

Revelation: The Warning

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FORWARD

The Beginning – The In-Between – The End

At some point in your life, I am sure that you have heard someone or even you yourself have said, “I can’t wait until things get back to normal!” Well, that is not going to happen! This is it! This world as it is will never be normal! Normal is a false notion. And, “OH” there is not any such of thing as a “new normal”! Why? Because this is an imperfect world! The life we live on this earth is far from perfect and it is far from what God had for us! When God spoke the world into being it was truly a Paradise. It was perfect! Adam and Eve lived a God ordained life in a God ordained world – **for a while**. There were no storms, no earthquakes, no wars, no tornados, no hurricanes – all was perfect! The grass was green year-round; the flowers and the foliage were always in beautiful unimaginable colors! The temperature year-round was stable, mild, and very pleasant! Flowers did not die, and leaves did not fall from the trees! Why? God had not ordained that anything including humanity should die! There was no sickness, no disease, no death, no struggles for existence, no hatred, nothing but Peace on Earth! It was all **perfect!**

Mankind’s relationship with God was perfection! The Complete Jewish Bible says in Genesis 3:8: “. . . *the voice of Adonai, God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze . . .*” because God cannot leave His throne, He sent the Messiah Yeshua to visit in His own special way with Adam and Eve each day! Everything was - Amazingly Perfect!

Important Fact: At this point in human history – **God was in total control of everything – absolutely in control of this world! He was in control of the beginning and the end and the - in between!**

Also, at this point Adam and Eve wanted nothing because all their needs were being met! God had even spoken into place their Divine Right to have their own free will – the right to choose and make their **own** choices.

Now, keep in mind Adam and Eve knew that God had only asked one thing of them! There was only one **“don’t do this”** from God in their life. Plus, God had even told them the reason He asked them not to do this one thing – **they knew!** “. . .the LORD God commanded the man, “*You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.*” Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)

One day: After entering the garden posing as a serpent Satan met up with Adam and Eve. When he did, he immediately began his subtle lying, and his subtle manipulation!

In John 8:44 Jesus told us that Satan is a liar – in fact Jesus said that lying was Satan's native language because he is the father of all lies! Now Satan had a question he wanted answered all the while knowing the truth! Satan was setting up Adam and Eve for failure in more ways than can be known! By their choices to listen to Satan and follow his words instead of what God told them - they were going against the Word of God and in so doing they declared that God had not told them the truth!

Satan's motive: He wanted to be in control of the world in other words he wanted to be King of the World!

Satan set his plan into action: “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” *The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ “You will **not** surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the **eyes of both were opened**, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” (Genesis 3:1-7) NIV*

The moment their eyes were opened control of the world had been given over to Satan! Satan got what he wanted just as quickly as that! Satan was now in control of the entire world! Hundreds of years later after Jesus was baptized Satan reminded Jesus, he (Satan) was in control of the world!

“The devil led him (Jesus) up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to! So, if you worship me, it will all be yours.” Luke 4:5-6 (NIV)

All because of their wrong choice's death, sin, pain, sorrow, and struggles to just exist and so much more entered the world! The concept of “wanting more” entered the world at this point! In a split second their choice was made, and God could not and would not stop them – because He could not take back their right to make their own choices! God had given them and all humanity in the future the right to make our own choices – our own free will! This one rebellious choice of Adam and Eve took God out of control of the entire world!

Facing God: *“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”* (Adam and Eve knew instantly that something was very wrong, and they had blown it! They were experiencing guilt and shame! Thus, **guilt and shame** were now a part of the world!)

*“But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” (He (God) knew exactly where they were and what had happened!) He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so, I hid.” And God said, **“Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”** (When God asked this question **“the blame game”** came into being!) The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

When Adam and Eve made their individual choices to disobey God and listen to Satan, they opened the door wide for Satan to move in and take his position (for now) as: “... *The god of this age . . .*” II Corinthians 4:3a (NIV).

When we make wrong choices, a door opens in our lives for Satan to get into the situations and circumstances of our lives and mess things up! Simply put he moves in and causes situations to become worse thus the breakup of families for instance! Often the breakups Satan engages in are permanent! Our choices let him in – we must remember that! I am sure you have heard people say, “This is my choice, and it isn’t going to affect anyone but me!” I must be blunt here – that is a lie directly from the mouth of Satan! All our individual choices affect us and those around us! They also affect those who love us and those we love! Adam and Eve’s choices affected the universe past, present and future! Think about it!

It was Adam and Eve’s choices that turned control of the world over to Satan! “We **know** that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one.**” I John 5:19 (NIV)

When Adam and Eve blew it, so many things went wrong after that. Everything that God had created as perfect was gone! Gone! They did not just blow it for us in the sense that now we have sin, but now we have pain and suffering! That is not all that has changed! They blew it in more areas than that - they made a perfect world, imperfect!

IF Adam and Eve had not been the ones who caused the fall – one of us would have!

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, even someone’s sex life 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** to communicate with God! Yes, we still are free to communicate with God, but it is not the same! Nothing is going to be easy! But the best interpretation of the scripture which says, “*my yoke is easy*”, is that it will be **“easier”**! So, life on this earth is not going to be easy. but if you are walking in obedience, it will be **“easier”**. There is not one person who is walking in total obedience that has ever said every path they have completed for God has been easy. The world is not perfect, and we are not perfect, so how could it be easy? **Easier yes! But not easy!**

For us 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!**

When a **faithful follower** has done everything, God has asked him/her to do in a situation according to God’s perspective, then and only then **may** it be time for divine intervention! However, God must make that decision – it is His call!

God is **NOT** our servant; we are His servants. 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. After we have done everything, He wants us to do, whether it takes one day or one year or even more – even after that we may still have to wait for an exceedingly long **time** for divine intervention because - **people have choices!**

You see God uses people on this earth to accomplish what He wants done! I Corinthians 3:9a states we are “co-workers” with God! And, Ephesians 6 says, “*Having done all stand.*” When we have done all and are in a “stand” position God may intervene! That is His choice! When we come to God and tell Him that we want Him in our life – people often think that everything is going to be nice, because God is in complete control! We think God is going to take care of us and we are not going to have to deal with this stuff and that stuff. We get the impression from teachers, pastors, and so-called Christian books – that we do not have to do anything God is going to manage it all! If God is going to manage all our life and if God is in control of our lives that means He is managing every aspect of our life! So, if that is the case why did He give us our own free will? Why did He give us the “divine right” to make our own choices in our life? If God is in that level of control in each of our lives, why did He tell us that ‘the entire world is in the control of the evil one (Satan)?

Now, is God a sovereign God? Yes! In the scripture below God states He is the beginning and the end – the first and the last!

“I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z’, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”
Revelation 22:13 (JNT)

However, the **“in between”** is the point of this teaching. Your ability to make your own choices is a “*divine right*” given to everyone on earth. This right is one not affected by Adam and Eve’s choices! Every choice we make has consequences whether good or bad. God gave every man and woman *their own free will*.

Your own free will is just that, it is your right to make your own choices during your lifetime; **of course, if that’s the way you want to handle it!** We are **not** puppets on a string!

People say, God is in control of my life! They even want to argue the point! God is not in control of everyone’s life unless they - **want Him to be!** If we do not seek God in prayer

and listen to what He wants us to do, we are going to make wrong choices! When we make up our mind to make a choice that is against God's will - God will step back and allow you to go ahead with it! He has too! Why? Because He gave you your own free will to choose! He does not go back on His Word!

If everything were fine and if God was in control in the sense that people want to believe that He is – why would the world be going down the toilet in the manner that it is? If that were true God would be having to work fast as He could fixing things through moment-to-moment intervening!

When Adam and Eve made their choices, everything changed! Because of their choices God had to send His Son (Jesus) to Earth to pay for our sins for us to be forgiven and have eternal life! Thank you, Jesus, for making that choice! Jesus came not only to die a horrific death – He came as a man to show us how to walk in this world full of sin, pain, and misery! He wanted to show us we could do it and show us how to do it!

Moving on: If God were in control in the manner people talk about in Christendom:

- He would have stopped Cain from killing his brother Abel!
- God would have stopped King David from committing adultery with Bathsheba and ordering her husband murdered! God was not in control of David's life during the time David was making these choices!
- God would have stopped Moses from murdering the Egyptian; the people of Israel would not have been slaves; and God would have stopped Moses from abusing His power! Thus, allowing Moses **not** to enter the Promised Land!
- God would have stopped King Saul from disobeying His direction for battle in order that He would not have to remove Saul's Anointing and take the Kingdom of Israel out of his hands!
- People say all the time God knew what was going to happen! Whether God did know there was a possibility Adam and Eve would do what they did; do you really think a God of truth and righteousness and a God of obedience, and a God of love and mercy really wanted Satan to have control of the world? Do you really think God wanted us to experience suffering, pain rejection and all the rest? Do you really think God wanted man/woman to have to die? Did God want His son to have to come to earth and suffer the most horrible horrific death possible simply because we could not say **NO** to disobedience? Seriously, is that what God wanted to happen?

God *only* has as much control of our lives as we allow Him to have!

Everyone on this earth at some point has made a choice we knew was wrong and we did it anyway! God is not in control of a situation like that – we did **not** make the choice out

of ignorance – we knew what we were doing was wrong – and that is rebellion! God was **not** in control!

Grave markers have the following information:

Person's Name
Date of Birth – Date of Death

I am sure you have heard it said: the dash is the most important. **That is truth!** The dash represents the person's lifetime after birth and before death. Men/women have no control over being born, and only God knows the length of our time on planet Earth! **However, our choices during our in-between determine who will be waiting for us at our DOD!**

All of us have control over each choice we make. Each choice we make has consequences because: "***A person reaps what he sows.***" Galatians 6:7c (NIV) Remember, whatever your choices are during your in-between **God will not stop you!** Why? Because you have the right to make your own choices is a **Divine Right!**

God did not create us to be puppets! He wants us to want Him in our lives because we love Him and truly recognize the fact we need Him! Whom you love is a choice! Whoever you serve is a choice! God wants you to make a choice to love and serve Him and spend eternity with Him! While on this earth God wants us to listen to His voice and choose to spend time with Him! He wants us to come to Him and get directions for our day! He wants us to talk with Him about what is going on in our life and seek His wisdom and direction! In doing this – we will be making the right choices! ***God only has as much control of your life – as YOU give Him!***

Final Thought: "It is in the middle that choices are made: the beginning and the end remain with God. The decrees of God are the birth and death, **and in between those limits man makes his own distress -or joy!**" (Oswald Chambers)

PREFACE

I AM that I AM!

“His name is holy and fearsome – the first and foremost point of wisdom is the fear of Adonai; all those living by it gain good common sense. His praise stands forever!” Psalm 111:9b-10 (CJB)

Over the years God has been making something increasingly clear to me, and this teaching is what He has been showing me. Most individuals within Christendom do not revere God for who He is. Once again inappropriate teachings regarding the Grace gift, and the “freedom” we obtain in Jesus have brought God down to man’s level! Let me explain. We live in a day of pitifully shallow concepts of God. Most individuals are NOT the least bit interested in God – **PERIOD!**

The majority of today’s contemporary Christian music leaves the impression that God is our friend - a great pal to have in a - pinch. A film star once said of God, “He’s the great Big Daddy upstairs.” One pop song asks, “What if God were a slob like us?” That is not the biblical view of God: That is man’s feeble attempt to make God- **relevant.**

Do you hear the cheapness of such a concept of God? These small ideas of God diminish the beauty of His Holiness. Although their desire may be to make God relevant, all such efforts cheapen and degrade the - **Holiness of God.**

In Exodus 19:12-22 (NIV) you find God insistently maintaining an elevated, an exalted position. God has boundaries! And in Exodus 19 He *clearly* marks off His boundaries, warning *His own people*, “Do not cross that line.” In other words, do not become glib with Me and do not become frivolous in My presence!

We human beings are so quick to get offended if someone treats us with less than respect! If someone calls us by a name, we do not like it when we get offended and we often correct them. Why? Quite often the name carries a connotation that is offensive to us.

Most women get upset if a man hollers, “Hey babe,” “Hey mama,” or even “Hey sweet thing.” A great deal of women gets upset when someone refers to a group of people as, “Hey guy!”

Do you understand what I mean? We are quick to notice these types of things where we are involved. But! We hardly ever think of how God feels about the way we address Him! I am not talking about just the way we address Him. I am also talking about the way we feel about Him and our perspective of Him. In short, our concept of God determines how we address Him, and how we relate to Him, and how we perceive Him.

Back in the initial stages of the formation of this country, the Puritans had a solid concept of God. Do you know why it is so crucial for us to recover such a respectful understanding of God?

A shallow view of God leads to a shallow life! Treat God superficially, and you become superficial. But hold God in profound respect, and it is remarkable how deep the root of your spiritual life grows!

Spiritual depth is rare these days! It is EXCEEDINGLY rare! Our time with God might well depend on a flip of the coin - heads I do, tails I do not. If I feel like it is great! If I do not, well, God understands! That is - NOT TRUE! God is holy and exalted! He is the only wise God! He is the Sovereign Lord. He is the Master! He tells me what to do:

I HAVE - NO SAFE OPTION – NOT TO DO IT!

THERE IS - NO ALTERNATIVE, AND NO MULTIPLE CHOICE!

WE HAVE - ONE DIRECTIVE – DO GOD’S WILL!

Example: The Commission of Isaiah: *“In the year that Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:*

“Holy, holy’ holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.”
Isaiah 6:1-4 (NIV)

Example: When Joshua came upon Him at Jericho, he immediately fell before His feet. *“Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” “Neither” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” the commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.”*
Joshua 5:13-15 (NIV)

Example: When Ezekiel saw Him, he found no words to describe Him, groping within the limits of language to depict Him in the clouds among shining wheels that spun in the glories of heaven: *“On the fifth day of the sixth month of the sixth year, as I was sitting in my house and the leaders of Y’hudah were sitting there with me, the hand of Adonai Elohim fell on me. I looked and saw what seemed like a man made of fire. From what appeared to be his waist downward was fire, and from his waist upward was what appeared to be a gleaming, amber-colored brilliance. The form of a hand was put out, which took me by a lock of my hair; and a spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me, in these visions from God, to Yerushalayim, to the entrance of the inner (courtyard) gate that*

faces north. There stood the idol that (arouses God's) jealousy and provokes (his) zealous indignation. There before me was the glory of the God of Israel, as in the vision I had seen in the valley."

"Then he said to me, "Human being, raise your eyes toward the north." I raised my eyes toward the north and saw, north of the Altar Gate, this image that (arouses God's) jealousy in the entryway. He asked me, "Human being, do you see what they are doing, the horribly disgusting practices that the house of Israel is committing here, so that I must distance myself from my own sanctuary? But you will see even worse abominations." Ezekiel 8:1-6 (CJB)

"Then I looked, and suddenly, on the dome over the heads of the k'ruvim (cherubim), there appeared above them something like sapphire that seemed to take the form of a throne. He spoke to the man clothed in linen; he said, "go in between the throne. He spoke to the man clothed in lined; he said. "Go in between the wheels under the k'ruvim, fill both your hands with fiery coals from between the k'ruvim, and throw them on the city." As I watched, he went. Now the k'ruvim, were standing to the right of the house when the man entered, and the cloud filled the inner courtyard. The glory of Adonai rose from above the keruv to the threshold of the house, leaving the house filled with the cloud and the courtyard full of the brilliance of Adonai's glory. The sound of the wings of the k'ruvim could be heard even in the outer courtyard sounding like the voice of God, Shaddai, when he speaks." Ezekiel 10:1-5 (CJB)

Example: When Saul (Paul) came upon the Savior he was struck down and struck blind! "As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, why do you persecute me?" Who are you, Lord? Saul asked. 'I AM Jesus whom you are persecuting.' He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (NIV) Acts 9:3-6

Example: When John the Apostle saw Jesus, he fell at His feet. "I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man" dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like a blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double – edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: Do not be afraid. I am the first and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." Revelation 1:12-18 (NIV)

Christendom has forgotten who God is! They have lessened His position. He has become a people's pal, their understanding friend, and their available bell-boy!

He is the Lord God! He does not bow to our hurried pace. He does not bow to our demands!

Once we get over ourselves enough to come after Him, He is ready to meet with us and begin to cleanse our lives and become who He wants to be in our lives.

One man expressed his reverence like this: "The heaviest obligation upon the Christian church is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him. In all her prayers and labor - this should have first place. We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished the noble concept of God which we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of generations past."

A healthy fear of God will do a great deal to deter us from sin. When we have a proper fear of the living Lord, we do not want to sin. Any person who sins willfully has blocked out his fear of God. When we actively engage in sin, we consciously put aside what we know to be the truth about God. We suppress the knowledge of Him in our hearts and minds. We lie to ourselves by saying, "We will get by. God will not mind so much."

At the risk of sounding as if I am grinding an axe, I must say that a fear of the Almighty has turned **up** missing in our era. And when it is absent, we think we may do as we please. You can live as you please if you know you are not seen, and you will not get caught. But if, down deep inside, you know there is a loving and Holy God who will not let you get away with sin, you will avoid sin at all costs. That is exactly what the Lord wanted to establish first with the people of Israel - a holy, righteous, pure, and respectful concept of His presence!

When you come to that understanding, and when you really realize who God is, you learn to thoroughly hate and dread those actions that will plunge you again into darkness. King David expressed it in this way:

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore, I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:103-105 (NIV)

From Strong's: The word; words are Strong's # 565 meaning: commandment, speech, word. Taken from #561 meaning, utter, speak. From the root word #559 meaning: to utter, to say. Clearly this is the spoken Word, not the written Word!

The We Are Set Free Concept! *"Many people who heard Him say these things trusted in Him. So, Yeshua said to the Judeans who had trusted Him, "If you obey what I say, then you are really my talmidim, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered, "We are the seed of Avraham and have never been slaves to anyone; so, what do you mean by saying, 'You will be set free'? Yeshua answered them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. Now a slave does not remain with a family forever, but a son does remain with it forever. So, if the son frees you, you will be free!"* John 8:30-36 (CJB)

“There is a kind of trust which falls short of making one really a Talmud (see 2:23-25, Mt.5:1) of Yeshua. Real talmidim obey Yeshua, which is more than mentally acknowledging who he is. The popular quotation, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free,” is conditioned on obeying what Yeshua says.” (JNTC, pg. 182) Hebrews 10:19-30 *“So, brothers, we have confidence to use the way into the Holiest Place way through the parokhet, by means of his flesh. We also have a great Cohen over God’s household.*

“Therefore, let us approach the Holiest place with a sincere heart, in the full assurance that comes from trusting – with our hearts sprinkled clean from a bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us continue holding fast to the hope we acknowledge, without wavering; for the One who made the promise is trustworthy. And let us keep paying attention to one another, in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds, not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other. 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 Judgement, of raging fire that will consume the enemies.

Someone who disregards the Torah of Moshe is put to death without mercy on the word of two or three witnesses. Think how much worse the punishment will be deserved by someone who has trampled underfoot the Son of God; who has treated as something common the blood of the covenant which made him holy; and who has insulted the Spirit, giver of God’s grace!

For the One we know is the one who said, “Vengeance is my responsibility; I will repay,” and then said, “Adonai will judge his people.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!” Hebrews 10:19-30 (CJB)

“These verses recapitulate, in even stronger language, the exhortation of 6:4-8, with emphasis on fearing God. The modern tendency is to bowdlerize (remove, purge, make obscene) into “reverence for God” or minimize it by exalting love of God as a higher motivation for right behavior than fear of him. But doing so blunts the impact which the prospect of judgement ought to make (vv. 27, 30-31). There is a right reason for fearing God; there is such a thing as “holy fear” (11:7). “The fear of Adonai is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10).

Those who deliberately continue to sin (v. 26) are doing what the Torah calls sinning “with a high hand,” and for such sins the Levitical system of sacrifices prescribed in the Torah does not atone (see Ya 2:10-11&N). Think how much worse it will be for those who highhandedly ignore Yeshua’s atoning sacrificial death (v.29)! This is the point of this passage.” pg. 707 (JNTC)

Cheap Grace!

In conjunction with Christendom's concept of a shallow God, they have cheapened the precious Grace gift! At this point in this Teaching, we need to look at the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from his book, The Cost of Discipleship (1959).

"Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjack's' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?

Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth; the love of God taught as the Christian "conception" of God. An intellectual assent to that idea is held to be sufficient to secure remission of sins. The church which holds the correct doctrine of grace has, it is supposed, a part in that grace. In such a church the world finds a cheap covering for its sins; no contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin. Cheap grace therefore amounts to a denial of the living Word of God, in fact, a denial of the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does everything, they say, and so everything can remain as it was before. "All for sin could not atone." The world goes on in the same old way, and we are still sinners "Even in the best life" as Luther said.

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance...communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. Cheap grace says, "of course you have sinned, but now everything is forgiven so you can stay as you are...!"

Christendom has cheapened God, His grace and everything about Him! Grace as we have discussed before, must be thought of as "costly". Why? Because even though it is a gift, there is a requirement which goes with it. For it to be working in our life in the manner God ordained it to be, we must understand as Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts it: "Costly grace demands of us to take the call to discipleship more seriously than ever before! It was Grace because it cost so much, and it cost so much because it was Grace! **Costly grace** must cost you your life and must continue to cost you the same price every day by day!

Martin Luther said, 'Grace cost Him his own life, the life which was now for the first time subjected to the absolute obedience of Christ.' What did he mean by that? He said, "My

followers took up my doctrine and repeated it word for word. But they left out...the obligation of discipleship." Thus meaning: Jesus paid such a high cost for grace,

shouldn't absolute obedience on our part be a natural consequence or effect, or result for this precious gift He gave us?"

Pure Truth!

"The only man or women who has the right to say that he or she is justified by grace is the man or women who has - left all to follow Christ!"

Such a man or women knows that the call to discipleship is a gift of Grace, and the call to obedience is inseparable from the grace! But those who try to use this grace as a dispensation from following Christ in obedience to God are simply deceiving themselves!

Grace = Following Jesus = Obedience to God!

The church pours forth unending streams of grace. But the call to follow Jesus in the narrow way is hardly ever heard. Men and women are deceived and weak, they are taught they are strong, because of grace, but they are miserable. Why? Because they are NOT taught to "follow" Jesus! John 14:15 (CJB)

"If you love me, you will keep my commands; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforting Counselor like me, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever. The world cannot receive him, because he is staying with you and will be united with you. I will not leave you orphans – I am coming to you. In just a little while, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me. Because I live, you too will live. When that day comes, you will know that I am united with my Father, and you with me, and I with you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." John 14:15-21 (CJB)

"If you love me, you will keep my commands, my *mitzvot*. It is wrong to think of Messianic Judaism or Christianity as "easy" requiring only pleasant feelings of love but no actions to prove it. Dake's Annotated reference Bible lists 1,050 New Testament commands which according to this verse, are to be obeyed by those who love Yeshua. The distinction drawn between Old Testament Judaism as a religion of law and New Testament faith as a religion of love is unfounded. In both the Tanakh and the B'rit Chadashah biblical religion is based on both love and law, both mercy and justice; it has always been so and always will be." pg. 200 (JNTC)

*Adonai, who can rest in your tent?
Who can live on your holy mountain?*

*Those who live a blameless life,
Who behaves uprightly,
Who speaks truth from their hearts
And keep their tongues from slander.
Who never does harm to others
Or seek to discredit neighbors.
But honor those who fear Adonai.
Who holds to an oath, no matter the cost.
Who refuses usury when they lend money
And refuse a bribe to damage the innocent.*

*Those who do these things
Never will be removed.*

Psalm 15 (CJB)

Chapter 1

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

*“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 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 be in charge 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 does not! 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 Kodesh (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)

Chapter 2

Today is NOT a Dress Rehearsal!

“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-righteous? 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!

“You, 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? Romans 2:1-4 (NIV)

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, which has been 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." (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 correct about what God has told you to be living in your life, and at the same time living out your salvation? If you do not believe you are on the right course, how can you walk around in power and authority? You cannot! There is no way!

We are not talking about walking around in pride, which 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 would not do something; or how God would have someone do something, or not do something.

If we do not 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

Chapter 3

Is God 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 especially 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.** It is imperative how much time we take sitting with God 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".* John 12:31 (NIV)

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

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

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 an exceptionally long time for divine intervention – because **people** have choices!

Think about this for a minute! When Jesus healed someone 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 ask if anything. 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 cannot sit around. There are some people who whine and take money from others! There are those who think they deserve 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. If that is the case, they are thinking stupidly! 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 does not 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 does not work like that. **God works through people!**

Chapter 4

Do You **REALLY** Know GOD?

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 cannot do that. So, I continually tell them of course we can!

I have repeated the following example many times when I have been instructing groups of people: I say the following. I have seen Billy Graham on TV 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 is up to you! It is 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 is 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 many 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 (NIV)

Chapter 5

The Rapture is the - Final Event!

*“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: Revelation, which means: an act of revealing or communicating divine truth 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, seen by humanity. There are individuals who constantly continue to search for what are s signs and wonders across the world hoping to match up information they have found with the Bible. Individuals try 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 being 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 continue 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 of a twinkling of an eye. He said, to the best he could understand it was one-sixth of a Nanosecond! A Nanosecond is one billionth of a second. Therefore, the twinkling of an eye is one-sixth 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 wonderful 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 do not want to be in submission to anyone – they want to do what they want to do! They do not 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 change, not their minds and hearts! The hearts of 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!

Chapter 6

Are you Really Ready?

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

Here are the remarks I have heard in my office:

"That is too hard! I really do not 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 effortless way to live life – **so** they think. If asked to give something up or spend more time with God in the mornings, they do not want to. And all the while they keep repeating the same thing, "The price was paid! All I need to do is just believe." **THAT IS SO NOT TRUE!**

All that people want to know is that Jesus paid the price by dying on the cross! Another way they the price was paid so that they do not 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 do not 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 am free. I am going to walk on the streets of gold. *I am, 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 to live our lives on this earth. **We must do the work!** Jesus/Yeshua cannot and will not walk it out for us! Always remember God is **NOT** our servant - **we are His Servant!**

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 conduct 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 (NIV)

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 (NIV)

We must become clay and allow the hands of God to form us into who He created us to be!

The renewing of our mind. Romans 12:1-) The Bible talks about the potter and the clay (Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6, Romans 9:21 (NIV)

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!

So, many churches teach things this way: All a person needs to do is say a sinner's prayer and 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.

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 (NIV)

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 conquer 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!**

People pass judgment on God in saying that He gave us a set of rules (dos and don'ts) that we could not 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 did not know what He was doing!

Man could not keep the rules because – **he didn't want too!** Let me clear something up here: **God does not 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!

Most individuals want things to be easy! If it is 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 came to earth for!

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 cannot 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 does not 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 hold 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's transformed into an everyday application in someone's life! **If** it goes unapplied it has no - **meaning.** **If** it's quoted and claimed without action it has no - **value!** **If** it is received 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 HE shed to be worth what He went through we **MUST** walk like Him! we **must** follow Him, and we **MUST** become like Him! For our salvation to become secure, we **must** change. We **must** allow ourselves to **change** into a usable person. We **must** do this for the promises of God to be poured out 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 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 them 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!"

Chapter 7

The Truth about - SIN!

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 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 were it 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 a 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 (CJB)*

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 us 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 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!”

Chapter 8

Satan is NOT an Atheist – He is a Believer!

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 accomplish and cannot get things done? Guess who is behind that? Yes, he can do things like this! How about this: Have you ever stated aloud, “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 *swept under the rug* in most churches. People are afraid to address and to teach information regarding Satan! Why? A 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 on 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 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.”* Job 1:7 (NIV) 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 remarkably 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 head! 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 are 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 must 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 did not 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 (NIV)

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 manage 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 dozens of 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 universe! 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 at 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 managed 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! That is what Satan wanted Jesus to do! I can think of many ways God would want to oversee 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 manage 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 (NIV)

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

Jesus did not use the whip on one person! Nor did He strike anyone! He simply conducted God's instruction by overturning tables and speaking what God told Him to say in the manner God wanted! 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. There are children who 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, 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 us put it 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 off! At that point Satan himself is controlling them and 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 his 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 all 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!

Do you know what? The ultimate plan God has for you is: “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 do not **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 does not 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 an enormous 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 (NRSV)

Chapter 9

Our TWO Divine Rights!

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 came forth 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 abilities and 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 manage our day – we are off in left field as people say!

Let us 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 humanity.

*"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)

Something to consider: 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 look 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 does not go back on his Word! Understand, God does not 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. However, **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 Satan and Adam (overseer of the Garden) to stand there knowing what God had said and disobey anyway. With the last bite taken - Satan moved in and became the Prince of this World (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)! 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 can change for the good!**

“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! 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 questions for God: How should I manage the person at work who is discrediting me behind my back? My child is up to something I feel is a danger to them – what is your direction for this situation God? My spouse is 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 type of diet would you like me to feed 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 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 God’s money anyhow. Therefore, should not 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), 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 cannot 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. Terrible mistakes have been made by believers who thought they had heard the voice of the Lord."

We are in 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 cannot bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, 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."* 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 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)

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 could not be any clearer!

Chapter 10

Hearing God's Voice is SUPERNATURAL!

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 manage our day – we are in disobedience!

Let us 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 humanity.

*"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 (NIV)

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 questions for God: How should I manage the person at work who is discrediting me behind my back? My child is up to something I feel is a danger to them – what is your direction for this situation God? My spouse is 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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Dr. James Dobson said, “You cannot 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 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 cannot 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

*“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 (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)

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

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 cannot 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!**

Chapter 11

The Holy Spirit! Our Counselor!

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 cage 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!

Chapter 12

The Purpose for Hearing God!

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!**

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 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 do not follow through, that is **disobedience!**

Chapter 13

God Abuse!

“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 does not 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 hurt because one of one of them by one of them 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? Because it happened to me!

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 incredibly 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 become hurt so does the Holy Spirit within me! When I hurt someone else the Holy Spirit in me is hurt because I am inflicting hurt on another person!

The Holy Spirit is hurt because He loves me, and He feels my hurt! The Holy Spirit is hurt when another person is acting against His will and inflicting hurt on someone else! It is a double whammy for God! It can get extremely 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 cannot - 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! 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 the Holy Spirit of God – so do millions of others daily! If we genuinely love God, we need to allow this information to settle deep in our heart! If we genuinely 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?

Chapter 14

Think about these Truths!

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 does not go back on His Word! 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 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 that leads us to our most important divine right. God wants to talk to us!

“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 God 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 spouse 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 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 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 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, should not 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's 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 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 are 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)

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

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 could not 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 cannot 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 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(NIV) Pastor David Wilkerson

Chapter 15

Regarding the Last Days!

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

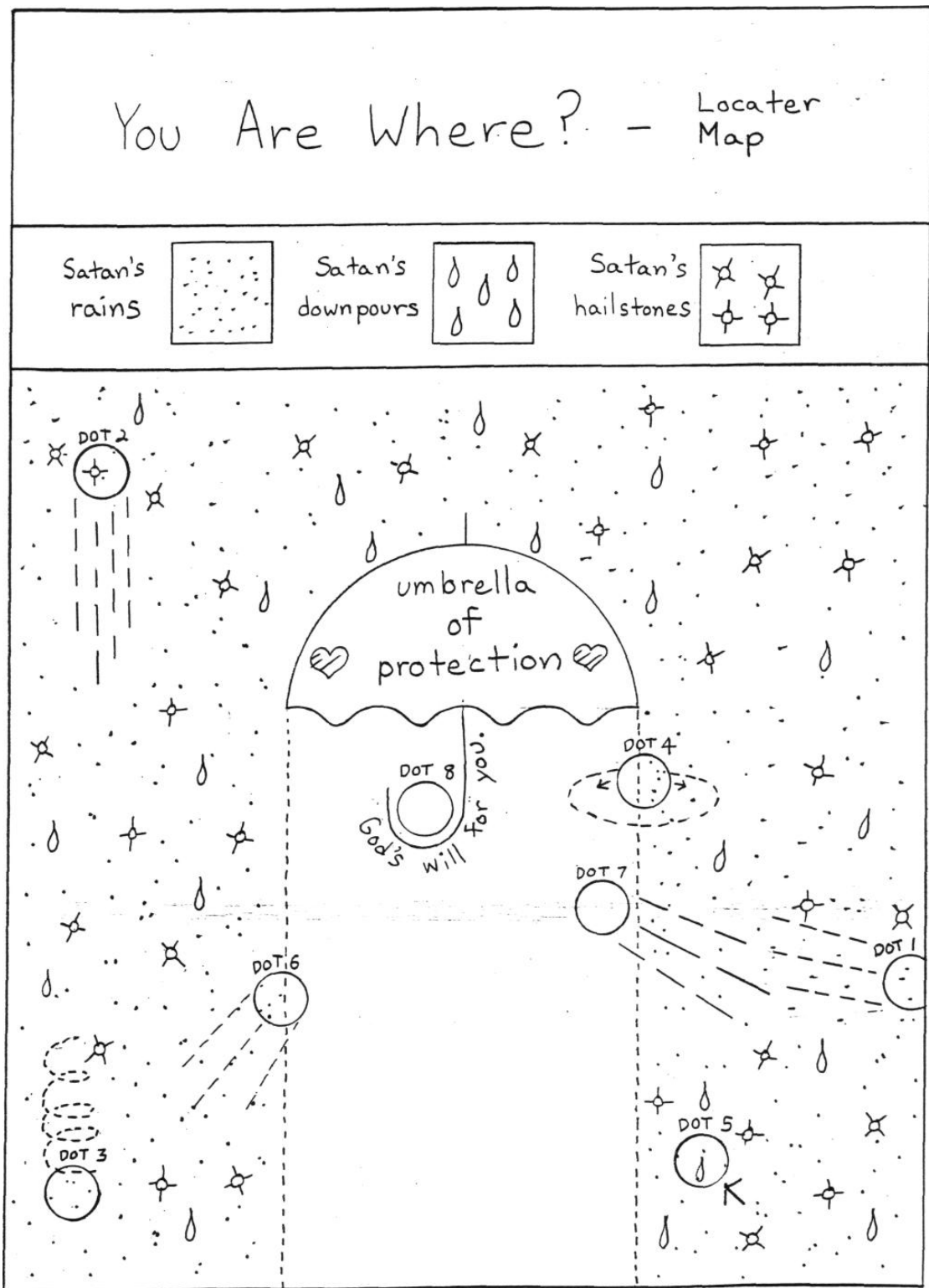
“First, understand this; during the Last Days, scoffers will come, following their own desires, and asking, “Where is this promised coming of his? For our fathers have died and everything goes on just as it has since the beginning of creation.” But, wanting so much to be right about this, they overlook 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 somethings 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)

Chapter 16



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 far 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 may 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, he 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 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.