isaiah 66:7-10. Although Israel is on earth John saw her in heaven, symbolizing the fact God protects and preserves the Jews.

**3**Another sign was seen in heaven there was a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven royal crowns. **4**Its tail swept a third of the stars out of heaven and threw them down to the earth. It stood in front of the woman about to give birth, so that it might devour the child the moment it was born.

**Insight:** There was a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns. The dragon is Satan, the Adversary; its seven heads and ten horns also equate it with the “fourth animal” of Daniel 7:7, 24. It stands in front of the woman, opposing Yeshua, ready to devour the child the moment it is born!.

**5**She gave birth to a son, a male child, the one who **will** rule **all the nations with a staff of iron**.[[t](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30910t)] But her child was snatched up to God and his throne; **6**and she fled into the desert, where she has a place prepared by God so that she can be taken care of for 1,260 days.

**7**Next there was a battle in heaven — Mikha’el and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. **8**But it was not strong enough to win, so that there was no longer any place for them in heaven. **9**The great dragon was thrown out, that ancient serpent, also known as the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

**10**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying,

“Now have come God’s victory, power and kingship,
and the authority of his Messiah;
because the Accuser of our brothers,
who accuses them day and night before God,
has been thrown out!

**11**“They defeated him because of the Lamb’s blood
and because of the message of their witness.
Even when facing death
they did not cling to life.

**12**“Therefore, rejoice, heaven and you who live there!
But woe to you, land and sea,
for the Adversary has come down to you,
and he is very angry, because he knows that his time is short!”

**Insight:** That ancient serpent also known as the Devil and the Satan (the Adversary). John identifies the dragon in Jewish terminology as that ancient serpent, the serpent o in the Garden of Eden, the slanderer and accuser – the deceiver of the whole world.

**13**When the dragon saw that he had been hurled down to the earth, he went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male child. **14**But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly to her place in the desert, where she is taken care of for **a season and two seasons and half a season**,[[u](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30919u)] away from the serpent’s presence. **15**The serpent spewed water like a river out of its mouth after the woman, in order to sweep her away in the flood; **16**but the land came to her rescue — it opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon had spewed out of its mouth. **17**The dragon was infuriated over the woman and went off to fight the rest of her children, those who obey God’s commands and bear witness to Yeshua.

**18**Then the dragon stood on the seashore;

**A Fresh Life Tool - Satan Our Only Enemy!**

*“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* (NIV) Ephesians 6:12

This is a topic that has been and still is *swept under the rug* in the majority of churches. People are afraid to get into it because they are afraid of him! I’m talking about Satan, the devil, the evil one, Lucifer whatever you choose to call him, is alive and well and going about the earth. Whether you choose to believe he exists or not, he does!

“*The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"*

*Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it*."

(NIV) Job 1:7

Knowledge of him begins in the third chapter of Genesis and ends in the book of Revelations. What I will be presenting to you in this teaching is what I have been taught by God, and the Word of God. These facts have been applied in my life and they have been found to be true. Although the evil one is mentioned in the Bible, there is not a great deal of detail regarding him.

The church, as well as everyone can’t choose for much longer to ignore Satan and think they are going to be able conduct the business of God as well as that of their own life. In fact, he should not be ignored period! How can we ignore him? Evidence of him is plastered all over the news, television shows, movies, video games and books. The name of Satan and all his evilness is *screaming* all over the place.

**A great deal of mankind has become fascinated with the supernatural, but they deny the supernatural God, the God of goodness!** The world is perishing and so are those in the body of Christ who choose to ignore him. There is nowhere in the Bible that shows Jesus ignoring him. So why are people in the churches ignoring him? In fact, Jesus spoke about Satan twenty-five (25) times, and it is recorded in the Bible!

From the beginning of time, Satan has roamed this Earth, destroying, and ravaging everything and everyone in it.

“*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”* (NIV) 1 Peter 5:8

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**Chapter 13**

**Verses 1-18 “**and I saw a **beast** **come up out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten royal crowns and on its heads blasphemous names.** **2**The beast which I saw was **like a leopard**, but with **feet like those of a bear** and a mouth like the **mouth of a lion**. To it the dragon gave its power, its throne and great authority. **3One of the heads of the beast appeared to have received a fatal wound, but its fatal wound was healed, and the whole earth followed after the beast in amazement. 4They worshipped the dragon, because he had given his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying,**

**“Who is like the beast?
Who can fight against it?”**

**5**It was **given a mouth speaking arrogant blasphemies; and it was given authority to act for forty-two months. 6So it opened its mouth in blasphemies against God to insult his name and his *Sh’khinah*, and those living in heaven; 7**it was allowed to make war on God’s holy people and to defeat them; and it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. **8**Everyone living on earth will worship it except those whose names are written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb slaughtered before the world was founded. **9**Those who have ears, let them hear!

**10“If anyone is meant for captivity,**
**into captivity** he goes!
**If anyone is to be killed with the sword,**
**with the sword he is to be killed!”**[[v](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30933v)]

**This is when God’s holy people must persevere and trust!**

**11**Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. It had two horns like those of a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. **12It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence; and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, the one whose fatal wound had been healed.**

**Insight:** The second beast is the false prophet, the Anti-Messiah! It has two horns like those of a lamb – it is the man who separates himself from “TORAH.” (2 Th 2:3-10) who fulfills Yeshua’s prophecy that “the abomination which causes devastation’ spoken about through the prophet Daniel” will one day stand in the Holy Place of a rebuilt Temple (Matthew 24:15, citing Daniel 9:23-27.

**13It performs great miracles, even causing fire to come down from heaven onto the earth as people watch. 14It deceives the people living on earth by the miracles it is allowed to perform in the presence of the beast, and it tells them to make an image honoring the beast that was struck by the sword but came alive again. 15It was allowed to put breath into the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast could even speak; and it was allowed to cause anyone who would not worship the image of the beast to be put to death.**

**16Also it forces everyone — great and small, rich and poor, free and slave — to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead 17preventing anyone from buying or selling unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.** **18This is where wisdom is needed; those who understand should count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person, and its number is “*666.*”**

**A Fresh Life Tool - Does Satan know your Name?**

“Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.”**14**Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. **15**One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” **16**Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. **18**Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. **19**A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.” (A silver coin worth about a day’s wages) ***So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”*** Acts 19:13-19 (NIV)

The name Jesus (Yeshua) is not a magic word! The name itself doesn’t carry magical powers! The people spoken of in these Scriptures were attempting to use the name of our Savior as a means to their own end . . . they were power hungry! They didn’t understand the fact nor did they want to understand that the power and authority comes from the Holy Spirit who is given only to those putting their full trust in Jesus – our Savior and Lord. When an obedient, follower uses that precious name at *God’s direction* when spoken the name Jesus carries great power to cast our demons! Our growth in God is so very important. We must grow into the power and authority God wants to place in us! We have to prove to Him our faithfulness and steadfastness through our love and devotion to Him! Jesus had to grow into obedience just like we do: “***Even though he was the Son, he learned obedience through his sufferings. And after he had been brought to the goal, he became the source of eternal deliverance to all who obey him.”*** Hebrews 5:8-9 (CJB) ***“And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience once your obedience is complete.”*** II Corinthians 10:6 (NIV)

Now, in verse 15 the demon asked the people attempting to cast out the evil spirit, *“Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”* Satan and his demons were not afraid of these men, they had no idea who they were! However, what they did know was - their reputation! Their reputation was not one that said, I’m a follower of the Lord Jesus! I walk in obedience to the Almighty God **The I AM that I AM!**

You see Satan and his minions are very aware of those humans who can cause them damage! A person who listens daily to God and follows God’s direction to the very best they can each and every day – there will come a point in their spiritual growth where Satan will know their name because they are then – his enemy!

We are no match for Satan and his demons unless we walk steadfastly and devotedly to the - **I AM!**

Fresh Life Tools, Inc., USA

**Chapter 14**

**Verses 1-20**

**1 “Then I looked, and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Tziyon; and with him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads”.**

**Insight: In this chapter God is shown working behind the scenes of history, preparing rewards for His people and punishments for those who disobey Him! Believers are warned against falling away and encouraged to remain faithful.**

**Insight:** The slain Lamb is seen on Mount Tziyon (Mount Zion), the highest point in Jerusalem. In Ezra 4 the seer is told that he “whom the Most High is keeping many ages and through whom He will deliver His creation (i.e. the Messiah) will stand on the summit of Mount Zion. Yes. Zion shall come and be seen by everyone, prepared and built, just as you saw the mountain cut out without hands. But He, my Son, will reprove the nations who have come for their ungodliness.” (Ezra 4 13:26, 36-37 CJB)

**2**I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of rushing waters and like the sound of pealing thunder; the sound I heard was also like that of harpists playing on their harps. **3**They were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living beings and the elders, and no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who have been ransomed from the world. **4**These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; they follow the Lamb wherever he goes; they have been ransomed from among humanity as first fruits for God and the Lamb; **5**on their lips no lie was found — they are without defect.

**Insight**: The individuals spoken of here are NOT just males - theses are people of both sexes who are faithful to God and His Son! Fornication is a common biblical metaphor for idolatry for several examples from the Tanakh see Ezekiel 16, 23 and Hosea 1-5. In the book of Revelation, misdirected worship is misdirected worship is explicitly called whoring at verse. 8 below, as well as at 17:2, 4; 18:3, 9:19-2.

**6**Next I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven with everlasting Good News to proclaim to those living on the earth — to every nation, tribe, language and people. **7**In a loud voice he said,“Fear God, give him glory,
for the hour has come when he will pass judgment!
Worship the One who made heaven and earth,
the sea and the springs of water!”

**8**Another angel, a second one, followed, saying,

“**She has fallen! She has fallen!**
**Bavel the Great!**[[w](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30949w)]
She made all the nations drink the wine
of God’s fury caused by her whoring!”

**9**Another angel, a third one, followed them and said in a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives the mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10**he will indeed drink the wine of God’s fury poured undiluted into the cup of his rage. He will be tormented by fire and sulfur before the holy angels and before the Lamb, **11**and the smoke from their tormenting goes up forever and ever. They have no rest, day or night, those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of its name.” **12**This is when perseverance is needed on the part of God’s people, those who observe his commands and exercise Yeshua’s faithfulness.

**13**Next I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write: ‘How blessed are the dead who die united with the Lord, from now on!’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘now they may rest from their efforts, for the things they have accomplished follow along with them.’”

**14**Then I looked, and there before me was a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was someone **like a Son of Man**[[x](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30955x)] with a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. **15**Another angel came out of the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, “Start using your sickle to reap, because the time to reap has come — the earth’s harvest is ripe!” **16**The one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

**17**Another angel came out of the Temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. **18**Then out from the altar went yet another angel, who was in charge of the fire; and he called in a loud voice to the one with the sharp sickle, “Use your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because they are ripe!” **19**The angel swung his sickle down onto the earth, gathered the earth’s grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s fury. **20**The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress as high as the horses’ bridles for two hundred miles!

**A Fresh Life Tool - ONLY A FEW FIND IT!**

*“Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it; but it is a narrow gate and a HARD ROAD that leads to life, and only a few find it.”* Matthew 7:13-14 (CJB)

# **NOAH -** In the days of Noah: There were millions of people who were living on the earth at that time. When God looked down on the earth during the days of Noah He was grieved and felt great pain at what He saw! Putting it plainly God was sorry He had made man and He declared He was going to destroy man! Even though God was so angry at man in His mercy while the Ark was being built He gave the people 129 years to repent! (Genesis 6:5-8 (NIV)

# Now Noah’s generation heard him warn them the earth was going to be destroyed! The day the Ark was complete and everything God told Noah to prepare was completed – Noah was 600 years old! I Peter 3:20 states the following “to those who were disobedient long ago, in the days of Noah, when God waited patiently during the building of the ark, in which a **few** people — **to be specific, eight** —were delivered by means of water.

**LOT** - Remember Lot and his family? Lot and his family were living in the city of Sodom and Gomorrah - there were thousands there. God in his infinite mercy allowed Lot to leave with his family with one instruction – don’t look back! The four of them headed out – and Lot’s wife looked back, therefore only – three - made it!

**ISRALEITES** - Remember the Israelites leaving Egypt? There were thousands and thousands of people (some have said millions) of Jewish people who left Egypt for the Promised Land – the journey should have taken less than two weeks. However, out of the original group of people and after 40 years of wandering due to their disobedience only two families went into the Promised Land! Joshua and Caleb!

# **JESUS! - “**After this the Lord appointed seventy-twoothers and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where He was about to go.  He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.” Luke 10:1-4 (NIV)

**“**From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him*. “You do not want to leave too, do you?”* Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God*.” Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!”**(He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the twelve, was later to betray Him.”* John 6:66-71 (NIV)

“ThenJesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as He made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked Him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

“He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ But He will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But He will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from Me, all you evildoers!’ There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.People will come from east and west and north and south and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. **Indeed, there are those who are last who will be first, and the first who will be last.”** Luke 13:22-30 (NIV)

**From Seventy-Two to Eleven!**

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**Chapter 15**

**Verses 1-8** “Then I saw another sign in heaven, a great and wonderful one — seven angels with the seven plagues that are the final ones; because with them, God’s fury is finished. **2**I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. Those defeating the beast, its image and the number of its name were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps which God had given them. 3**They were singing the song of Moshe, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:**

**Insight:** The song of the Lamb, as given in verses 3-4, is NOT sung to or about the Lamb,but **by the Lamb** **to God** – just as the Song of Moses was sung by Moses and **not** to him. Just as the victorious Jewish people learned and sang the song which Moses sang (Exodus 15:1), so the victorious believers in heaven learn and sing the song which the Lamb sings. Like the song of Moses the song of the Lamb exults in the just ways of God, using the language of the Tanakh as found in Jeremiah 10:7 and Amos 3:13. In the final judgment God is revealed as King of the nations, king of the whole world as prophesied in Zechariah 14:9, so that all nations will come and worship before Hm – as predicted in the continuation of Zechariah 14:16-20.

“Great and wonderful are the things you have done,
    ***Adonai*, God of heaven’s armies!**[[y](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30964y)]
Just and true are your ways,
    king of the nations!
**4***Adonai*, who will not fear and glorify your name?
    because you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship before you,
    for your righteous deeds have been revealed.”

**5**After this I looked, and the sanctuary (that is, the Tent of Witness in heaven) was opened, **6**and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean bright linen and had gold belts around their chests. **7**One of the four living beings gave to the seven angels seven gold bowls filled with the fury of God, who lives forever and ever. **8**Then the sanctuary was filled with smoke from God’s *Sh’khinah*, that is, from his power; and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels had accomplished their purpose.”

**A Fresh Life Tool - Jesus and Greater Things!**

*“Yes, indeed! I tell you that* ***whoever trusts in me*** *will also do the works I do! Indeed,* ***he will do greater ones****, because I am going to the Father.” (JNT) John 14:12*

We must never forget who Jesus is! We must never forget: He was the only perfect one who ever walked this earth! We must always remember, when He was on this earth, **His Holiness was God in the form of a man!** Jesus did not do anything outside of God’s will! He chose to do **nothing** to satisfy Himself! Therefore, every part of His life was pure!

Jesus had feelings! He felt what we feel. He shared our feelings by pushing through them like we must do! No matter what He was going through here on earth - He chose never to satisfy Himself. Every choice He made was to please the Father! Every choice He made was to bring Glory and Honor to the Father! Every choice He made was to help people **the way His Father directed him too**!

Jesus did nothing on His behalf, to grow His ministry, or to gain power, fame or otherwise! Everything He did was for no other reason than to obey His Father! He led a *totally selfless life*! And, because of that, He had *favor* beyond anything that has ever been granted to a human on this earth, and that favor took **the form of an incomprehensible Holiness**! God really wants us to strive for Holiness on this earth (I Peter 1:13-16). Understand, we will never achieve the level of Holiness Jesus had. However, the things that He accomplished, and the various examples He set - should be our motivators to strive for OUR level of Holiness!

Jesus had favor with His Father God, because of His selfless heart, and His selfless example in life! JESUS’ LIFE WAS NOT ABOUT HIM – IT WAS ABOUT WHAT GOD WANTED HIM TOO DO AND WHEN GOD WANTED Him TO DO IT!

We must never lose sight of this one thing: God “wants” us to look at Jesus’ life example, and in so doing - we can achieve the level of OUR Holiness that pleases God. We too can be a blessing to others in much the same manner as Jesus did. Because, He said, *“...greater things we would do...”!*

It is all about our relationship with God, so God can use us! If we are going to do greater things - we are going to have to be walking the walk of **obedience**! When we do this – like I said we will come to the level God wants us to be at which will be *OUR level of Holiness*. When we arrive at that point, we will know we are walking in God’s will!

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**Chapter 16**

**Verses 1-21** “I heard a loud voice from the sanctuary say to the seven angels, “Go, and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God’s fury!”

**Insight:** The “seven bowls of God’s fury” (introduced in Chapter 15:1, 7-8) contain the third set of seven judgments in the book of Revelation, the others being the sealed judgements (5:1-9; 6:1-17; and the Shofar judgments (8:2-11).

**2**So the first one went and poured his bowl onto the earth, and disgusting and painful sores appeared on all the people who had the mark of the beast and worshipped its image.

**Insight:** Like the plagues of boils which affected only the Egyptians (Exodus 9:8-11), these disgusting and painful sores appear only on **unbelievers,** the people who had the mark of the beast and worshipped its image! According to verse 11, despite the pain of these sores, their hearts remained hard like Pharaoh! They never turn from their sins to glorify God – but curse Him to the end (v21).

**3**The second one poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

**4**The third one poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they turned to blood. **5**Then I heard the angel of the waters say, “O *HaKadosh*, the One who is **(Holy Spirit)** and was, you are just in these judgments of yours. “O HaKadosh, the one who is and meaning **“O Holy One”** in rabbinical writings.**6**They poured out the blood of your people and your prophets, so you have made them drink blood. They deserve it!”

**7**Then I heard the altar say, “Yes, ***Adonai*, God of heaven’s armies**,[[z](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-30976z)]
your judgments are true and just!”

**Insight: “**We bend the knee, and bow and acknowledge before the supreme King of kings, HaKodosh, barukh hu (the Holy One, blessed be he)…. that ***He is our God, there is none else*.”**

**8**The fourth one poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was permitted to burn people with fire. **9**People were burned by the intense heat; yet they cursed the name of God, who had the authority over these plagues, instead of turning from their sins to give him glory.

**10**The fifth one poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom grew dark. People gnawed on their tongues from the pain, **11**yet they cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores, and did not turn from their sinful deeds.**12**The sixth one poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water dried up, in order to prepare the way for the kings from the east. **13**And I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs; they came from the mouth of the dragon, from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet. **14**They are miracle-**working demonic spirits which go out to the kings of the whole inhabited world to assemble them for the War of the Great Day of *Adonai-Tzva’ot*. 15(“Look! I am coming like a thief! How blessed are those who stay alert and keep their clothes clean, so that they won’t be walking naked and be publicly put to shame!”) 16And they gathered the kings to the place which in Hebrew is called Har Megiddo.**

**Insight:** “. . . they will look on Me whom they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only son…On that day the mourning of Hadad-Rimmon in the Valley of Megiddon.” ( In the Greek: Armageddon)

**17**The seventh one poured out his bowl on the air, and a loud voice came out of the Temple from the throne, saying, ***“It is done!”*** **18**There were flashes of lightning, voices and peals of thunder; and there was a massive earthquake, such as has never occurred since mankind has been on earth, so violent was the earthquake.

**19**The great city was split into three parts, the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Bavel the Great and made her drink the wine from the cup of his raging fury. **20**Every island fled, and no mountains were to be found. **21**And huge seventy-pound hailstones fell on people from the sky. But the people cursed God for the plague of hail, that it was such a terrible plague!

**A Fresh Life Tool - JESUS’ EXAMPLE FOR VICTORY!**

When Jesus was on this earth there were times that He was attacked and times He was persecuted. And the example He set was that He was constantly overcoming everything that Satan put in His face. He did it in a very special way. He always established truth!

1. He showed the truth.
2. He acknowledged the facts.
3. He always climbed over every situation in a spiritual way.
4. He excelled with God’s power, no matter what.

And, once He was over the problem … He always pulled others with Him!

Fresh Life Tools, Inc., USA

**Chapter 17**

**Verses 1-18** “Then came one of the angels with the seven bowls; and he said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore who is sitting by many waters. **2**The kings of the earth went whoring with her, and the people living on earth have become drunk from the wine of her whoring.” **3**He carried me off in the Spirit to a desert, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast filled with blasphemous names and having seven heads and ten horns. **4**The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls. **In her hand was a gold cup filled with the obscene and filthy things produced by her whoring**. **5**On her forehead was written a name with a hidden meaning,

BAVEL THE GREAT

MOTHER OF WHORES AND OF

THE EARTH’S OBSCENITIES

**6**I saw the woman drunk from the blood of God’s people, that is, from the blood of the people who testify about Yeshua!

On seeing her, I was altogether astounded. **7**Then the angel said to me, “Why are you astounded? I will tell you the hidden meaning of the woman and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that was carrying her. **8**The beast you saw once was, now is not, and will come up from the Abyss; but it is on its way to destruction. The people living on earth whose names have **not** been written in the Book of Life since the founding of the world will be astounded to see the beast that once was, now is not, but is to appear. **9**This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is sitting; also they are seven kings — **10**five have fallen, one is living now and the other is yet to come; and when he does come, he must remain only a little while. **11**The beast which once was and now is not is an eighth king; it comes from the seven and is on its way to destruction. **12**The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet begun to rule, but they receive power as kings for one hour, along with the beast. **13**They have one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. 14They will go to war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are called, chosen and faithful will overcome along with him.”

**15**Then he said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the whore is sitting, are peoples, crowds, nations and languages. **16**As for the ten horns that you saw and the beast, they will hate the whore, bring her to ruin, leave her naked, eat her flesh and consume her with fire. **17**For God put it in their hearts to do what will fulfill his purpose, that is, to be of one mind and give their kingdom to the beast until God’s words have accomplished their intent. **18**And the woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

**Why am I doing this? 20 Answers for Doing Something!**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer**  | **Reason might be:**  | **Issue** |
| I want to... | I know that I gave my life to God, but that didn’t mean every desire I was ever going to have … |  Rebellion  |
| I have to …  | Someone is putting gun to my head saying, “…”do this or I will shoot you”… |   Fear |
| Someone is expecting me to do this …  | I am supposed to be kind to people. So, If I don’t do what someone expects me to do then I am being mean … |  Obligation |
| People will be angry with me If I don’t … | I don’t like it when people get angry with me. If it’s not exactly what God wants me to do, at least He won’t be angry with me …  | Emotional Instability  |
| People will say bad things about me if I don’t do it … | My God wants people to like me. My God would want me to go ahead and do it because He would not want me to feel embarrassed in front of others … |  Insecurity  |
| Everyone else is doing it … | Since everyone else does it, then it isn’t that big of a sin …  |  Deception  |
| What else am I supposed to do if I don’t do it? …  | I have heard all these ideas and all this advice I already know that none of it is right but I might as well try something anyway  | Confusion |
| Something bad might happen if I don’t do it …  | I have to take care of myself, I trust God to handle some things in my life but not everything …  | Doubt |
| I want the task finished today!  | I can’t let anything interfere with my all-important schedule for tomorrow . . . | Anxiety |
| God promises to fulfill my needs and I really need this so He would want me to do this to get it!  | God will give me anything I want really bad and would want me to do whatever I have to do to get it! | Selfishness |
| It will help my ministry … | God is much more interested in helping my ministry than accomplishing His will on earth!  | Self-Promotion |
| I have always done this and I see no reason to stop …  | I do what God asks me as long as it goes along with what I want to do …  | Unwillingness |
| I am supposed to because this is the way it is done! | I am a robot and have been programed to only follow worldly patterns set by man… | Worldliness |
| Everything else can wait! | I know I have work to do but. Well…this isn’t exactly wasting time. Just because it doesn’t accomplish anything, it doesn’t mean it wastes time. |  Distraction  |
| Someone told me to do this and I really want to make them happy… | The people who love me only want what is best for me and they have always been there for me in the past so I should do what they say no matter what I may feel God is trying to tell me! | Interference  |
| Why not do it?  | I’ve already gotten saved and born again, so it doesn’t matter what I do! And, if it makes me happy, why not do it? | Disobedience |
| I can’t continue with the way things are going now… | I am too impatient to wait for god’s direction and intervention so, I’m just going to handle things on my own… | Resentment |
| It is a way that God can use me …  | I think that God wants me to be used in all important matters because He wants me to believe that I am important! | Pride |
| I promised God I would accomplish something and I don’t know of any other way to do it …  | I know that God is counting on me to do this and I know God has supernatural wisdom, but I’m too stupid to ask for directions from Him!  | Ignorance  |

***WHY AM I DOING THIS?***

**Who?** Because **God** told me to

**What?** do **this**

**When? today** and followed

**How? with His directions and guidance** and I know it was God because I checked if it was!

**Where? in His will** by

testing the Spirit *(1 John. 4:1-3)* and I am going to do it

**Why? because Jesus is my shepherd and I am His sheep! Baaaah!**

 *(John 10 - all verses, especially vs. 27)*

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Chapter 18

**1-24**“After these things, I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, the earth was lit up by his splendor. **2**He cried out in a strong voice, “She has fallen! She has fallen!

**Insight:** The judgment against Babylon is against her pride, ruthlessness, greed and materialism. It is a just judgment praised by God ‘s people but mourned by the worldly and wicked who share her values. Much in this chapter resembles the lamentation in Ezekiel 27-28 over the commercial center and port of Tzor (Tyre). It is highly significant that Tyre is often understood as a surrogate for Satan’s realm of activity and its king for Satan himself (this identification is based especially on Ezekiel 28:11-19). By analogy, the destruction of Babylon in this chapter is really the destruction of Satan’s kingdom; the destruction of Satan himself in Chapter 20 invokes “Gog and Magog” as described in Ezekiel 38-39. Which also resembles Ezekiel 27-28.

**Bavel the Great!**[[aa](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1-20&version=CJB#fen-CJB-31010aa)]
She has become a home for demons,
a prison for every unclean spirit,
a prison for every unclean, hated bird.

**3**“For all the nations have drunk of the wine
of God’s fury caused by her whoring —
yes, the kings of the earth went whoring with her,
and from her unrestrained love of luxury
the world’s businessmen have grown rich.”

**4**Then I heard another voice out of heaven say:

“My people, come out of her!
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not be infected by her plagues,
**5**for her sins are a sticky mass piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

**6**“Render to her as she rendered to others!
Pay her back double for what she has done!
Use the cup in which she has brewed
to brew her a double-sized drink!

**7**“Give her as much torment and sorrow
as the glory and luxury she gave herself!
For in her heart she says, ‘I sit a queen —
I am not a widow, I will never see sorrow.’
**8**“Therefore, her plagues will come in a single day —
death, sorrow and famine;
and she will be burned with fire,
because *Adonai*, God, her Judge, is mighty”

**9**The kings of the earth who went whoring with her and shared her luxury will sob and wail over her when they see the smoke as she burns. **10**Standing at a distance, for fear of her torment, they will say,

“Oh no! The great city!
Bavel, the mighty city!
In a single hour
your judgment has come!”

**11**The world’s businessmen weep and mourn over her, because no one is buying their merchandise any more — **12**stocks of gold and silver, gems and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, all rare woods, all ivory goods, all kinds of things made of scented wood, brass, iron and marble; **13**cinnamon, cardamom, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, flour, grain, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots — and bodies — and people’s souls.

**14**The fruits you lusted for with all your heart have gone!
All the luxury and flashiness have been destroyed, never to return!

**15**The sellers of these things, who got rich from her, will stand at a distance, for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, **16**and saying,

“Oh no! The great city used to wear fine linen, purple and scarlet!
She glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls!
**17**Such great wealth —
in a single hour, ruined!”

All the ship masters, passengers, sailors and everyone making his living from the sea stood at a distance **18**and cried out when they saw the smoke as she burned, “What city was like the great city?” **19**And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, saying,

“Oh no! The great city!
The abundance of her wealth
made all the ship owners rich!
In a single hour she is ruined!”

**20**Rejoice over her, heaven!
Rejoice, people of God,
emissaries and prophets!
For in judging her, God has vindicated you.

21 Then a mighty angel picked up a bolder the size of a great millstone, and hurled it into the sea, saying,

“With violence like this
will the great city Bavel
be hurled down,
never to be found again!

**Insight:** The size of a great millstone and the name “Gat-Sh’manim” (Gethsemane,” means “oil press,” that is a stone mill for grinding olives into pulp for their oil. Until quite recently the Arabs in the village in Israel used such presses for the same purpose, and many of the millstones are still around. They are circular with a hole in the center about 9 inches square; diameter averages about five feet, thickness a foot and weight well over a ton!

**22**“The sound of harpists and musicians,
flute-players and trumpeters
    will never again be heard in you.
No worker of any trade
    will ever again be found in you,
the sound of a mill
    will never again be heard in you,
**23**the light of a lamp
    will never again shine in you,
the voice of bridegroom and bride
    will never again be heard in you.

“For your businessmen were the most powerful on earth,
all the nations were deceived by your magic spell.

**24**“In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s people,
indeed, of all who have ever been slaughtered on earth!”

**How to know the difference between the working of Satan and the Holy Spirit**!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **HOLY SPIRIT** |
| Harsh | Gentle |
| Unloving | Loving |
| Puts you down | Builds you up |
| Hardness | Repentance |
| Uses a “Shotgun” | Uses Scalpel – Gently cuts away |
| Excuses (instead of Confession) | Encourages Confession |
| Gives Guilt/Condemnation | Takes away Guilt |
| Unforgiving | Forgiveness |
| Says God doesn’t care | Loves |
| Looks inward at circumstances instead of God | Points to God |
| Accepts without thinking | Gives God’s Perspective |
| Impatient | Patience |
| Selfishness | Long Suffering |
| Dissention | Harmony |
| Bondage | Freedom |

Fresh Life Tools, Inc., USA

 **Chapter 19**

**Verses 1-21** “After these things, I heard what sounded like the roar of a huge crowd in heaven, shouting,

“*Halleluyah*!
The victory, the glory, the power of our God!
**2**For his judgments are true and just.
He has judged the great whore
who corrupted the earth with her whoring.
He has taken vengeance on her
who has the blood of his servants on her hands.”

**Insight:** The HUGE crowd in heaven praises God for judging Babylon the Great and for actively beginning to rule His Kingdom!

**3**And a second time they said,

“*Halleluyah*!
Her smoke goes up forever and ever!”

**4**The twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshipped God, sitting on the throne, and said,

“*Amen*!
*Halleluyah*!”

**5**A voice went out from the throne, saying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great!”

**6**Then I heard what sounded like the roar of a huge crowd, like the sound of rushing waters, like loud peals of thunder, saying,

“*Halleluyah*!
***Adonai*, God of heaven’s armies,**
has begun his reign!

**Insight:** He has become King. God’s universal rule is a major theme of the Tanakh. On the one hand, the New Testament presents the “Kingdom” or “Rulership” of God as a reality present at this moment through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah (Matt. 5:3; 10;11:11; 12;28, 25;34;26:29) The kingdom also has a future promise, still to be fully manifested (Matt. 6:10 reads, *“May your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.”*; Matt. 7:21 reads, *“Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord” will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what My Father in heaven WANTS!”*

**7**“Let us rejoice and be glad!
Let us give him the glory!
For the time has come for the
wedding of the Lamb,
and his Bride has prepared herself —
**8**fine linen, bright and clean
has been given her to wear.”

**Insight**: “Fine linen” means the righteous deeds of God’s people. The actions of each individual that has lived on this earth, and will come to live on earth will determine individually where they will live with God or Satan for Eternity. However, The Tanakh similarly pictures Israel as the wife of YHVH – see Isaiah 54:1-8; 62:4-5; Jeremiah 31:31-32; Ezekiel 16; and the whole book of Hosea, especially Chapters 1-3. Midrash Rabbah to Song of Songs4:10 names ten places in the Tanakh which speak of Israel directly or allegorically as a bride.

**9**The angel said to me, “Write: ‘How blessed are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb!’” Then he added, ***“These are God’s very words.”***

**10**I fell at his feet to worship him; but he said, “Don’t do that! I’m only a fellow-servant with you and your brothers who have the testimony of Yeshua. Worship God! For the testimony of Yeshua is the Spirit of prophecy.”

**Insight:** The early believes sometimes were led astray into angel worship, but this was condemned: Colossians 2:18 states: “Don’t let anyone deny you the prize by going on about some vision they have had, and they vainly puff themselves up by their worldly outlook. They fail to hold to the Head, from whom the whole Body, and being held to the world, are you letting yourselves be bothered receiving supply and being held together by its joints and ligaments, rows as God makes it grow. If along with the Messiah, you died to the elemental spirits of the world, then why, as if you still belonged to the world, are you letting yourselves be bothered by rules? – “Don’t touch this!” Don’t touch that!” “Don’t handle the other!” Such prohibitions are concerned with things meant to perish by being used (not by being avoided), and they are based on **man made rules and teachings**.” They do indeed have the outward appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed religious observances, false humility and asceticism: but they have no value at all in restraining people from indulging their old nature.”

**11**Next I saw heaven opened, and there before me was a white horse. Sitting on it was the one called Faithful and True, and it is in righteousness that He passes judgment and goes to battle. **12**His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on His head were many royal crowns. And He had a name written which no one knew but Himself. **13**He was wearing a robe that had been soaked in blood, and the name by which He is called is, **“THE WORD OF GOD.”** **14**The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. **15**And out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations — **“He will** rule **them with a staff of iron.”** It is He who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of *Adonai*, God of heaven’s armies. **16**And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written:

**KING OF KINGS**

**AND**

**LORD OF LORDS**

**17**Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds that fly about in mid-heaven, “Come, gather together for the great feast God is giving, **18**to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of important men, the flesh of horses and their riders and the flesh of all kinds of people, free and slave, small and great!” **19**I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to do battle with the rider of the horse and his army. **20**But the beast was taken captive, and with it the false prophet who, in its presence, had done the miracles which he had used to deceive those who had received the mark of the beast and those who had worshipped his image. The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

**Insight:** The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive in the lake of fire (See also 13:11-18; 14:8-11). The lake of fire that burns with sulfur (see Ezek. 38:22) was prepared for the Adversary and his angles (Matt. 25:41). In Rev 20:10, Satan is also cast into the lake of fire in which he is “tormented...forever and ever” with the demonic horde (Daniel 7:11). Death and Shol are thrown into this lake of fire (Rev. 20:13-14). **And in the final judgment of humanity, “Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire (20:15).**

**21**The rest were killed with the sword that goes out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

**A Fresh Life Tool - Do you just Believe or Do you Trust?**

*“But someone will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith* ***by*** *my actions! You believe that “God is one”? Good for you! The demons believe it too – the thought makes them shudder with fear!”* James 2:18 (JNT)

**Belief – is primarily mental assent to doctrines and facts.**

**Trust – is a heart attitude that expresses itself in righteous acts!**

**Trust implies obedience!** If one has a genuine and unreserved trust, reliance, faith, and belief in someone - then one will be faithful to Him and trustworthy in carrying

out His commands. Therefore, faith implies faithfulness which equals trust which equals obedience!

**Faith = Faithfulness = Trust = Obedience**

“You haven’t put your trust in God until you let Him rule your life!”

(unknown)

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**Chapter 20**

**Verses 1-13** “Next I saw an angel coming down from heaven, who had the key to the Abyss and a great chain in his hand. **2**He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], and chained him up for a thousand years. **3**He threw him into the Abyss, locked it and sealed it over him; so that he could not deceive the nations any more until the thousand years were over. After that, he has to be set free for a little while.

**Insight**: The dragon, that ancient serpent must be chained, his powers severely limited for a period, afterwards he “must be set free for a little while” to deceive the nations and Israel before his final defeat and eternal punishment. The ideas of binding demonic beings and punishing them with eternal fire are also found in the Jewish apocrypha.

**4**Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them received authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for testifying about Yeshua and proclaiming the Word of God, also those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life and ruled with the Messiah for a thousand years.

**Insight:** Daniel’s prophecy: “As I looked, thrones were placed,…and millions…sat in judgment…And the time came when the holy ones possessed the kingdom.” (Daniel 7,9-10, 22)

**5**(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over.) This is the first resurrection. **6**Blessed and holy is anyone who has a part in the first resurrection; over him the second death has no power. On the contrary, they will be *cohanim* of God and of the Messiah, and they will rule with him for the thousand years.

**Insight:** The first resurrection is the coming to life of God’s holy people, as described in (verses 4-6). The second resurrection is not mentioned as such; it is implied by the parenthetical remark that the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over, at which time they are alive only long enough to experience the second death, which has power over the (trusting) believers! They will be Cohanim “priests” of God and of the Messiah. “You the (people of Israel) shall be for me (GOD) a kingdom of Cohanim” and a holy nation” (I Ke 2-9, alluding to Exodus 19:6). “You believers in Yeshua are…..the King’s *Cohanim* Priest.” (Exodus 19:6, Isaiah 61:6) **These promises reach their fulfillment here.**

**7**When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison **8**and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore; **9**and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God’s people and the city He loves. **But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.** The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Insight:** This is the final event in the long and wicked history of the one who originated rebellion against God. Already at the beginning, after enticing Adam and Eve to commit the first human sin, God knew what the end would be:

“I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman (Eve); and between your seed (all who sin and rejoice in the sin of others, whether angelic (Ephesians 6:10-13) or human (Romans 1:32) and her seed (her descendants, *i.e.,* humanity*);* but more particularly, unique “seed” spoken of in Galatians 3:16, Yeshua); He will bruise kyour head, and you will bruise their heel.” Genesis 3:15

This prediction of Satan’s ultimate downfall is fulfilled in stages. Thus, when Yeshua said, *“Now is the time for this world to be judged, now the ruler of this world will be expelled.”(* John 12:31), He was speaking of how His death on the execution-stake would defeat the Adversary. The Messianic Community also has a part in causing Satan’s ruin as the Apostle Paul wrote writes, God the source of *shalom*, will soon crush the Adversary under your feet” (Romans 16:20). He Satan will be chained in the Abyss and then hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur to be tormented forever and ever!

**11**Next I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. **12**And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh’ol were hurled into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death – the lake of fire. Anyone whose name was NOT found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire!

**Insight:** The one sitting on the throne is Yeshua (Jesus).Although He shares the throne with God the Father it is *through Yeshua alone* that God renders the final judgment:

*“The Father does not judge anyone, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son….(The Father) has given Him authority to execute judgement, because He is the Son of Man. Don’t be surprised at this, because the time is coming when all who are in the grave hear His voice and come out, those who have done good to a resurrection of life and those who have done evil to a resurrection of Judgement.”* John 5:22, 27-29 (CJB)

**Insight:** Everyone must stand face to face before God and stand judgment! Although God is a God of mercy, He is a God of judgment! This is taught equally by the Tanakh, the New Testament, and Jewish tradition. The Prophets speak of this judgment as the Day of YHVH (Isiah 2:12, 13:6-13). *God not only judges our outward deeds, He judges our inward secret deeds and motives! “God will bring every work into judgment, concerning every hidden thing whether it be good or evil.”* (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Therefore, there is no room either for the common misunderstanding on the part of both Christians and Jews that the Old Testament portrays God as stern, judgmental and lacking mercy, with the New Testament picturing Him as so merciful that He overlooks judgment and even justice; focuses on judgment more than the Tanakh!

**Yes, ADONAI-TZVA’OT has a day in store for all…**

Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

**13**The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh’ol gave up the dead in them; and they were judged, each according to what he had done.

 **14-15**Then Death and Sh’ol were hurled into the lake of fire. This is the second death — the lake of fire. **15**Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire.”

**GOD’S DEFINITION OF “FRIENDSHIP” FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE!**

YOU ARE My friends

IF

You do what I command!

(JOHN 15:14)

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**Chapter 21**

**Verses 1-27**“Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there. **2**Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3**I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “See! God’s *Sh’khinah* is with mankind, **and He will live with them. They will be his people, and He himself, God-with-them, will be their God**.[ **4**He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away.”

**5**Then the One sitting on the throne said, **“Look! I am making everything new!”** Also He said, **“Write, ‘These words are true and trustworthy!’”** **6**And He said to me, **“It is done! I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’ the Beginning and the End. To anyone who is thirsty I myself will give water free of charge from the Fountain of Life.** **7He who wins the victory will receive these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.** **8But as for the cowardly, the untrustworthy, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those involved with the occult and with drugs, idol-worshippers, and all liars — their destiny is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, the second death.”**

**9**One of the seven angels having the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues approached me and said, “Come! I will show you the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb.” **10**He carried me off in the Spirit to the top of a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God. **11**It had the *Sh’khinah* of God, so that its brilliance was like that of a priceless jewel, like a crystal-clear diamond. **12**It had a great, high wall with twelve gates; at the gates were twelve angels; and inscribed on the gates were the names of the twelve tribes of Isra’el. **13**There were three gates to the east, three gates to the north, three gates to the south and three gates to the west. **14**The wall of the city was built on twelve foundation-stones, and on these were the twelve names of the twelve emissaries of the Lamb.

**15**The angel speaking with me had a gold measuring-rod with which to measure the city, its gates and its wall. **16**The city is laid out in a square, its length equal to its width. With his rod he measured the city at 1,500 miles, with length, width and height the same. **17**He measured its wall at 216 feet by human standards of measurement, which the angel was using. **18**The wall was made of diamond and the city of pure gold resembling pure glass. **19**The foundations of the city wall were decorated with all kinds of precious stones — the first foundation stone was diamond, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, **20**the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh turquoise and the twelfth amethyst. **21**The twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate made of a single pearl. The city’s main street was pure gold, transparent as glass.

**22**I saw no Temple in the city, for *Adonai*, God of heaven’s armies, is its Temple, as is the Lamb. **23**The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God’s *Sh’khinah* gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24**The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **25**Its gates will never close, they stay open all day because night will not exist there, **26**and the honor and splendor of the nations will be brought into it. **27**Nothing impure may enter it, nor anyone who does shameful things or lies; the only ones who may enter are those whose names are written in Lamb’s Book of Life!

**A Fresh Life Tool . . . Definition of Listening:**

**Listening is …**

**one hundred percent obedience**,

which **includes** your mind.

If you haven’t gotten the idea to obey God in your mind 100% **with your thoughts**, you can’t obey in your actions 100%. There must be both things going on, so that each will work. For you to obey God, you must be listening to him. And to hear God, you must obey Him!

It is 100% obedience, **not** just obedience to the Word of God. It is **not** just obedience to what you already **know** God wants you to do. But it is obedience …

in **how you do it,** and

in **how you think it**, and

in everything.

It must be 100%, or as close as your best is to 100%. If God says your best is 90%, then that is your best. But you must give God 100% OF YOURSELF,

IN YOUR MIND,

IN YOUR HEART,

IN YOUR ACTIONS,

IN THE WAY YOU TREAT PEOPLE,

and IN EVERYTHING!

Our goal should be 100% obedience! That is the only way!

 Fresh Life Tools Inc., U S A

**Chapter 22**

**Verses 1-21** “Next the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2**Between the main street and the river was the Tree of Life producing twelve kinds of fruit, a different kind every month; and the leaves of the tree were for healing the nations — **3**no longer will there be any curses. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him; **4**they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5**Night will no longer exist, so they will need neither the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because *Adonai*, God, will shine upon them. And they will reign as kings forever and ever.

**6**Then he said to me, “These words are true and trustworthy: *Adonai*, God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must happen soon.”

**7**“Look! I am coming very soon. Blessed is the person who obeys the words of the prophecy written in this book!”

**8**Then I, Yochanan, the one hearing and seeing these things, when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel showing them to me. **9**But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am only a fellow-servant with you and your brothers, the prophets and the people who obey the words in this book. Worship God!”

**10**Then he said to me, “Don’t **seal up the words of the prophecy in this book,**[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21%3A1-22%3A20&version=CJB&interface=print#fen-CJB-31105c)] because the time of their fulfillment is near.

**11**“Whoever keeps acting wickedly, let him go on acting wickedly;
whoever is filthy, let him go on being made filthy.

“Also, whoever is righteous, let him go on doing what is righteous;
and whoever is holy, let him go on being made holy.”

**12**“Pay attention!” [says Yeshua,] “I am coming soon, and my rewards are with me to give to each person according to what he has done. **13**I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’ the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

**14**How blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they have the right to eat from the Tree of Life and go through the gates into the city! **15**Outside are the homosexuals, those involved with the occult and with drugs, the sexually immoral, murderers, idol-worshippers, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. **16**“I, Yeshua, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the Messianic communities. I am the Root and Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star. **17**The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Let anyone who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let anyone who is thirsty come — let anyone who wishes, take the water of life free of charge.”

**18**I warn everyone hearing the words of the prophecy in this book that if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues written in this book. **19**And if anyone takes anything away from the words in the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the Tree of Life and the holy city, as described in this book.

**20**“The one who is testifying to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon!’”

***Amen*! Come, Lord Yeshua!**

**Grace! God’s Definition!**

Grace is a provision for making a mistake with an understanding that God loves everyone! But! He who follows God in completeness by hearing His direction and moving on it, walks in **favor** with God. He walks in a measure, and a portion of God’s loving kindness and can fulfill what deeds and works God has asked of his life. He can also accomplish this with a willingness not an oppression, or an obligation, or a legal attitude or a forcefulness! But with a willingness, a hope, a dedication, an interest, and an incentive to serve God in his life by following God’s direction and promoting what God stands for.

It is imperative that we do not misunderstand that although we will have judgement day, where yes, our hearts are examined, as well as our actions. Many people who have accepted the grace of God and His loving kindness and have **failed to act** on His direction they will not pass the narrow gate.

On the other hand, many who have professed that they knew God and they followed His direction, **but all they did** was their legal best to obey what works were obvious to others for their own gratification - **will not** be rewarded for their deeds.

**God’s Grace Applied!**

God’s Grace can only be applied in the case of someone who is walking with the heart attitude of wanting to trust and obey God . . . and they must want God for the RIGHT reasons!

For someone to think because they have said a Sinner’s prayer that his or her sins are forgiven past, present, and future is to take God - for granted! It is not that cut and dried! Grace is a precious gift, and not *one of us deserves it!* However, we must come to God for the right reasons**! We must want God, and God alone, and *not* for what He can do for us!**

We must learn to follow, listen to God’s voice, and obey! To think otherwise is an attempt to try and apply God’s Grace to an inappropriate heart attitude which is to – desecrate God’s Grace!

Someone, who is **not** sold out to God, hook, line, and sinker has no right to even think God’s Grace could operate in his or her life!

**That is a form of blaspheme!**

**“Now all has been heard here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is the whole duty of Man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”** Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14 (NIV)

**THE FINAL ANALYSIS!**

**“In the final analysis it’s between you and God – it does not matter what others have said or what they think!”**

Michael D. Wallace, Jr

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1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)